

Professor Conor C Murphy

MB BCH BAO, MMedSc, PGCert (TLCP), FRCSI, FRCOphth, PhD
Irish Medical Council Registration number 20332



Professor Conor Murphy is the Chair and Professor of Ophthalmology at the RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences and a consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital in Dublin. He received his medical degree from University College Dublin in 1996 and this was followed by a Masters degree in Physiology (1998) and a PhD in Ocular Immunology (2005) from the same institution. He undertook his clinical training in Dublin, Bristol, Liverpool and Perth, returning to Ireland to take up his current role in 2009.

Professor Murphy specialises in corneal disorders, uveitis, cataract surgery and corneal transplant surgery. His principle surgical interest is corneal transplantation, especially anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK) for keratoconus and corneal stromal disorders and endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK) for endothelial corneal diseases like Fuchs' dystrophy. He is the clinical lead of the Ocular Immunology Research Group at RCSI, which focuses on research into ocular surface inflammation, corneal transplantation and uveitis. He has published over 100 articles in the peer-reviewed literature including in *Ocular Surface*, *Ophthalmology*, *JAMA Ophthalmology*, *Scientific Reports* and the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* and has received research funding of over €1,100,000 from the European Commission, Health Research Board, the Irish College of Ophthalmologists/Novartis Research Bursary, the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Research Foundation and the National Eye Research Centre (UK). Professor Murphy has supervised 3 PhD degrees, 3 MD degrees and numerous research Masters degrees. In his role as the postgraduate Professor of Ophthalmology in Ireland, he is the Chief Examiner of the professional Membership and Fellowship examinations in ophthalmology of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Current position

Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences 2009 -
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin 2009 -

Education and qualifications

1996 MB BCH BAO (Hons), University College Dublin, Ireland
1998 MMedSc in Physiology (Hons), University College Dublin, Ireland
2000 FRCSI (Ophthalmology)
2001 MRCOphth (UK)
2005 PhD in Ocular Immunology, University College Dublin, Ireland
2007 FRCOphth (UK)
2008 Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Clinical Practice, University of Chester
and Edge Hill University, United Kingdom
2008 Certificate of Completion of Training UK (CCT, awarded 8th April 2008)

Summary of key clinical, academic and governance roles

Current roles

Undergraduate and postgraduate Professor of Ophthalmology, RCSI 2009 -
Chief examiner of the MRCSI (Ophth) and FRCSI (Ophth) examinations 2009 -
Member of the Academic Council, RCSI 2009 -
Principle Investigator, Department of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, RCSI 2009 -
Member of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists Council, 2023 -
Irish representative of the European University Professors of Ophthalmology Council 2018 -
Academic member of Irish College of Ophthalmologists Training Advisory Committee 2009 -
Founding committee member of the Irish Regional Ophthalmic Anaesthesia Society 2009 -
Member of the European Cornea Conference, Bowman Club, American Academy of Ophthalmology,
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), European Vision and Eye Research
Society (EVER) and Irish College of Ophthalmologists

Past roles

Medical Director of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital 2013-2016
Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital 2018-2020
Chairman of the Medical Board, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital 2021
Member of the Board of Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 2017-2020
Chairman of the Governance and Risk Committee of Beaumont Hospital 2017-2020
Director of Education and Research of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital 2010-2013
Member of the Board of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Research Foundation 2009 - 2022
Member of the Medical and Health Sciences Board, RCSI, 2015-2018
Co-director of Year 4 of Medicine, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences 2020-22
Co-chair of the Learning Environment Development Committee RCSI 2019- 22
Member of the Opticians Board of Ireland 2010-2015

Description of research interests

My current research focusses on corneal transplantation immunology, molecular immunology of the ocular surface in inflammatory eye disease and sustainable healthcare with the aim of developing a greener cataract surgery clinical pathway in Ireland.

VISICORT is a multi-disciplinary corneal transplantation immunology research project which received funding of €6 million from the European Commission in 2014. It involves 12 partners from across the EU with expertise in corneal transplantation, cell therapy, immunology, bio-sampling, systems biology/immune profiling and bioinformatics. The project performed the first ever systematic immune profiling of over 900 human corneal transplant recipients with the aim of generating a better understanding of corneal transplant rejection and failure. The data analysis will be completed this year. Several outputs from this project have been published to date with more to come. See www.visicort.eu.

We are expanding our understanding of two important immune mediated diseases of the ocular surface, primary Sjögren's syndrome and graft versus host disease by investigating the epigenetic control of inflammation on the surface of the eye mediated by microRNA, tiny RNA genes that act as a switch for biological processes like inflammation. We are measuring microRNA in blood immune cells and ocular surface cells as well as examining tear samples for inflammatory mediators. As well as aiming to identify biomarkers of disease, these studies focus on developing new nanoparticle based therapeutic agents that inhibit inflammation by exploiting microRNAs expressed on the surface of the eye.

