

Program Schedule

Day 1: Saturday, January 24, 2026

Time	Presenter	Topic
8:20-8:30	Welcome Address	Ramesh Kekunnaya
Session 1: Genetic Counseling in Focus Moderator: Vyshnavika Mupparapu & Adeline Shona Lasrado (A dynamic series of talks exploring cultural nuances, clinical challenges, and practical strategies in ocular genetic counselling, from test selection to variant interpretation and beyond)		
08:30-08:37	Vyshnavika Mupparapu	Behind-the-Scenes: Workflow Optimization in Ocular Genetics
08:40-08:47	Rachana Margani	Beliefs: Navigating Culture in Genetic Counselling
08:50-08:57	Anshuman Verma	Navigating the Grey Zone: Strategies for Handling VUS
09:00-09:07	Jenina Capasso	Ordering Wisely: The Art and Science of Test Selection in Ocular Genetics
09:10-09:17	Celeste Wyman	From Variant to Verdict: A Framework for Assessing Pathogenicity
09:30-09:37	TBA Discussant- Venkatesh Pochaboina	Paper Presentation 1
09:45-09:52	TBA Discussant- Pravalika Sadhu	Paper Presentation 2
10:00-10:20	Annie Q Hasan (Keynote)	Genetic Counselling in India: The Story So Far and Road Ahead
Coffee Break, Poster Viewing – 10:30 to 11:00		
Session 2: Molecules to Medicine Moderator: Rachana Maragani and Goura Chattannavar (An insightful session highlighting the geneticist's perspective, from precise phenotyping and prenatal diagnosis to emerging therapies, ethical dilemmas, and the future of rare disease management)		
11:00-11:07	Sarah Bailur	Head to Heel Clues: Phenotyping Essentials in Ocular Genetics
11:10-11:17	Shagun Aggarwal	Womb to World: A Guide to Prenatal Genetic Testing & Counseling
11:20-11:27	Prajna Ranganath	Making an Eye: The Genetic Orchestration of Ocular Development
11:30-11:37	Surya Balakrishnan	Red Flags in the Exam Room: Triggering a Genetic Referral
11:40-11:47	Meenakshi Bhat	The Time is Now: Emerging Opportunities for Treating Rare Diseases in India
11:50-11:57	Alex V Levin	Genetic Ethics in Practice: Consent, Confidentiality, and Communication Ethics
12:00-12:10	TBA	Paper Presentation 3
12:10-12:20	TBA	Paper Presentation 4
12:20-12:50	Kshitij Mankad (Keynote)	The Eye in Utero: Advances in Prenatal Radiology for Ocular Diagnosis
Lunch Break, Poster Viewing – 13:00 to 14:00		

