

## **Low Vision Symposium** **(and post-symposium PhD work for credit validation)**

**Date:** 25 April 2024

**Location:** Auditorium of the Hôpital Ophtalmique Jules-Gonin, Av. de France 15, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland

**Time:** 09h00-18h00

**Language:** English

### **1 ECTS (with post-conference work)**

*Synopsis* - How to best help people with low vision? The Low Vision Symposium provides the venue to link the latest scientific discoveries in low vision research with innovative interventional procedures for the management of impairments due to low vision. Starting from the assessment of the behavioural consequences of low vision, the symposium will highlight the neuropsychological aspects affected by low vision, the modifications in the brain dynamics brought by low vision, up to the current and exploratory clinical protocols to treat the different deficits associated with low vision. Talks will be given in English. The symposium ends with the attribution of a Young Investigator Award to the best student presentations in human vision neuroscience, neuro-ophthalmology, or any related discipline.

For LNDS candidates, the participation to local symposia or national conferences usually warrants entries on a "[seminar sheet](#)" (12 entries = 1 ECTS) as these events do not provide the possibility to assess students' learning achievements.

**However, the organizers of the SYMPOSIUM provide students with the possibility to submit a post-conference term paper** to obtain 1 full ECTS. If you want to take advantage of this offer, please do the following:

- Register [via the link here](#) (and not on the symposium website) **before April 14, 2024**.
- During the conference, sign the participation list that the LNDS coordinator will send to the conference organizers. This way, you can also ask for the reimbursement of your train travel costs.
- Send your term paper as "YOURNAME".pdf **by May 15, 2024** to [inds@unil.ch](mailto:inds@unil.ch). The term paper should be 1-2 pages long (put your name, the talk your paper is referring to, as well as bibliographic references for your arguments in case applicable) and contain either
  - a critical discussion of one of the conference talks in face of other research findings you know or find out about  
*OR*
  - your ideas on how one of the conference topics relates to your own research  
*OR*
  - your ideas on what could be a future project in extension of one of the conference topics.
- All term papers will be collectively forwarded to the conference organizers for evaluation.

## **Young Investigator Award**

PhD and master students are encouraged to submit abstracts for the Young Investigator Award (max 250 words, English). **Only registered students are allowed to apply** (more information will soon be available on the symposium website). In the first step, abstracts will be peer-reviewed and evaluated for scientific and/or clinical impact on Human Vision Neuroscience, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Neuropsychology, or any related discipline. The best abstracts will advance to the second step: a short live presentation during the symposium. In the final step, peer-reviewers will judge the candidates and assign awards. To participate to the Young Investigator Award, please send an abstract to [silvio.ionta@unil.ch](mailto:silvio.ionta@unil.ch) by **14 April 2024**.

## **DETAILED PROGRAMME**

*09h00-09h15 Welcome & Introduction*

### **Session1: Low Vision Assessment**

09h15-09h30 Ms. Fatima Anafloos, Fondation Asile des Aveugles: "Current trends in low vision research"

09h30-10h00 Prof. Ruth Van Nispen, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands): "E-health intervention to improve fatigue in adults with visual impairment. Results from a randomized controlled trial"

10h00-10h30 Prof. Naomi Dale, University College London (UK): "Cognitive, behavioural and neuropsychological characteristics and interventions in children with low vision"

*10h30-11h00 Coffee Break*

### **Session 2: Brain Dynamics in Low Vision**

11h00-11h30 Prof. Fiona Rowe, University of Liverpool (UK): "Visual impairment due to stroke"

11h30-12h00 Prof. Susana Chung, University of California, Berkeley (USA): "Cortical adaptation and plasticity in response to vision loss"

12h00-12h30 Prof. Joost Heutink, University of Groningen (Netherlands): "Assessment and treatment of vision problems due to brain pathologies"

*12h45-13h45 Lunch break*

### **Session 3: New Perspectives in Low Vision**

13h45-14h15 Prof. Silvio Mariotti, World Health Organization (Switzerland): "Creation of vision rehabilitation services"

14h15-14h45 Prof. Gianni Virgili, University of Florence (Italy): "A global health perspective on the impact of vision impairment on people's life experience"

14h45-15h15 Internal speaker of HOJG: "Low Vision Rehab at HOJG"

*15h15-15h45 Coffee break*

**Session 4: Interventional Strategies in Low Vision**

15h45-16h15 Prof. Els Ortibus, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium): "Assessment and Rehabilitation in Cerebral Visual Impairment"

16h15-16h45 Prof. Bernhard Sabel, University of Magdeburg (Germany): "Neuromodulation with microcurrent stimulation for low vision restoration and rehabilitation"

16h45-17h15 Prof. Ahalya Subramanian, City University of London (UK): "Assistive technologies for the management of individuals with low vision"

17h15-17h45 Dr Charles Baur, EPFL (Switzerland): "New technologies for low vision management"

17h45-18h00 Student presentations for the Young Investigator Award

18h00 Ceremony and Aperó