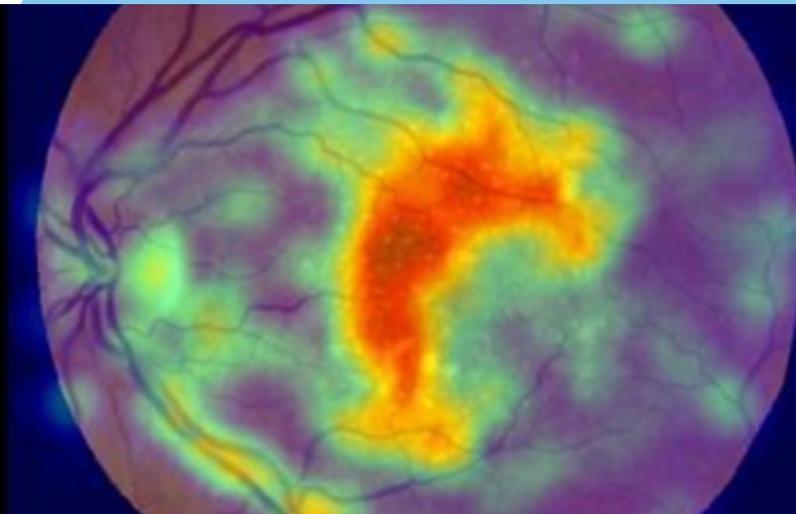


JANUARY 2022



A big milestone in the SCONe project!

The Scottish Collaborative Optometry-Ophthalmology Network eResearch (SCONe) is a new collaborative venture aiming to build a world-leading nationwide retinal image resource for innovation in eye research, healthcare and education. SCONe is a joint project between the University of Edinburgh and Glasgow Caledonian University and is co-sponsored by NHS Lothian.

SCONe aims to gather colour fundus images from community optometry practices across Scotland and link them to routinely collected healthcare data. To find out more information about the project, you can visit our website:

[Click HERE](#)



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SCONe follows the strictest governance protocols. We have reached a significant milestone in the project – **approval from NHS Scotland's Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care (PBPPHSC)** to begin building the retinal image repository (<https://www.informationgovernance.scot.nhs.uk/pbpphsc/>).



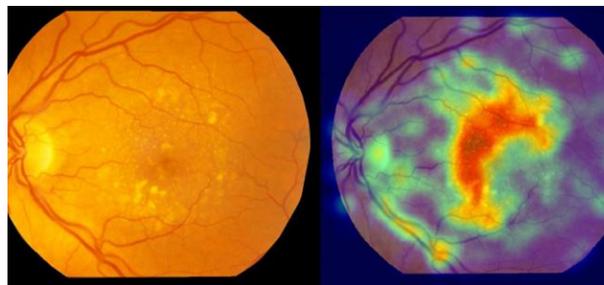
WHY HAVE A NATIONAL RETINAL IMAGE RESEARCH RESOURCE?

Provide rich pseudonymised data to:

- enable earlier identification of eye disease
- uncover novel biomarkers predictive of ocular and systemic disease

Support community optometry:

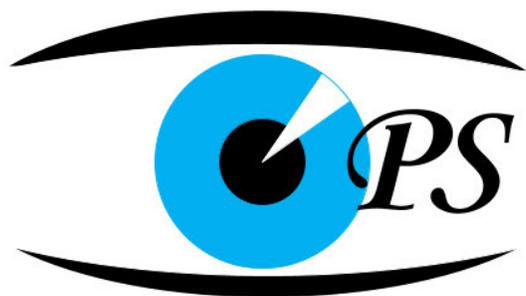
- aid clinical decision making and triage prioritisation
- improve clinical outcomes
- provide educational resources



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Deep learning (a subfield of artificial intelligence) is a powerful tool in medical image analysis with application to disease prediction and diagnosis.

SCONe has already begun work on implementing automatic drusen quantification in fundus photographs using deep learning for diagnosis and prediction of progression of AMD.



OPTOMETRY PILOT STUDY

In collaboration with the University of Edinburgh's School of Informatics, we investigated optometrists' and ophthalmologists' views on data sharing and artificial intelligence analysis tools.

[Click here to read the study online](#)



A BIG THANK YOU

We would like to thank the optometrists who have already engaged with the SCONe project. If you would like to get involved or ask any questions, please email us at scone@ed.ac.uk.

You can also stay up-to-date with SCONe by following us on Twitter and Facebook.