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Session 3: The Eye and Beyond Moderator: Dr Ramesh Kekunnaya <i>(This session explores how the eye reflects broader systemic disease, highlighting genetic connections between ocular findings and multi-organ syndromes involving the brain, heart, kidney, bone, and more)</i>		
14:00-14:07	Alex Levin	Decoding Syndromic Eye Diseases: A Multisystem Diagnostic Framework
14:10-14:17	Manjushree Bhate	The Genetic Overlap: Eye and Heart Connections
14:20-14:27	Amol Bansal	The Genetic Intersection: Brain Meets Eye
14:30-14:37	Ramesh Kekunnaya	The Genetic Bond: Connecting Eye and Calcium
14:40-14:47	Goura Chattannavar	The Genetic Bridge: Eye-Renal Axis
14:50-14:57	Divya Natarajan	The Genetic Symphony: Seeing and Hearing
15:00-15:10	TBA	Paper Presentation 5
15:10-15:20	TBA	Paper Presentation 6
Coffee Break, Poster Viewing – 15:30 to 16:00		
Session 4: Lens, Strabismus and Neuro-Ophthalmology Moderator: Virender Sachdeva <i>(A deep dive into the genetic architecture of neuro-ophthalmic and ocular motor disorders - from optic nerve disorders to musc and cortical visual impairment)</i>		
16:00-16:07	Shailja Tibrewal	Small and Missing Pieces: Understanding MAC Spectrum Disorders
16:10-16:17	Vivek Warkad	Genetic Crosstalk Between Eye and Skull
16:20-16:27	Virender Sachdeva	Genes Traffic: Eye and Optic Nerve Highway
16:30-16:37	Adeline Lasrado	Gene Junction: Congenital Myasthenia Syndrome
16:40-16:47	Lokesh Lingappa	From Brain to Sight: Insights into Acquired CVI
16:50-16:57	Sampada Kulkarni	Muscle and Mutation: Genetic Stories of Eye Movement Disorders
17:00-17:07	Rohan Nalawade	Wired from Birth: Developmental Optic Nerve Anomalies
Poster Presentation: 3 Minutes Each Moderator: Aditi Parikh Discussant: Deepika Parameswarappa and Shailja Tibrewal		
17:15-17:18	TBA	
17:19-17:22	TBA	
17:23-17:26	TBA	
17:27-17:30	TBA	
17:31-17:34	TBA	
17:35-17:38	TBA	
17:39-17:42	TBA	
17:43-17:46	TBA	
17:50-19:00	Goura Chattannavar	Gene Fun Quiz
Followed by dinner 19:30		

Program Schedule

Day 2: Sunday, January 25, 2026

Time	Presenter	Topic
Session 5: Retina and Ocular Oncology Moderator: Srikant Kumar Padhy <i>(Explore the genetic foundations of retinal diseases and ocular tumors, highlighting breakthroughs in diagnosis, prognosis, and targeted therapies)</i>		
08:00-08:07	Subhadra Jalali	FEVR and the Eye: Missed Signals and Vascular Chaos
08:10-08:17	Sumant Sharma	Macula Matters: Closer Look into Genetics
08:20-08:27	Vishal Raval	Eye-Brain-Skin Axis: Phacomatoses
08:30-08:37	Srikanta Kumar Padhy	Seeing in the Dark: Genetic Clues to Rod Dystrophies
08:40-08:47	Deepika Parameswarappa	Central, Color, and Sensitivity: Cone Dystrophies
08:50-08:57	Akshay Badakere	Seeing the Whole Picture: Ocular and Systemic Features of Syndromic RP
09:00-09:07	Indumathi Mariappan	Restoring Sight: Cell and Gene Based Therapies for Retinal Disorders
09:10-09:20	TBA	Paper Presentation 7
09:20-09:30	TBA	Paper Presentation 8
Coffee Break & Poster Viewing – 10:00 to 10:30		

Session 6: Anterior Segment Genetics Moderator: Dr Muralidhar Ramappa <i>(Delve into the genetic underpinnings of anterior segment disorders, uncovering insights into pathogenesis, clinical implications, and emerging gene-based therapies)</i>		
10:30-10:37	Goura Chattannavar	Inherited Haze: Genetic Insights into Hereditary Cataract
10:40-10:47	Muralidhar Ramappa	Cracking Corneal Codes: The Genetics Behind Dystrophies
10:50-10:57	Pratinya Kolipaka	IOP and Beyond: The Genetic Architecture of Glaucoma
11:00-11:07	Alex Levin	Developmental Miswrites: The Genetics of Anterior Segment Malformations
11:10-11:17	Sayan Basu	Restoring Clarity: Cell Therapy Approaches for Corneal Repair
11:20-11:27	Subhabrata Chakrabarti	Looking Back to See Ahead: 5 Transformative Findings from the APEDS Study
11:30-12:00	Alex Levin (Keynote)	Bridging the Gap: Education, Interpretation, and the Future of Ocular Genetics
12:10-12:20	TBA	Paper Presentation 9
12:20-12:30	TBA	Paper Presentation 10
Thank you		