



## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

December 14, 2025

### APVRS-PAO Gala Night: A Night of Culture, Friendship and Collaboration

By: Dr. Anne Stephanie Buan

The APVRS-PAO Congress Gala Night held on December 13, 2025 was a vibrant celebration of fellowship, culture, and international collaboration. The evening began with a warm cocktail reception that welcomed delegates with beloved Filipino pica-pica and refreshments, including fishballs, kwek-kwek, and sago't gulaman. A Filipino-themed cultural photobooth provided a lively backdrop for memories and conversations. Guests were treated to a captivating cultural dance presentation by the Bughaw Group, featuring a medley of local dances that highlighted the richness of Philippine heritage. The performance became even more memorable with an interactive tinikling segment, enthusiastically joined by both local and foreign delegates, setting a joyful and inclusive tone for the night.

At 7:00 PM, the formal gala dinner commenced with the ceremonial parade of the APVRS and PAO-VRSP council members. The evening was officially opened with heartfelt welcome messages from the 2025 APVRS Congress President **Dr. Harvey Uy** and APVRS Society President **Dr. Hiroko Terasaki**, both underscoring the spirit of collaboration and friendship within the retina community. A major highlight followed with the announcement of the next APVRS Congress, to be held in Gold Coast, Australia in August 2026, led by **Sec. Gen. Prof. Andrew Chang**. Entertainment continued with a delightful musical set by the International Retina Band, featuring



Turnover of the flag from Philippines to Australia

classic crowd favorites such as Top of the World by the Carpenters, adding a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere to the dinner.

The program then transitioned to the much-anticipated Annual PAO Fellowship Night Inter-Hospital Dance Competition. Various training institutions showcased colorful and energetic regional festival dances representing the Cordillera, Tagalog, Central Visayas, Western Visayas, and Mindanao regions. Western Visayas emerged as the champion, followed by Mindanao in second place and Tagalog in third. The night concluded on a high note with an energetic after-party filled with dancing and singing led by 3rd Avenue, bringing the gala to a memorable and joyful close.



APVRS Presidential Medal from Prof Hiroko Terasaki to incoming President of APVRS, Prof. Tien Yin Wong





## Dennis Lam Lecture Awardee Prof. Kyoko Ohno-Mitsui: Unveiling the Secrets of Pathologic Myopia

By: Dr. Janice Jordan-Yu

The 18th Asia-Pacific Vitreo-retina Society (APVRS) presented the prestigious **Dennis Lam Lecture Award** during its 2025 Congress in Manila to **Prof. Kyoko Ohno-Mitsui** from Japan. This distinguished honor is reserved for established individuals from the Asia-Pacific region who have dedicated their careers to advancing vitreoretina through exceptional research, teaching, and clinical practice. Prof. Ohno-Mitsui's lecture, "**Imaging Pathologic Myopia: Insights from UWF and PS-OCT**," promises to be a deep dive into the cutting-edge diagnostic techniques that are redefining our understanding of this leading cause of irreversible vision loss.

Prof. Ohno-Mitsui is a global authority on pathologic myopia also known as myopic maculopathy. Her work has focused on leveraging advanced imaging technologies to meticulously characterize the structural changes associated with pathologic myopia. Specifically, her lecture explored the synergistic value of Ultrawide-Field

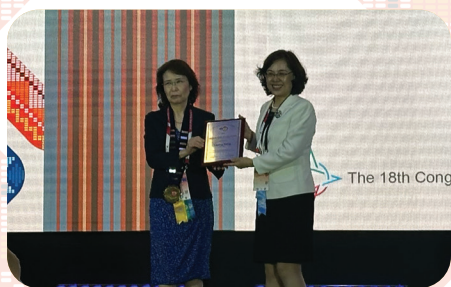


(UWF) imaging and Polarization-Sensitive Optical Coherence Tomography (PS-OCT). UWF imaging provides an unprecedented view of the peripheral retina, which is often affected by myopic degeneration and retinoschisis. PS-OCT, a specialized type of OCT, offers unique insight into the birefringence and organization of retina and choroidal tissues, allowing for superior visualization of scleral thinning, choroidal neovascularization (CNV), and lamellar holes that are hallmarks of pathologic myopia.

