



Can the retina be a window to the brain?

SCONe researchers have co-authored a research paper alongside colleagues from the VAMPIRE research group, published in *Translational Vision Science & Technology*, which explored how changes to the retinal blood vessels could indicate signs of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's dementia.

The study analysed the ultra-widefield (UWF) retinal images of people with Alzheimer's dementia, mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and those who were cognitively normal. For each UWF image, automated image analysis techniques were used to quantify retinal branching complexity, width and tortuosity.

Statistically significant differences in the retinal vasculature were found in patients with Alzheimer's dementia and MCI compared to those with normal cognition. These changes, which included increased arteriolar thinning and changes to blood vessel branching, appeared to be more pronounced in the peripheral and mid-peripheral retina. This early research shows the promise of UWF imaging for assessing the links between the eyes and brain health.

[Click HERE to read the full research paper](#)



EYEVIEWS PODCAST

SCONe Chief Investigator Professor Baljean Dhillon is the host of the new EyeViews podcast, created in conjunction with EyeNews magazine and the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Dhillon has interviewed a range of guests on the podcast including SCONe Patient Ambassador Professor Malcolm Atkinson and SCONe Research Optometrist Fiona Buckmaster.

[Click HERE to listen to the EyeViews podcast](#)



ARVO 2023 EXHIBITION

SCONe Chief Investigator Professor Niall Strang attended the ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) Conference in New Orleans on 23 - 27 April.

Professor Strang exhibited a poster detailing SCONe's early work. The presentation was awarded "hot topic" status and attracted positive feedback from clinicians and vision scientists interested in the SCONe collaboration.



SCONe EXHIBITS AT OPTOMETRY CONFERENCES

SCONe Research Optometrists Dr Alice McTrusty and Fiona Buckmaster attended Eyecare Glasgow in February this year and had a fantastic time talking to optometrists about unlocking the potential of the retinal images they capture in their practices.



TAKE PART IN SCONe

We have now made it even easier to take part in SCONe.

Optometry practices can now register their interest with SCONe or request more information about the project online.

Click the link below to fill out our simple online form and a member of the SCONe team will get in touch at a time that suits you.

[Click HERE to register with SCONe](#)