



Seeking A Cure For
Retinitis Pigmentosa, Macular Degeneration,
Usher Syndrome and Allied Retinal Dystrophies

T

Retina International General Assembly 2018 - Auckland, New Zealand

Thursday, February 8th, 2018

Location: University of Auckland Business School
Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road, Auckland, 1010

Room: Decima Glenn Room, Level 3

Start: 09.00 a.m. end: 05.00 p.m.

APPENDIX 07-2

7.2 Retina International conference 2022

The president' s office received one bid for the Retina International conference 2022 by Fighting Blindness Ireland.

Motion: The MC moves to grant the Retina International Conference 2022 to Fighting Blindness, Ireland.

Ms Christina Fasser
President
Retina International
Ausstellungsstrasse 36
CH-8005 Zurich
Switzerland

16 October 2017

Fighting Blindness is proud to put forward its bid to host the Retina International World Congress 2022 in Ireland. As your hosts we will extend a céad mile fáilte (100,000 welcomes) to you and your delegates

Fighting Blindness is an Irish charity that funds and enables research into treatments and cures for blindness. It also provides a unique professional counselling service for people and families affected by sight loss, and are extremely active in the area of advocacy and patient empowerment. As a patient-led organization, our highest priority is ensuring that people who are living with sight loss are central to every aspect of what we do.

Fighting Blindness has extensive experience in organizing world – class multi stakeholder events which brings together patients, advocates, clinicians, scientists, industry and government. Since the year 2000 we have organised the highly reputable multi-dimensional Retina Conference in Dublin. This event serves to raise the profile of retinal research and promote a spirit of education, partnership and collaboration among all attendees. The Fighting Blindness Retina 2016 conference was acknowledged as ‘Best Educational Meeting of the Year’ at the recent Irish Healthcare awards, acknowledging the tremendous dedication of the team over the years to ensure its continued growth and relevance. Hosting the 2022 Retina International World Congress would be a welcome challenge to us. Our team have attended many of your previous conferences and are extremely comfortable with its content and goals. Ireland is a wonderful place to visit and hospitality is integral to Irish people, so we would look forward to welcoming international delegates.

Organising the event in 2022 has the full support of the staff, board and members of Fighting Blindness and we would work ardently to ensure that it is a highly successful and enjoyable series of meetings. We would work in partnership with the secretariat of Retina International, which has conveniently been established in Ireland, and commit to undertaking the organization of the event including programme development, speaker arrangements, venue management, logistical administration, financial management, public and media relations. A dedicated and experienced committee would be established consisting of staff and board directors, ophthalmologists, advocates and scientists, along with the CEO of Retina International.

We thank you for this opportunity to present and assure you of our full support.

Is mise le meas,

Anna Moran, Head of Operations

Retina International World Congress 2022

Dublin – Ireland

Fighting Blindness Ireland

Contents

1 - Welcome Letter	5
2 - Programme Overview	6
2a - Conference Theme	7
3 – The Organisers	9
4 – Organising Committee	12
5 – Our Chosen PCO	15
6 – Local Support.....	16
7 – Dublin Ireland.....	17
8 – Conference Venue	23
9 – Social Programme	27

1 - Welcome Letter

Fighting Blindness is proud to put forward its bid to host the Retina International World Congress 2022 in Ireland. As your hosts we will extend a céad mile fáilte (100,000 welcomes) to you and your delegates

Fighting Blindness is an Irish charity that funds and enables research into treatments and cures for blindness. It also provides a unique professional counselling service for people and families affected by sight loss, and are extremely active in the area of advocacy and patient empowerment. As a patient-led organization, our highest priority is ensuring that people who are living with sight loss are central to every aspect of what we do.

Fighting Blindness has extensive experience in organizing world – class multi stakeholder events which brings together patients, advocates, clinicians, scientists, industry and government. Since the year 2000 we have organised the highly reputable multi-dimensional Retina Conference in Dublin. This event serves to raise the profile of retinal research and promote a spirit of education, partnership and collaboration among all attendees. The Fighting Blindness Retina 2016 conference was acknowledged as ‘Best Educational Meeting of the Year’ at the recent Irish Healthcare awards, acknowledging the tremendous dedication of the team over the years to ensure its continued growth and relevance. Hosting the 2022 Retina International World Congress would be a welcome challenge to us. Our team have attended many of your previous conferences and are extremely comfortable with its content and goals. Ireland is a wonderful place to visit and hospitality is integral to Irish people, so we would look forward to welcoming international delegates.