The insights gleaned from Prof. Ohno-Mitsui's research are invaluable.



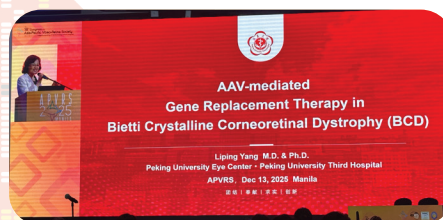
By enhancing the precision of pathologic myopia classification and early complication detection, these imaging modalities empower clinicians to provide timely and targeted interventions. Her pioneering use of these technologies is not just an academic contribution; it is a practical advancement that directly improves patient management and prognosis. As a recipient of the Dennis Lam Lecture Award, Prof. Ohno-Mitsui's commitment to translating sophisticated imaging science into impactful clinical practice serves as an inspiration to the entire vitreoretinal community.



## APVRS Constable Lecture Awardee Prof. Liping Yang: Illuminating the Path to Sight with Gene Therapy

By: Dr. Janice Jordan-Yu

The 18th Asia-Pacific Vitreo-Retina Society (APVRS) honors an outstanding innovator in vitreoretina, **Prof. Liping Yang** from China, with the prestigious **Constable Lecture Award** at the 2025 Congress in Manila. This distinguished recognition celebrates individuals, aged 45 or younger, who have made significant contributions to the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of vitreoretinal diseases. Prof. Yang delivered her lecture



on "**AAV-mediated Gene Therapy in Bietti Crystalline Corneoretinal Dystrophy**", highlighting her pioneering work in transforming the outlook for patients with this rare and currently untreatable form of inherited blindness.

Prof. Yang's research focuses on a therapeutic strategy known as AAV-mediated gene replacement therapy for Bietti Crystalline Corneoretinal Dystrophy (BCD). BCD is an autosomal recessive inherited retinal disorder caused by mutations in the CYP4V2 gene, leading to the accumulation of crystalline deposits in the retina and cornea, and eventual vision loss. The disease is particularly prevalent in East Asian populations. AAV-mediated gene therapy leverages the adeno-associated

virus (AAV) as a safe and effective vector to deliver a functional copy of the CYP4V2 gene into the affected retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells. Her work, including promising preclinical data in animal models and patient-derived cell models, has demonstrated that this approach can restore the viability of RPE cells and potentially halt the progressive degeneration of the retina. These scientific strides have directly paved the way for clinical trials, offering a beacon of hope to BCD patients worldwide.

The Constable Lecture serves as a global platform to share such groundbreaking advancements. Prof. Yang's presentation was highly anticipated, as it represents a significant leap from understanding the molecular basis of BCD to developing a practical, curative intervention. Her dedication to translating sophisticated genetic research into tangible clinical benefits exemplifies the spirit of the Constable Award, marking her as a leader in the next generation of vitreoretina specialists who are redefining the limits of ophthalmic treatment.



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## Therapeutic Landscape for Diabetic Eye Disease

By: Dr. Maria Giselle Dy

**Dr. Neil Bressler** from the United States and **Drs. Patricia Quilendrino** and **Paolo Antonio Silva**, both from the Philippines, chaired the session on the current management of diabetic eye diseases.

The session began by discussing telemedicine with the aid of ultra wide-field retina imaging and artificial intelligence (AI) as a possible tool for screening for diabetic retinal disease, presented by **Dr. Lloyd Paul Aiello** from the United States. Dr. Neil Bressler followed by discussing the role of

fenofibrates in diabetic retinopathy management. Management options on diabetic macular edema, with the introduction of relatively novel anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) molecules and revisiting the role of steroid and laser therapies, were then presented by **Dr. Voraporn Chaikitmongkol** from Thailand. This was followed by **Dr. Gemmy Cheung** from Singapore who enumerated management options, such as panretinal photocoagulation and intravitreal anti-VEGF injection, for cases of proliferative diabetic retinopathy. Dr. Patricia Quilendrino then presented pearls on preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative cataract management among patients with diabetic

retinopathy. This was followed by a series of short lectures but robust with videos on management of vitreous hemorrhage, vitreomacular surface abnormalities, and tractional retinal detachment which were presented by **Dr. Tariq Reza Ali** from Bangladesh, **Dr. Bhuvan Chanana** from India, and **Dr. Muhammad Moniruzzaman** from Bangladesh, respectively. The last lecture in the session was done by **Dr. Jennifer Sun** from the United States who enumerated numerous novel entities such as drugs, molecules and even gene therapy as possible treatment options for diabetic eye diseases.

