

# EUROPEAN CONTACT LENS SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

ECLSO NEWSLETTER: April 2023



## Contents:

- I. ECLSO meetings: Mind the dates
- II. Article from the President – please send your opinions!
- III. In Memoriam Dr Robert Heitz by René Mély

Dear Friends of ECLSO, dear Colleagues, welcome to the April 2023 edition of the ECLSO Newsletter.

## ECLSO MEETINGS: A BUSY FUTURE!

On Saturday March 11th the ECLSO Praesidium convened in Paris to plan their scientific activities, participation in ophthalmological Symposia during 2023 and organise a full Congress in 2024.

## ECLSO in Prague - JUNE 2023



We have the pleasure to announce the ECLSO participation in the SOE meeting on June 17th 2023 in Prague, where 5 presentations will be held on topics of major importance to every ophthalmologist, among which myopia management, daily disposable lenses, comparative results of contact lens adaptation and refractive surgery and specialty contact lenses.

The ECLSO Symposium will take place on June 17th 2023 during SOE at the Prague Congress Centre from 14.30 to 15.45\*.

Following the Symposium the Statutory meetings have been organised: ECLSO General Assembly from 18.00 to 18.30, preceded by the meeting between the National Representatives and the ECLSO Praesidium from 16.30 to 18.00. Both meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, a 3 minutes walk from the Prague Congress Centre. *Please consult the website exact location details.*

It goes without saying that the Symposium in Prague will offer the perfect opportunity for ECLSO members to meet again and participate live in ECLSO programme discussions.

\*Access to the Symposium: free only to those who have paid the registration fee for the SOE meeting.

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AND LOCATIONS

[www.eclso.eu/prague2023](http://www.eclso.eu/prague2023)

### ECLSO Meetings - Holiday Inn

16:30 - 18:00 Praesidium & National Reps.

18:00 - 18:30 General Assembly (members-only)

Apart from the scientific event, Prague will present itself as a top international venue, not only as the splendid capital of Czechia, but also as a historical heritage site where East meets West.

## ECLSO participating in the "Filatov Memorial Lectures" - 2023" - MAY 2023

During the "Filatov Memorial Lectures - 2023" which are organised online by the Ukrainian Ophthalmological Society, ECLSO will set up a panel on May 24th from 14.45 to 15.45 (Kiev time) to present lectures on the most recent insights in Myopia Management.

ECLSO members will be invited by email to register and log-in to this ONLINE-ONLY meeting.

[www.eclso.eu](http://www.eclso.eu)

The ECLSO (European Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists) is a federation of national contact lens societies of ophthalmologists. The society is registered with the Registry of Associations in Munich.

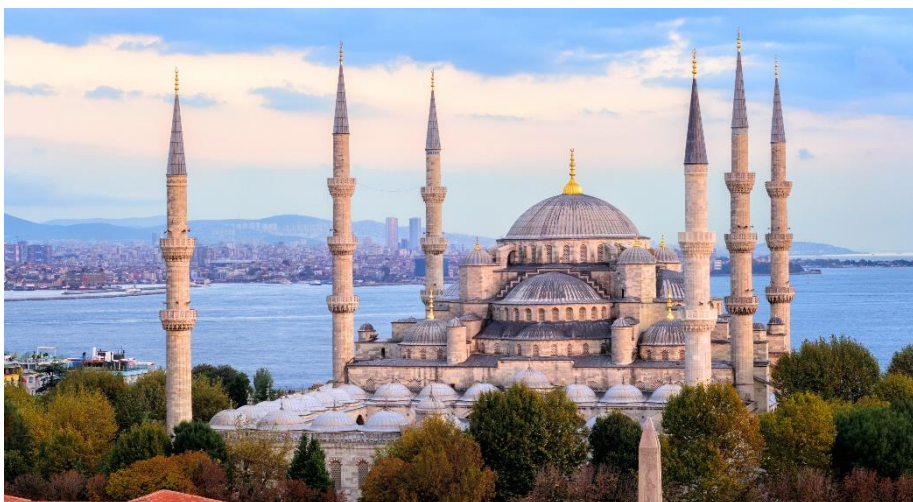
ECLSO Administrative support: Louise Richards, [louise@healthology.eu](mailto:louise@healthology.eu), +44(0) 7950 273790

**Next Full ECLSO  
Congress  
- APRIL 2024**

ECLSO invites you to our next **full ECLSO Congress**, it will be held in **Istanbul, Turkey**.