Organising the event in 2022 has the full support of the staff, board and members of Fighting Blindness and we would work ardently to ensure that it is a highly successful and enjoyable series of meetings. We would work in partnership with the secretariat of Retina International, which has conveniently been established in Ireland, and commit to undertaking the organization of the event including programme development, speaker arrangements, venue management, logistical administration, financial

management, public and media relations. A dedicated and experienced committee would be established consisting of staff and board directors, ophthalmologists, advocates and scientists, along with the CEO of Retina International.

We thank you for this opportunity to present and assure you of our full support.

Is mise le meas,

Anna Moran
Head of Operations

2 - Programme Overview

Congress
Retina International World Congress 2022

Conference Host
Fighting Blindness

Proposed Conference Dates
Option 1: 14-18 September 2022
Option 2: 5-9 October 2022

Proposed Conference Theme
2022 Vision for the Future

Venue
Option 1: Convention Centre, Dublin
Option 2: RDS, Dublin
Option 3: AVIVA Stadium, Dublin

Proposed Gala Dinner
Mansion House, Dublin

Day 1 – Wednesday

Registration

Welcome Ceremony

Day 2 – Thursday

Education Programme and Exhibition Space

Speakers Dinner

Day 3 – Friday

Main Plenary for all attendees and Breakout sessions

Youth Programme

Day 4 – Saturday

Main Plenary for all attendees and Breakout Sessions

Gala Dinner

Day 5 – Sunday

Closing Ceremony

Conference Theme

“2022: Vision for the Future”

2020 Vision for the Future is the goal that all people affected by retinal sight loss will, in the future, have 2020 vision, due to the provision of treatments and cures for blindness that will be developed through pioneering scientific and medical research. As patient organisations, our role is to ensure that this research takes place, and therapies are delivered with the utmost urgency to those who need it.

Over 224,000 Irish people and 40 million worldwide are affected by severe vision loss. World class researchers based in Ireland and funded by Fighting Blindness have made remarkable progress in the search for the causes, the potential treatments and the eventual cures for blindness.

Fighting Blindness Ireland is utterly committed to using all of our energy and resources to work on behalf of those affected by sight loss.

We are excited to team with our international colleagues across the world of Retina International membership to produce a conference that will inform delegates of the latest developments, progress of clinical trials and opportunities for involvement and participation.

Basic and translational research will remain key to our research strategy through these five pillars:

- Genes and Gene Therapy
- Cell technology and Regenerative Medicine
- Retinal Implant Technology
- Novel Drug Therapy
- Population Studies

Conference Programme

A dedicated and experienced committee will be established to manage the organisation of the conference. This will be comprised of staff, directors, patients, ophthalmologists, scientists, advocates and other representatives. We will work in partnership with the CEO of Retina International and will maintain contact with previous host country organisations in order to benefit from their knowledge. It is likely that we will base the 2022 conference format on previous years and will develop content alongside our International Scientific Committee to compliment the 2022 conference theme.

Each element of the programme will be carefully considered and suitably managed, including the Management Committee meeting, the General Assembly, the Continuing Education Programme and the World Congress itself. We will work with the Irish Tourism Board, Fáilte Ireland to ensure that delegates have the opportunity to enjoy their visit with some tourist activities. We will look at entertainment and social activities for the conference.

We will also work in partnership with a Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) to ensure a seamless delivery of the conference in

terms of logistics of the conference and social programme. We will work hard to capture sponsorship from industry and other appropriate sources to ensure that the cost to delegates is as reasonable as possible in order to enable participation to the widest possible audience.

We will also ensure that the very highest standard of accessibility is reached within the conference venue, accommodation, audio visual systems and translation mechanisms. All conference materials will be designed carefully to be accessible and useful. We will undertake negotiations with all suppliers (e.g. catering, print and design, audio visual, speaker travel arrangements) and we will set up a dedicated conference website and registration system which will be as easy to navigate as possible with special consideration of linguistic and visual simplicity and accessibility. All insurance requirements will be addressed.

We will also look at entertainment and social activities for the conference. Due to our enormous experience of running a world class scientific and patient-engaged conference for the last 17 years, we have relationships and access to the world leaders in ophthalmological research and clinical expertise.

We are confident therefore of our ability to deliver an unparalleled event of the highest quality. We are also confident of high level sponsorship from our industry partners, the Irish tourism board and other sources.

