



**The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Annual Congress 2013
Arena & Convention Centre, Liverpool, UK 21st – 23rd May 2013**

Duke Elder Lecture 2013



Professor Philip Murray MBBS, DO(RCS), PhD, FRCP, FRCS, FRCOphth

Professor Phil Murray was born within the sound of Bow Bells i.e. a true Cockney but grew up in West London. He was educated at Latymer Upper School but has not gone on to have such an illustrious career as some other Latymer alumni who include Alan Rickman and Hugh Grant. He spent most of his time at school playing football at representative level so it was with great surprise he was accepted to study medicine at St. George's Hospital Medical School qualifying in 1978. His passion for ophthalmology began as a Pre-registration House Officer at St. George's and after SHO posts in Neurosurgery (Atkinson Morley) and in Ophthalmology (Croydon and Southampton) he somehow managed to get on the House at Moorfields (High Holborn and City Road) as Registrar then Senior Registrar.

His interest in inflammatory eye disease, in particular uveitis, began when he was a Pre-registration House Officer in Medicine in Epsom whilst working for a rheumatologist with an interest in connective tissue disease. Between SHO posts and Moorfields he undertook research for two years at the Institute of Ophthalmology under the laboratory and clinical supervision of Amjad Rahi and Bill Dinning respectively, mainly studying T-lymphocyte subsets in uveitis. In 1988 he was guest researcher for one year at the Institute of Ophthalmology at the Netherlands Ophthalmic Research Institute in Amsterdam. Under the supervision of Aize Kijlstra he undertook extensive laboratory research into human and animal models of uveitis and combined this with his work at the Institute to obtain a Dutch PhD.

In January 1990 he was appointed Senior Lecturer to the notable Alistair Fielder at the University of Birmingham and after a brief spell as Reader became Professor of Ophthalmology there in 1997. Initially with the help of Professor Mike Salmon he has built up a team of international renowned clinicians and basic scientists (Si Rauz, Alastair Denniston, Graham Wallace, John Curnow) researching into 'Inflammatory mechanisms in the ocular microenvironment'. Laboratory research is undertaken at the Centre for Translational

Inflammation Research, School of Immunity and Infection and is aimed at answering the following questions:

- why does intraocular tolerance fail in uveitis?
- what immune mechanisms initiate and drive the inflammatory response?
- what can one do about it?

He is an Honorary Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre (BMEC), Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and runs 2 dedicated regional uveitis clinics per week. He undertakes cataract surgery and enjoys the challenges of surgery on the uveitic eye. He is also involved in clinical trials on novel therapies for uveitis. He has been closely involved in obtaining funding from National Commissioning for a National Centre of Excellence for Behçet's Syndrome at BMEC, one of only 3 centres in England.

He has published over 150 peer-reviewed papers, authored four textbooks, and contributed numerous book chapters. He sits on various committees and sub-committees at the RCOphth, RCP, and Academy of Medical Sciences. He was awarded an FRCP by election in 2005. He is Honorary Secretary of the International Uveitis Study Group (select international body of about 100 uveitis experts) and Deputy Head (Clinical Lead) of the Graduate School, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham. A member of both the NIHR and HTA College of Experts, an External Examiner to a number of universities and the Royal College of Surgeon of Ireland, and an adviser to four uveitis patient groups and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK. He was a past Editor of Eye News and is an Editorial Board member of four journals. He is a Member of Fight for Sight Grant Allocation Panel, organiser of the Oculus course for Part 2 FRCOphth and Basic Sciences for Ophthalmologists course for Part 1 FRCOphth, and Past President of the Midland Ophthalmological Society. He was the 2001 Middlemore Lecturer, and the 2005 College Lecturer, College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka.

He has a passion for undergraduate education, a Life Member of Brentford FC (his boyhood football team) Supporters' Club, and plays baritone sax in Out Of The Blue Jazz Orchestra, and The Soul Providers.