

**SCIENTIFIC
PROGRAMME**



EUROPEAN
EYE BANK
ASSOCIATION

**EEBA
2025**

“the bridge”



JANUARY 16-17-18

ROME ITALY

SALA FOLCHI

Azienda Ospedaliera
San Giovanni Addolorata

ORGANIZERS:

Augusto Pocobelli, Diego Ponzin

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Augusto Pocobelli



Diego Ponzin

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Stefano Ferrari

Rossella Colabelli Gisoldi

Francesco Aiello

Welcome to the XXXVI Meeting of the European Eye Bank Association 2025.

This meeting provides a broad platform for lively scientific exchange and discussion between eye banking professionals, researchers, technologists, medical experts and experienced ophthalmologists from across Europe.

The Scientific Committee has prepared a programme that includes Keynote Lectures, Round Tables, Symposia, Free Papers and Posters that offer a wide range of opportunities to enrich everyone's professional experience.

The EEBA Scientific Meeting is a great opportunity to present the latest updates in the fields of corneal transplantation and eye banking and to meet international experts, in order to facilitate communication between different actors involved in corneal transplantation, eye banking and the treatment of ocular surface diseases.

Organizing Committee

Augusto Pocobelli

Diego Ponzin





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THURSDAY 16th JANUARY 2025

FOLCHI ROOM

12.00-13.00 Registration EEBA 2025 and SIBO 2025

12.00-14.00 *WELCOME LUNCH*

13.00-13.30 Opening joint ceremony

13.30-15.30 **SESSION I: RISKS AND BENEFITS OF CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION**

Chair: *J. Hjortdal, A. Pocobelli*

13.30-13.50 **Keynote speaker:** *J. Hjortdal*
Risks and benefits of corneal transplantation

13.50-15.30

EBEI: A new "eye bank efficiency index" - *F. Aiello*

Eye donation potential at a UK tertiary general hospital - *B.A. Assarian*

Impact of donor criteria modification on cornea tissue availability for transplant
A. Bauknecht

Starting from scratch in the journey to Athens Eye Bank - *M. Chatzea*

Outcomes of corneal transplantation to treat aniridia associated keratopathy: long term outcomes from UK transplant registry - *F. Figueiredo*

Review of cornea banking activities at Austrian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service for Upper Austria - *U. Franz*

Last will: tissue Donation. An evaluation of cornea donations of outpatients in the German Society for Tissue Transplantation (DGFG) network - *K. Kleinhoff*

Development of a web-based centralized cornea registry to enhance transparency and accountability of the cornea waiting list in Hong Kong - *C. Wong*

Eye Banking in America: an overview of the evolution, process and future of Eye Banking - *K. McCoy*



THURSDAY 16th JANUARY 2025

FOLCHI ROOM

15.30-17.00 SESSION II: CURRENT PARADIGMAS FOR CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION

Chair: *J. Alvarez De Toledo, D. Ponzin*

15.30-15.50 Keynote speaker: *J. Alvarez De Toledo*
Beyond conventional corneal transplantation

15.50-17.00

Clinical use of cryopreserved ultra-thick human amniotic membrane for anophthalmic socket contracture - *F. Alzahrani*

Organ culture and hypothermic corneal preservation methods: the experience of the Rome Eye Bank - *G. Buffon*

Comparison of the semi-automated HB&L Uroquattro method with and standard microbiological testing for corneal storage media - *D. Bukulin*

An insight into microbiological safety: a wide range of approaches and future challenges - *E. Paveggio*

Herpes Simplex Virus and corneal tissues for transplantation - *E. Fasolo*

A single-center comparison of alchimia^o versus eurobio^o media for corneal grafts preservation: importance of rinsing efficiency before determining endothelial cell density, lower contamination rate - *X. Lafarge*

Evaluation of medium volume for human donor corneal storage in organ culture using Tissue-C - *U. Rodella*

D'ELIA ROOM

17.15-19.00 EEBA COMMITTEE MEETING (Closed Meeting)