The session was formally closed by Dr. Neil Bressler after some discussion between the panel and the audience.



## Now you see me: A quick look inside the minds of the masters in uveitis imaging

By: Dr. Mara Clemente

The room was packed with eager ears and excited eyes as they braced to listen to the masters in uveitis. The session started off strong with **Dr. Rupesh Agrawal** discussing the tips in choosing appropriate diagnostic modalities in uveitis. He emphasized insightful imaging, focusing on tracking lesions and optimizing diagnostics as a guide to treatment strategies. This was followed by **Dr. Sandy Wenting Zhou** with imaging biomarkers. The use of Optical Coherence Tomography-Angiography (OCT-A) to delineate between choroidal neovascular membrane and inflammation as well as its use in volumetric data segmentation made us realize how underutilized OCT-A is in uveitis.

Going deeper to biologics, the esteemed **Dr. Quan Dong Nguyen**



shared his experience in biologics for IL-6 inhibition - Tocilizumab and Vamikibart plus the studies proving their efficacy in the treatment of certain uveitis cases. JAK inhibition was also discussed in this session.

**Dr. Harvey Uy** then snapped us back to the macro world through his thorough discussion of trends and strategies on the most common causes of uveitis in the Asia-Pacific

Region. **Dr. S. Natarajan** elaborated on the various surgical approaches in uveitis eyes—reminding us that uveitis treatment will always be collaborative. The magic ended with **Dr. Elaine Marie Tan** helping us differentiate between uveitis and retina cases.

Just like that, the symposium ended leaving us with a new perspective on uveitis imaging.



### Pedia-Neuro 4 (Neuro): A Patient with Vision Loss and a Normal Appearing Fundus

By: Dr. Jacob Mangahas

Chaired by **Dr. Stacey Marie Aquino-Cohitmingao** and **Dr. Franz Marie Cruz**, this session addressed one of the most challenging clinical scenarios in practice: significant vision loss in the presence of an unremarkable fundusoscopic examination. The symposium emphasized a structured, evidence-based, and multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis and management.

The session opened with **Dr. Dianne Chriscille Jane Dy**, who outlined a systematic diagnostic framework for unexplained vision loss, highlighting the importance of careful history-taking, targeted examinations, and judicious use of ancillary testing. **Dr. Karen Reyes** followed with a focused discussion on anterior segment conditions that may account for visual impairment despite a normal fundus, underscoring subtle clinical findings that are often overlooked.

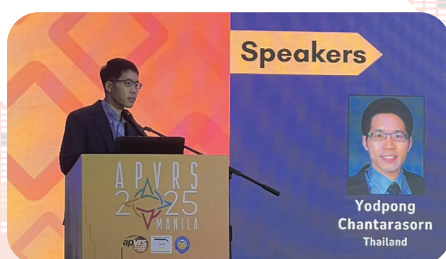
**Dr. Neil Gregory Onghanseng** presented on occult retinopathies, emphasizing the role of advanced imaging and functional testing in detecting retinal pathology not visible



on routine examination. This was complemented by **Dr. Mark Christian Magdaluyo**'s discussion on optic nerve and central nervous system disorders, reinforcing the need for timely neuroimaging and collaboration with neurology and pediatrics.

Functional vision loss was comprehensively reviewed by Dr. Stacey Marie Aquino-Cohitmingao, who discussed diagnostic clues, appropriate patient communication, and management strategies to avoid unnecessary interventions. The symposium concluded with **Dr. Graham Holder**'s presentation on electrophysiology, highlighting the value of ERG and VEP in localizing pathology and guiding diagnosis in complex cases.