Surgical practice internationally accounts for 2% of total CO₂ emissions, with the resulting climate dysregulation and pollution negatively affecting population health. We have recently commenced a study at RCSI and the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital with the objective of optimising sustainability in surgical care at the hospital. This project aims to assess the current carbon footprint of cataract surgery and create a "greener" cataract surgery pathway yielding the smallest carbon footprint. To ensure such change would be acceptable to those most affected by cataract care, a stakeholder analysis will be undertaken. This project is a first step towards implementing low carbon ophthalmic surgical care in Ireland.

Higher research degrees supervised

Dr Rizwana Khan, The role of image guidance in orbital surgery. PHD, RCSI, 2024

Dr Emily Greenan, Novel insights into the clinical and molecular basis for immune mediated ocular surface disease. PhD, RCSI 2023

Dr Esraa Hegazy, Outcomes of Low-Risk versus High-Risk Full Thickness and Posterior Lamellar Keratoplasty. MCh, RCSI 2021

Dr Katja Iselin, Outcome after reversed corneal graft rejection: A descriptive analysis on patients included in the prospective VISICORT study. MCh, RCSI 2021.

Dr Rana Khalil, De-novo glaucoma post keratoplasty: a systematic review. MCh, NUI Galway 2020.

Dr David Shahnazaryan, The Role of Viral Regulatory Protein ICP0 in Herpes Simplex Type I Keratitis, MD, RCSI 2019.

Ni Mhealoid Aine, Vision-Related and Health-Related Quality of Life in Patients with Giant Cell Arteritis, MCh by Module, RCSI 2018.

Goodchild Christine, Impact of Anterior Uveitis on patients: 5 year prognosis from the DUET study. MCh by Module, RCSI 2018.

O'Rourke Micheal, Clinical characteristics and molecular mechanisms in non-infectious anterior uveitis. PhD, UCD & NUI 2016.

Pilson Qistina, Profiling microRNA in primary Sjogren's syndrome: a quantitative and qualitative analysis of an Irish cohort. MD, RCSI & NUI 2016.

Ramasamy Pathma, Quantitative proteomic analysis and gene expression profiling microarray re-analysis of uveal melanoma. MD, RCSI & NUI 2015.

Al Arrayedh Hamed. Outcomes of corneal transplantation in Irish patients with Congenital Hereditary Endothelial Dystrophy (CHED). Masters of Medicine (Ophthalmic Science), University of Sydney 2015.

De Chaumont Ciaran. Investigating the effect of corneal Herpes Simplex Virus infection on Toll like receptor expression in human Peripheral Blood mononuclear cells. MSc RCSI & NUI 2013

Peer reviewed publications

BOOKS

Mark Batterbury & Conor Murphy. Ophthalmology: An Illustrated Colour Text (4th Ed. 2018). Elsevier, Edinburgh.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Quill B, **Murphy CC**. A pharmacokinetic review of antibiotics used in the treatment and prophylaxis of endophthalmitis. Book chapter in: Endophthalmitis. Nova Publishers 2015.

O'Rourke M, Haroon M, **Murphy CC**, FitzGerald O. Anterior Uveitis in Spondyloarthropathy: The ophthalmologist's role in earlier recognition. Book chapter in Ankylosing spondylitis; symptoms, treatment and complications. Nova Publishers. 2013, ISBN: 978-1-62618-362-9

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Branford, J. A., Bodaghi, B., Ferreira, L. B., McCluskey, P. J., Thorne, J. E., Matthews, J. M., . . . Smith, J. R. (2024). Use of immunomodulatory treatment for non-infectious uveitis: an International Ocular Inflammation Society report of real-world practice.. *Br J Ophthalmol*. doi:[10.1136/bjo-2024-326239](https://doi.org/10.1136/bjo-2024-326239)

Fadlelseed, H., Rhatigan, M., Treacy, M., Murphy, C., O'Neill, J., Kilmartin, D., & Kennedy, S. (2024). Vitreoretinal large B- cell lymphoma (VR- LBCL): Clinical and pathological features and treatment outcomes. *Pathology Research and Practice*, 261. doi:[10.1016/j.prp.2024.155500](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prp.2024.155500)