The Congress will take place during the second half of April 2024.

We will inform you of the exact dates as soon as possible.



**Other ECLSO meeting contributions in 2023**

ECLSO further draws your attention to the following meetings to which ECLSO members will actively contribute:

- November 2nd - 4th, 2023 - Annual Congress of the Romanian Contact Lens and Ocular Surface Society, Sibiu, Romania. Organised by Prof dr A. Stanila.
- November 8 - 12th, 2023 - National Ophthalmology Congress, Istanbul, Turkey.
- December 1st, 2023 - MCLOSA Annual Meeting, London, United Kingdom.

**ARTICLE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Intended to stimulate discussions and invite reactions from our members.

Article by Prof dr Carina Koppen, ECLSO President, "Papers and patents are becoming less disruptive of the scientific status quo".

This was the leading topic on the front page of "Nature" (edition Jan. 5th 2023), one of the few academic journals covering a wide scala of scientific fields, classified under the world's most cited publications. The title intrigued me because, from the perspective of ophthalmologists, we have the impression that over the recent decades technological inventions have caused considerable progress in our specialty and that this would be a general tendency in the evolution of science.

Theories about scientific and technological change consider discovery and invention as endogenous processes facilitating further advancement by the accumulation of knowledge, since young investigators, to cite Newton's words, "stand on the shoulders of

giants". During recent decades the volume of inventive scientific and technological knowledge has grown exponentially, thus creating an ideal environment for even more innovative new developments. But, as Russell Funk<sup>1</sup> and his colleagues revealed, this proliferation of knowledge has not led to a comparable wave of disruptive breakthroughs - as a matter of fact several large areas of investigation show signs of a decelerating progression. Russell Funk and colleagues cover an era of six decades in their study, incorporating data from over 45 million papers and 3.9 million patents of six large-scale data sets. They make use of a new quantitative statistical method, - the Cdindex2 - which describes how publications and patents have an impact on networks of quotations in science and technology.

Publications and patents appear to have become ever less disruptive and seem to be driving science and technology less often into unexplored directions. This pattern characterizes all fields of investigation. They have concluded that the perceived decline has probably not been triggered by qualitative changes in the articles, practice of quotations or factors intrinsic to specific fields

of investigation. Russell Funk and colleagues suggest the decline in the disruptive nature of scientific progress is a signal of a basic shift in the way science and technology are developing.

According to the authors this tendency is illustrated by the fact that investigators are ever more concentrating on smaller areas of sciences instead of widening their research to a more comprehensive and inclusive study. The authors argue universities and financing bodies should rethink the strategies that are guiding the "production" of publications and patents at the moment. They suggest a vision allowing investigators to step out of the competitive turmoil of indexes and scores and creating some space for them to develop a wider vision, so that they can protect themselves from the "publish or perish" culture and start investigating undiscovered paths.

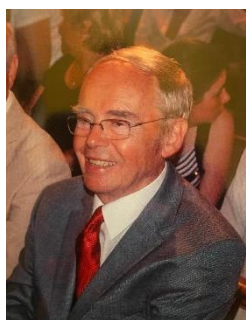
As a reader - be it as an ophthalmologist in a clinic or an academic researcher - you are drowning in the abundance of redundant articles. Of course, new findings must be validated and yes, the relevance of some publications will only come to light at a later stage in a more generalised setting. Journals with a high impact score wish to keep that score unimpaired, but I can't escape the impression there is a real pressure to get the pages filled every month.

It is our intention that ECLSO Congresses and Symposia would present to you such a relevant and synoptic overview of the progress made in medical contactology and ocular surface pathology.