Overall, this symposium provided ophthalmologists with practical, step-by-step strategies to evaluate unexplained vision loss, reinforcing the importance of integrating clinical acumen, diagnostic technology, and multidisciplinary care to achieve accurate diagnosis and optimal patient outcomes.



### Surgical Pearls from the Masters

By: Dr. Maria Christine L. Dy

The symposium was chaired by **Dr. Doric Wong** from Singapore and **Dr. John Alfred Lim** from the Philippines with seven experts who shared insights on the current developments in vitreoretina surgery.

**Dr. Yodpang Chantarasorn** from Thailand introduced the concept of minimal gas vitrectomy for small to medium-sized idiopathic macular holes with the goals of minimizing photoreceptor damage from

prolonged pressure contact and shortening post-operative prone positioning. Novel techniques for membrane peeling were also discussed by **Dr. Motohuro Kamel** from Japan. Notably with en face OCT imaging guidance, ILM peeling with epiretinal proliferation sparing was found to be superior in terms of visual and anatomic improvements. **Dr. Shobhit Chawla** from India reviewed lens status considerations in vitrectomy, emphasizing the importance of tailored patient management. **Dr. Matthew Simunovic** reported on research data from Sydney about approaches to subretinal drug delivery and quantification of reflux measurement. Another interesting lecture was given by **Dr. Hiroki Kaneko** on short to medium-term perfluorocarbon endotamponade, results of which showed favorable clinical and safety outcomes. **Dr. Mohammad Alhazzazi** from Saudi Arabia presented comparative data on

post-operative face down positioning which showed similar retinal reattachment rates. The session was concluded by **Dr. Mudit Tyagi** with surgical video presentations on the potential applications of fibrin glue for non-complex retinal detachment. A short panel discussion with the audience followed.



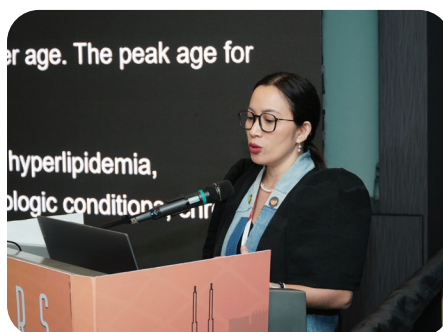
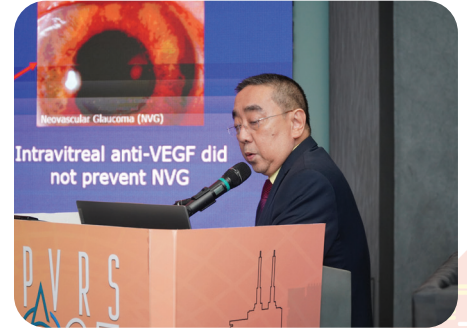


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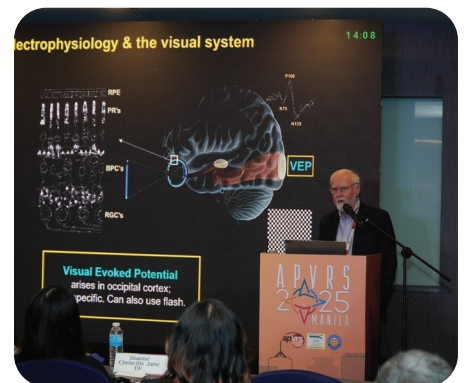
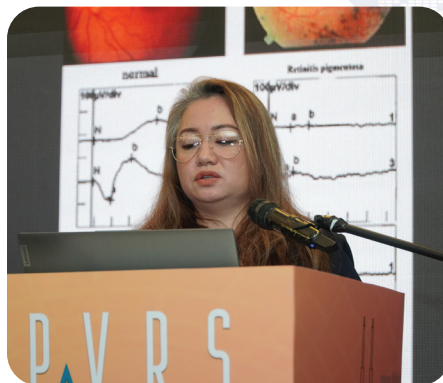


### DAY 2 PHOTOS





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