3 – The Organisers

Fighting Blindness

Fighting Blindness is an Irish, patient-led organisation with a vision to cure blindness and to support people living with sight loss, and empower patients.

We started in 1983 as a group of families affected by rare, genetically inherited forms of sight loss coming together for support. The founders met regularly in Dublin's Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital to help each other cope with the reality of degenerating vision. At that time,

genetic research into these conditions was maturing somewhat and the group, though small and without any form of scientific background, decided to investigate this new and exciting prospect.

In those pre-internet days, the only way to find out more was through attending conferences and events, which were costly and not easy to get to. In 1984, a few members of the support group travelled to Helsinki, where the umbrella organisation Retina International held a scientific conference.

The energy and motivation of Retina International inspired the Irish group and the discussions on genetics piqued their interest. Within one year the group had raised £500,000 to establish its flagship project at Trinity College, Dublin (TCD), examining the genetic course of dominantly inherited retinitis pigmentosa (RP).

In 1989, that very team in Trinity College Dublin discovered the first gene responsible for RP, and in 2011 that same project received a venture capital investment of €5 million to bring it towards the pre-clinical stage. Since our founding, Fighting Blindness has invested over €17 million in more than 90 projects. We are proud to be an organisation enabling the progress of research that may not otherwise have been funded.

CURE. SUPPORT. EMPOWER

Cure

We promote and facilitate the development of therapies which are accessible to all of our patients affected by sight loss. Our research strategy focuses on these five pillars:

- Genes and gene therapy
- Cell technology and regenerative medicine
- Retinal implant technology
- Novel drug therapy
- Population studies

Support

The Insight Counselling Service provides support for people and families who are living with sight loss.

It is not just the individual who may need support, but also their partner, children, extended family and friends. We work with all those affected, directly and indirectly, by sight loss.

Empower

Fighting Blindness advocates on behalf of everyone in Ireland affected by severe vision impairment.

We work in partnership with stakeholder groups in the areas of health, science, industry and government to ensure that the patient voice is represented in all matters.

We advocate for equitable access to existing treatments, novel therapies and appropriate care.

“Losing your sign is like losing someone you love. It’s like part of your heart is gone... The research Fighting Blindness fund is incredible. It gives me great hope that one day soon we will find a cure.”

– Gerry Kerr, Fighting Blindness member.

4 – Organising Committee

Local Organising Committee

Kevin Whelan, Chief Executive, Fighting Blindness

Kevin has extensive experience in the non-profit sector particularly in the areas of strategic management, corporate partnerships, grant fundraising and membership development.

Anna Moran, Head of Operations, Fighting Blindness

Anna has been working with Fighting Blindness for over 10 years and has been extensively involved with Retina International, assisting with the development of the proposal to develop a secretariat. She is a member of the senior executive team at Fighting Blindness and is heavily engaged in the management, governance and strategic development of the organisation. She has overseen the project and event organisation of the Fighting Blindness Retina Conference for 6 years and will bring this experience to the world congress event management.

Caitriona Dunne, Advocacy Manager, Fighting Blindness

As our advocacy and communications expert, Caitriona is responsible for ensuring that patient interests are front and central to health policy development and is extensively involved with multi stakeholder groups to develop and implement a national vision strategy. She is a trainee on the EUTATI patient expert training course which aims to educate patients and increase patient involvement in medicines, research and development.

Dr Laura Brady, Research Manager, Fighting Blindness

Laura is responsible for the management of the Fighting Blindness research portfolio including the organisation's strategic development. She liaises with local and international scientists to ensure that we are

funding the strongest and most promising projects that have the potential of delivering cures and therapies for retinal blindness.

Dr Melissa Jones, Research Officer, Fighting Blindness

Working alongside the Research Manager, Melissa is charged with managing the administration of our extensive research portfolio and supporting the work of the research department. She is also responsible for research communications with our members.

Amanda Kenny, Communications Manager, Fighting Blindness

Amanda Kenny is Communications Manager with Fighting Blindness. She manages the organisations communications through an award-winning website, newsletters, e-zines and across all other social media platforms. Amanda plays a central role in the promotion of the annual retina conference and works closely with all departments, ensuring that members and supporters as well as the general public are well informed about on-going research developments

Mari McCafferty, Finance Manager, Fighting Blindness

With her extensive experience in finance, coupled with project and event management, Mari is a crucial part of the team in the organisation of large scale conferences. She is the financial controller of the organisation and a member of the senior management team.

