



THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS ANNUAL CONGRESS 2013

EDRIDGE GREEN LECTURER



Professor David R. Williams, Ph.D.
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Professor David Williams received his Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego in 1979. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill in 1980 and joined the University of Rochester in 1981, where he has an appointment in the Institute of Optics as well as in the departments of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, and Ophthalmology. He is currently William G. Allyn Professor of Medical Optics. Since 1991, Williams has served as Director of Rochester's Center for Visual Science, an interdisciplinary research program of 32 faculty interested in the mechanisms of human vision.

In 2011, he was appointed Dean for Research of Arts, Science and Engineering where he is responsible for maximizing opportunities for faculty research and scholarship, including the development of partnerships with industry and government as well as other academic institutions. Williams' research marshals optical technology to address questions about the fundamental limits of human vision. His research team demonstrated the first closed-loop adaptive optics system for the eye, showing that vision can be improved beyond that provided by conventional spectacles. This work led to wavefront-guided refractive surgery used in more than half the refractive surgical procedures conducted worldwide today. More recently, his group has been deploying adaptive optics and other advanced imaging technologies to study the normal and diseased retina, obtaining microscopic images with unprecedented resolution in the living eye.

Williams is a Fellow of the Optical Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. Awards he has received include the OSA Edgar G. Tillyer Award in 1998, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology's Friedenwald Award in 2006, the Bressler Prize from the Jewish Guild for the Blind in 2007, and the Champalimaud Vision Award in 2012.