- Thijs, E., Hurley, D., Cummings, B., Elewaut, D., Verougstraete, N., Claerhout, I., . . . Roels, D. (2024). Levamisole-Adulterated Cocaine-Induced Mucous Membrane Pemphigoid: Case Reports and Literature Review. doi:[10.1097/ICO.00000000000003481](https://doi.org/10.1097/ICO.00000000000003481)
- Doyle, A., Murphy, C., Boland, F., Pawlikowska, T., & Gabhann-Dromgoole, J. N. (2024). Education in focus: significant improvements in student learning and satisfaction with ophthalmology teaching delivered using a blended learning approach. doi:[10.1371/journal.pone.0305755](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0305755)
- Iselin, K. C., Hjortdal, J., Armitage, W. J., Tole, D., Pleyer, U., Vabres, B., . . . Murphy, C. (2024). Outcomes after reversed corneal graft rejection: a report from the European VISICORT project. doi:[10.1136/bmjophth-2023-001554](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjophth-2023-001554)
- Khan, R., Golahmadi, A. K., Killeen, R. P., O'Brien, D., & Murphy, C. (2024). Image-guided navigation in posterior orbital tumour surgery: a comparative cohort study. doi:[10.1080/01676830.2024.2343299](https://doi.org/10.1080/01676830.2024.2343299)
- Khan, R., McElhinney, K., Dickson, A., Killeen, R. P., Murphy, C., & O'Brien, D. (2024). Image-guided orbital surgery: a preclinical validation study using a high-resolution physical model. doi:[10.1136/bmjophth-2023-001568](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjophth-2023-001568)
- Vabres, B., Pleyer, U., Hjortdal, J., Murphy, C. C., Armitage, W. J., Imrie, L., . . . Degauque, N. (2024). Corneal Graft Rejection: Is it Reflected in Peripheral Immune Cells? Results of a Prospective Multicenter Study (VISICORT). *Transplantation*. doi:[10.1097/TP.00000000000005280](https://doi.org/10.1097/TP.00000000000005280)
- Bourke, C. M., Cummings, B. K., Hurley, D. J., Murphy, C., & Chamney, S. (2023). Isolated ocular Stevens–Johnson Syndrome caused by lymecycline in a patient with underlying ulcerative colitis. doi:[10.3390/jcm12165259](https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm12165259)
- Greenan, E., Tynan, G., Collins, D., Murphy, C., Flood, M., & Gabhann-Dromgoole, J. N. (2023). Beyond dry eye: the greater extent of Sjögren's systemic disease symptoms, the impact of COVID-19 and perceptions towards telemedicine identified through a patient co-designed study. doi:[10.1111/hex.13823](https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13823)
- Dallinga, M. G., Murtagh, P., Powell, S., & Murphy, C. (2023). Moraxella nonliquefaciens-associated infectious scleritis. doi:[10.1136/bcr-2022-254113](https://doi.org/10.1136/bcr-2022-254113)
- Baenninger, P. B., Romano, V., Figueiredo, F. C., Pradhan, S. P., Vohra, V., Jeng, B. H., . . . Bachmann, L. M. (2023). Differences in minimal disease knowledge of keratoconus patients: results from an international survey. doi:[10.1136/bmjophth-2022-001164](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjophth-2022-001164)
- Gabhann-Dromgoole, J. N., Murphy, C., Boland, F., Doyle, A., & Pawlikowska, T. (2023). How has medical student learning changed with the pivot to online delivery of ophthalmology in the pandemic?. doi:[10.1371/journal.pone.0282829](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0282829)
- Quigley, C., Butler, T., Murphy, C., & Power, W. (2023). Perforation in interstitial keratitis associated with hidradenitis suppurativa: medical and surgical management. doi:[10.1136/bcr-2022-251928](https://doi.org/10.1136/bcr-2022-251928)
- Greenan, E., Pilson, Q., Gabhann-Dromgoole, J. N., & Murphy, C. (2023). Relationship between clinical parameters and quality of life in primary Sjögren's Syndrome: a prospective study. doi:[10.1038/s41433-023-02386-2](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-023-02386-2)

- Greenan, E., Vandenberghe, E., Conneally, E., Murphy, C. C., & Gabhann-Dromgoole, J. N. (2023). Seeing the unseen: Use of a modified OSDI questionnaire to accurately detect chronic ocular GVHD in a hematology clinic. doi:[10.1016/j.jtos.2022.12.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtos.2022.12.001)
- Greenan, E., Pilson, Q., Gabhann-Dromgoole, J. N., & Murphy, C. (2022). Quality of life questionnaires validate a remote approach to ophthalmic management of primary Sjögren's syndrome. doi:[10.1038/s41598-022-23676-x](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-23676-x)
- Iselin, K. C., Kaufmann, C., Malata, D., Bachmann, L. M., Power, W. J., Quill, B., & Murphy, C. (2022). Telemedicine service for keratoconus monitoring: patient satisfaction and prospects for further expansion. doi:[10.1089/tmj.2021.0619](https://doi.org/10.1089/tmj.2021.0619)
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- Harford, D. A., Greenan, E., Knowles, S. J., Fitzgerald, S., & Murphy, C. C. (2022). The burden of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in the delivery of eye care. doi:[10.1038/s41433-021-01643-6](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-021-01643-6)
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- Goodchild, C., O'Rourke, M., Haroon, M., FitzGerald, O., & Murphy, C. C. (2021). 5-year longitudinal study of clinical and patient-reported outcomes in acute anterior uveitis. doi:[10.1038/s41433-020-0937-6](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-020-0937-6)
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- Shahnazaryan, D., Khalil, R., Wynne, C., Jefferies, C. A., Gabhann-Dromgoole, J. N., & Murphy, C. (2020). Herpes simplex virus 1 targets IRF7 via ICP0 to limit type I IFN induction. doi:[10.1038/s41598-020-77725-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-77725-4)
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