FRIDAY 17th JANUARY 2025

FOLCHI ROOM

9.00-11.00 **SESSION III: REGENERATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY**

Chair: *S. Ferrari, P. Rama*

9.00-9.20 **Niels Ehlers Memorial Lecture:** *P. Rama*

Regenerative Ophthalmology

9.20-11.00

Identification of corneal characteristics influencing the success of primary human corneal endothelial cell culture - *I. Aouimeur*

An innovative cell therapy strategy for ex vivo corneal endothelium regeneration
M. Bertolin

Identification of senescence markers on cultured human corneal endothelial cells
T. Sagnial

Cryopreservation of corneal endothelial cells in vitro, ex vivo, and on a tissue engineered endothelial graft - *T. Sagnial*

Decellularized descemet's membrane: a new scaffold on sight for full-thickness macular hole - *S. D'Agostino*

Optimizing human ocular primary cell culture: strategies to enhance utilization of donor tissues - *Y. Yoon*

9.00-11.00 *OPEN COFFEE*



FRIDAY 17th JANUARY 2025

FOLCHI ROOM

11.00-12.30 SESSION IV: CORNEAL ANATOMY REVISITED

Chair: *F. Aiello, H. Dua*

11.00-11.20 **Keynote speaker:** *H. Dua*

Corneal anatomy revisited

11.20-12.30

Flap, donor and recipient characteristics as risk factors for rebubbling incidence in graft patients DSAEK - *R. Carroccia, L.A. D'Eliseo*

Sterile donor tomography: an update after 1864 analysed corneas since 2018
J. Kahlert

Donor corneas with post-cataract scars: DMEK graft preparation success rate
J. Nijenhuis

Surgeon-dissected DMEK versus eye bank technician-predissected: graft survival at 6 months - *S. Ninotta*

Development of a novel human reconstructed corneal epithelium model for assessing ocular irritation of medical devices in vitro - *U. Rodella*

Role of cryopreservation with cornea grafts. Our experience in the last 10 years
J. Sanchez

12.30-14.00 *LUNCH BREAK*

FRIDAY 17th JANUARY 2025

FOLCHI ROOM

12.45-13.45

LUNCH SYMPOSIUM: From the Eye Bank to Clinical Practice

Welcome - *A. Pocobelli, D. Ponzin*

Company Introduction - *A. Vinti*

Comparison Between Cold and Organ-Culture Corneal Storage - *F. Scarinci*

Innovations in Corneal Cold Storage: Xtra4 Study - *M.S. Ellison*

Advances in Corneal Graft Preparations - *M. Busin*

New Applications of Eye Bank Tissues in Macular Hole Surgery - *M. Pileri*

14.00-15.30

SESSION V: BEYOND CONVENTIONAL CORNEAL SURGERY

Chair: *C. Cursiefen, A. Pocobelli*

14.00-14.20

Keynote speaker: *C. Cursiefen*

Current paradigms for corneal transplantation

14.20-15.30

Preparation of a pre-descemetic scaffold for a new hybrid intra-ocular prosthesis

A. Ruzza

INTRA-KER keratoprosthesis: preliminary results of first-in human implantation of an intracorneal prosthesis - *M. Busin*

The use of Moria pre-calibrated trephine to optimize pneumatic dissection during DALK

M. Busin

Safety assessment of line-field confocal-OCT imaging for ophthalmic applications: an in vivo study on NZW Rabbits - *E. Crouzet*

Implementation of OCT (Optical Coherence Tomography) analyser as part of NHSBT pre-cutting DSAEK service - *D. Usherwood*

Inverted light microscopy of guttae in post-mortem DMEK eyes operated on for Fuchs endothelial dystrophy - *A. Sajet*

10 years experience with the pre-preparation of cornea lamellae in the tissue bank confirms the concept - *N. Hofmann*



FRIDAY 17th JANUARY 2025

FOLCHI ROOM

15.30-17.00 POSTERS SESSION

Chair: *S. Ferrari, A. Pocobelli*

Alterations of the ocular surface in Fabry disease - *L. D'Andrea, M. Troisi*

Accelerated aging study of a novel medium for corneal storage at 2-8°C - *L. Giurgola*

