

#SundayWiMIN23 Week 51: Ms Aoife Doyle

Ms Aoife Doyle is a consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital, Dublin.

She completed her training in ophthalmology in Ireland in 2003 followed by a glaucoma clinical and research fellowship in Paris. She carried out research into novel delivery methods for anti-fibrotic agents, as well as new laser technology (SLT), which is now in widespread use.

Following her appointment she was involved in training at Irish and European level and was the representative for Ireland on the UEMS (EU Medical Specialists) Ophthalmology group and the European Board of Ophthalmology.

She was appointed as consultant and the first glaucoma surgical specialist at the Eye and Ear Hospital in 2005 where she led the development of the glaucoma service. The team now includes two consultants, an advanced nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist, glaucoma trained staff nurses and technicians, as well as linked services with medical consultant, nursing and optometry colleagues in the new integrated eye care teams in primary care centres.

She developed the first virtual glaucoma care clinic for stable glaucoma in Ireland and played a key role in the acquisition and implementation of a fully electronic patient record which first came into use in her virtual clinic in 2018 and has since been expanded to include the ophthalmology services of the hospital and linked primary eye care centres.

She is responsible, together with hospital colleagues and the Irish College of Ophthalmologists, for training of young doctors in the management of and surgery for glaucoma and cataract. She is particularly proud of those who trained under her supervision who have gone on to be glaucoma surgeons, as well her additional role since 2020, in training the future consultant medical ophthalmologists to be leaders of eye care in the community primary eye care centres around the country.

She was medical director at the Eye and Ear from 2011-2014, during which time the hospital became the second public hospital in Ireland to be awarded JCI accreditation. She has maintained her interest in achieving high standards of quality and safety, as well as in risk management, since this time.

She was recently appointed as National Clinical Lead in Ophthalmology and is looking forward, in her new role, to working with the HSE Clinical Development and Innovation team and developing the Modernised Care Pathways with the aim of improving access of patients to the full spectrum of eye care.

This will involve further development of the integrated eye care teams around the country and improving access to surgical and specialist hospital care. She is proud to carry on the work of colleagues into the future and to be the first woman to fill the position of National Clinical Lead in Ophthalmology. She hopes that she can inspire others to continue to train, to learn and to endeavour to improve access to care to

the many who need it, across the country and in the spirit of public service, in order to provide equity of access to eye care for all.