Ref 1: Park M, Leahey E, Funk RJ. Papers and patents are becoming less disruptive over time. *Nature*. 2023 Jan;613(7942):138-144, doi: 10.1038/s41586-022-05543-x. [Free access online](#).

Send in comments @ [www.eclso.eu/contact](http://www.eclso.eu/contact)

## IN MEMORIAM DR. ROBERT HEITZ (1932-2021)

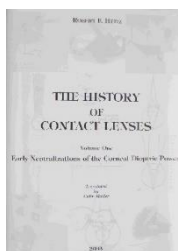


Dr Robert Heitz

After a long serious illness Dr Robert Heitz, honorary member and former officer of the ECLSO, passed away on December 11th, 2021. He was one of the pioneers of our society in the early eighties and was our Treasurer between 1983 and 1988. He created some of the building stones of modern ophthalmology and contactology.

He was born in 1932 in Haguenau in Alsace (France). He obtained his medical degree in Strasbourg, where he also finalized his training as an ophthalmologist in 1960 with a thesis on the history of contact lenses "Étude historique des principes et des applications des systèmes de contact oculaire dans le contexte des connaissances du XVIe siècle à la première moitié du XXe siècle" presenting a historical overview of the principles and systems applied to the cornea to improve and correct visual acuity. His work that had been translated and published in English built the fundament of his later works on this topic. In January 2001 he obtained a PhD in historical and philological sciences at the "Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes" in Paris.

As an ophthalmologist and scientist, he combined several leading functions: beginning as director of the Eye Clinic in Haguenau (France) he became responsible for clinical ophthalmological training at the University of Strasbourg. At the same time, he held an advisory function for medical devices in ophthalmology at the French Ministry of Health.



Enumerating his scientific publications about the cornea and contact lenses, in full volumes as well as Journals and articles, would surpass the scope of this newsletter.

Apart from countless presentations, he published about 150 articles and some major volumes about contact lens wear, their history and public health issues. Together with Paul Cochet (Paris), Wulf Erich (Homburg) and Montague Ruben (London) he was co-founder of the European medical contact lens journal "Contactologia" (Enke Verlag), being one of its main editors from 1979 until 1991. He was also member of the editorial board of the Polish journal Archives of the History and Philosophy of Medicine. In 1988 he co-

authored, with Gabriel Elie the "Guide de Contactologie Médicale" (Enke Verlag) which became soon a reference book for contact lens fitting in France.

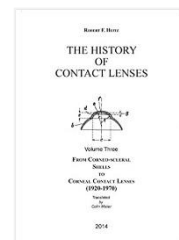
But his major scientific achievement remains the publication of his "History of contact lenses" in three volumes published in English by Wayenborgh Press (Belgium) between 2003 and 2014. It was part of his PhD thesis and is certainly the most scholarly and exhaustive work ever published on this subject.

Apart from the ECLSO, he was a member the following French and European societies: Société Française d'Ophtalmologie (SFO), Deutsche Ophthalmologische Gesellschaft (DOG), Société d'Ophtalmologie de l'Est de la France, Société Française des Ophtalmologistes adaptateurs de Lentilles de Contact (SFOALC), Société d'histoire de la médecine, Société francophone d'histoire de l'ophtalmologie, Julius-Hirschberg-Gesellschaft fuer Geschichte der Augenheilkunde.

His eminent scientific work was officially recognized: the ECLSO honored him with the Fick-Kalt-Müller Medal in 1983 and he became Honorary Member of the society in 2009. In 1986 the International Contact Lens Council granted him the "Louis Emile Javal Silver Service Distinction". Dr Heitz also received for his distinguished services the "Ordre National du Mérite" from the French government.

With Dr Heitz the ophthalmological world has lost one of its most amiable and expert professionals, who combined both clinical practice and historical insight.

*Dr René Mély, ECLSO Past President.*



We hope you enjoyed reading the ECLSO Newsletter. Feel free to send in reactions, comments and your own contributions to our Secretary-General, Dr Ömür Uçakhan (email: omuru@yahoo.com).

Best wishes,



**Carina Koppen**  
ECLSO President



**Ömür Uçakhan-Gündüz**  
ECLSO Secretary-General



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