Local Scientific Committee

The experts below have committed to working with the Fighting Blindness / Retina Conference Organising Committee to develop an exciting and innovative programme for the world congress.

Prof Breandán Kennedy (Chair)

Principal Investigator, School of Biomolecular and Biomedical, Sciences, Conway Institute, University College Dublin

Mr David Keegan

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Institute of Ophthalmology, Mater Misericordiae Hospital Dublin

Dr Paul Kenna

Clinical Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Senior Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin

Ms Giuliana Silvestri

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Clinical Director for Ophthalmology Services, Royal Hospitals Belfast

Prof Tom Cotter

Professor of Biochemistry and Biosciences, Biosciences Institute, University College Cork

Prof Alan Stitt

Centre Director, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Science, Queens University Belfast

International Scientific Committee

Prof Robin Ali (Chair)

Professor of Human Molecular Genetics, Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London, UK

Prof Alberto Auricchio

Professor of Medical Genetics, Federico II University / TIGEM, Naples, Italy

Prof Joseph Carroll

Co-director of Advanced Ocular Imaging Program (AOIP), Medical College of Wisconsin, USA

Prof John Flannery

Professor of Neurobiology, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Prof Brendan Buckley

Chair of Fighting Blindness Ireland

Prof Frank Barry

Professor of Cellular Therapy, Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI), National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

5 – Our Chosen PCO

Conference Partners International

Established in 1998, Conference Partners International (CPI) is a full service, multi-award winning and internationally accredited Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) with offices in Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh, Manchester and we are just about to open a European mainland office in Hamburg. With a proven track record demonstrated over 19 years in business, our exceptional portfolio of over 950 national and international conferences has justifiably positioned us as an international leader.

Driven by our 'hands-on' senior management team with a wealth of global experience, the company boasts a highly skilled, multi-lingual team of 70, split over 7 specialist departments, enabling us to offer our clients a variety of in-house services led by internationally trained event experts.

Our approach is in our name, we will be your PARTNER. We support and service our clients by creating a long lasting relationship of trust. We believe in accountability, quality and shared results. Through open and honest communication, we take the time to understand you.

'Enhance your reputation by depending on ours' is our company motto and we uphold this belief by providing the optimum solutions and high quality professional services for the smooth running of our client's conferences, applying creativity and added-value to every element to ensure your delegates enjoy a high quality event that exceeds expectations.

CPI'S Awards and Accreditations:

ABPCO

IAPCO

AIPCO

MPI

ICCA

Site

6 – Local Support

Local Support

Ireland's bid for the Retina International World Congress 2020 is strongly supported by the following:

- Fighting Blindness
- Failte Ireland
- Tourism Ireland
- An Roinn Iompair Turasoireachta agus spoirt
- An Roinn Slainte
- Aer Lingus
- Lord Mayor of Dublin
- Retina International

Fáilte Ireland

The promotion of Ireland as an international destination for conferences is supported financially through a number of initiatives with Fáilte Ireland.

The Conference Financial Support Scheme assists every step of the way, from bid stage right through to marketing of the conference to ensure it will be a successful and memorable one.

Broadly, there are three stages to their support scheme and they help with the financial cost in the following areas:

1. Bidding

Failte Ireland provides financial aid in bidding for an international conference to choose Ireland as the host destination.

2. Site Inspections

Financial support is available towards site inspections for key decision makers to come to inspect venues and accommodation

3. Marketing Fund

The marketing fund is a financial contribution towards the marketing of the conference. They support activities that promote the conference internationally to increase delegate attendance and ensure its success.

7 – Dublin Ireland

Ireland has emerged as a leading international conference destination and has succeeded in combining the quality product demanded by researchers and professionals alike with a unique and memorable tourist experience. Having completely turned its fortunes around, Ireland's economy was the fastest-growing in the EU in 2016. The scenery in all its variations and the friendliness inherent in the Irish people provide that unquestionable draw which optimises the desired delegate attendance.

This, combined with excellent transport and access facilities, creates an important yardstick for all conference destinations internationally.

Married to all of this is the outstanding professional support available which serves to underwrite all these attributes and guarantees an exceptional conference every time.

“Ireland is the best brand in the world” - President Bill Clinton

Dublin

Dublin may be a small capital, but its cosmopolitan bona fides have been firmly established. Beyond its impressive collection of museums and galleries, and its choice of food from all four corners of the globe – in both restaurant and market form – this is a city that conspicuously embraces diversity and has been transformed by two decades of multiculturalism.