Assessment of Tissue-C thawing conditions before use - *L. Giurgola*

New deep learning-based algorithm to assess quality of primary corneal endothelial cell cultures - *C. Maurin*

Preparation of pre-cut DMEK Grafts in the International Eye Bank of Prague
M. Netuková

Comparison of two commercial medias for corneal organ culture and deswelling:
CorneaMax/CorneaJet versus Tissue-C/Carry-C - *S. Ninotta*

Thirty years of the Warsaw Eye Bank - our standards and development
I. Grabska-Liberek

Reduction in post-mortem blood sampling time by collaboration with the intensive
care unit - *T. Poulsen Ebbe*

Non-standard use of eye tissues in ophthalmic surgery - *B. Rymgayllo-Jankowska*

Human donor corneas during extended organ culture - first data on morphological
changes and endothelial cell counts - *N. Türkeri*

Universal cannula design for both Endo-in and Endo-out DMEK preparations
M. Tsurkan

Investigating the Role of Molecular Coating in Human Corneal Endothelial Cell Primary
Culture - *Z. He*

From lab configuration to functional prototype: active storage machine for corneal
storage - *E. Crouzet*

19.00

SOCIAL PROGRAMME AND SOCIAL DINNER

SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2025

FOLCHI ROOM

8.30-9.30 EEBA BUSINESS MEETING (OPEN MEETING)

9.30-11.30 SESSION VI: CHALLENGING THE DOGMA: NEW PARADIGMS IN EYE BANKING

Chair: *D. Ponzin, G. Thuret*

9.30-9.50 **Keynote speaker:** *G. Thuret*

Challenging the dogma: new paradigms in eye banking

9.50-11.30

Validation of a deep learning-assisted evaluation of total corneal endothelial cells viability - *M. Airaldi*

Seeing beyond the SMILE: a biobank for SMILE-derived stromal lenticules for therapeutic use - *R. Christodoulou*

Playing the long game: potential for extending corneal cold storage time
M. Ellison

Innovations in organ culture: performance of a novel animal - derivatives - free medium at 31° - *L. Giurgola*

A Two-Center study on DSAEK grafts preservation in a novel hypothermic storage medium - *A. Ruzza*

Update: flying human corneal tissues for transplantation - first data on corneal endothelial morphology and endothelial cell counts - *J.F. Klett*

A novel hybrid software-assisted method to evaluate quantitatively corneal endothelium from light microscopy images - *M. Piaia*

11.30- 12.30 EEBA 2025 CLOSING CEREMONY AND FAREWELL



SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2025

FOLCHI ROOM

13.30-14.00 SIBO BUSINESS MEETING

14.00-15.30 SIBO SESSION I

Chair: *S. Ferrari, D. Ponzin*

14.00-14.20 National Transplantation Center

14.20-14.40 **Keynote lecture:** Corneal reconstruction - *M. Busin*

14.40-15.30

Reorganization of the Rome Eye Bank: LEAN Project - *C. Mion*

Perforating mushroom keratoplasty: the bank responds - *F. Pateri*

SoHO news: how the new European regulation changes the rules of the game
D. Camposampiero

DMEG: conquering the posterior pole - *P. Bonci, I. Marrasso*

Predictive factors for obtaining an ultra-thin endothelial flap: dream or reality?
R. Colabelli Gisoldi

15.30-17.00 SIBO SESSION II: OPEN ARENA

Moderators: *F. Aiello, D. Camposampiero, P. Pagani, P. Santoro*

Provocateurs: *R. Colabelli Gisoldi, A. Pocobelli, D. Ponzin*

17.00-17.15 FAREWELL: PASSING OF THE SIBO FLAG TO THE 2026 ORGANIZER

INFORMATIONS

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT



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OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language is English. Simultaneous translation is not available.

REGISTRATION

For information on registration <https://registrations.jaka.it/>

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