The wide-ranging choice of hotels, restaurants, and pubs meets every visitor’s budget and taste and whether it is a chic boutique hotel, world-class international accommodation or a quaint B&B, Dublin’s menu suits every palette. From centrally located Michelin Star Restaurants, to casual eateries for resting the feet, every desire of a visitor to this bustling city is catered for.

Dublin is one of the oldest cities in Europe and with ancient churches, grand buildings and fine museums; cultural riches abound, with the real advantage to the visitor being that everything is contained within a small area.

Dublin is also renowned worldwide for its warm welcome and genuine sense of hospitality. The Irish people’s undeniable passion for life is a wonderful lure to visitors the world over and Ireland is famous for attracting higher delegate numbers in comparison

Dublin Means Business

Dublin is a world class business destination with a proven track record. Over 1,150 overseas companies have chosen Ireland as their European base in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare, finance and ICT. Ireland is home to 13 out of the top 15 medical tech companies and is the global leader in the production of drug-eluting stents. 30 million people (one quarter of the world’s diabetic population) rely on an injectable device manufactured in Ireland. 50% of all ventilators in acute hospitals worldwide are manufactured in Ireland. 75% of global orthopaedic knee production comes out of Ireland.

Why Ireland?

1. Fighting Blindness have run the Retina Conference in Dublin since 2000
2. Founded in 1983, Fighting Blindness invested over 17 million euro in 90 plus projects
3. 246,773 people in Ireland living with blindness or vision impairment
4. Target 5000 research project aims to provide genetic testing for the estimated 5,000 people in Ireland who have a genetic retinal condition
5. 33% of worlds contact lenses manufactured here in Ireland by 17 top vision product manufacturers

In Forbes' 8th annual ranking of the best countries for business, Ireland was voted number 1.

– Forbes December 2013

Visas & Other Requirements

Visas

While visas are not currently required by EU nationals, EFTA Nationals, USA, Canadian or Australian nationals, all visitors are required to have a valid passport.

CPI will conduct a visa requirements review and proactively liaise with the Irish Ministry and Local Organising Committee to identify visa requirements for each country, as well as identify potential issues which could arise, for example, the necessity to apply for a Transit Visa in some countries.

The protocol of CPI is to meet with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and provide them with a list of delegates and speakers who require Visas. Confirmation of payment letters are issued to each delegate who will in turn apply for their visa directly. Particular emphasis

is placed on ensuring International speakers have applied for their visa on time, if a visa is required.

Health Restrictions

No vaccinations are required to travel to Ireland and excellent health care is readily available. For minor, self-limiting illnesses, pharmacists can give valuable advice and sell over-the-counter medication. They can also advise when more specialised help is required and provide guidance.

EU citizens (EHIC) will be covered for most medical care but not non-emergencies or emergency repatriation, unless equipped with a European Health Insurance Card.

Ireland has been named in “**Top 10 destinations to watch in 2016**” – Conde Nast Traveller

Safety

Ireland is the safest country in the European Union according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). In the Global Travel and Tourism Report by the World Economic Forum, Ireland was ranked the 15th safest country in the world. It also has one of the lowest crime rates in Europe and accordingly, delegates from across the globe experience a safe and pleasurable stay.

Health Issues (safety of water)

The quality of water is of a very high standard in Ireland and it is safe to drink directly from taps. Water quality testing and monitoring takes place at every stage of the supply system.

Internet Access

High speed internet access is widely available throughout Dublin and Ireland. Options include: dial-up, DSL, Satellite, 3G mobile and cable. Broadband is largely available in Irish cities and Dublin has the 15th fastest average download speed achieving an average download speed of 39.43 Mbps. If using a laptop, tablet or smartphone to go online, the vast majority of hotels, B&Bs, hostels, bars and restaurants in Dublin

and throughout Ireland offer Wi-Fi access, usually for free (though there may be a charge in a minority of hotels).

Power Interruptions

There are no issues with power interruptions in Dublin. Infrequently, a large storm may damage a small number of power lines but any issues like this are repaired within hours by our electricity suppliers.

Conference Accessibility Plans:

Fighting Blindness will ensure that the very highest standard of accessibility is reached within the conference venue, accommodation, audio visual systems and translation arrangements) All conference materials will be designed carefully to be accessible and useful.

Volunteers

Volunteers will meet and greet guests at the airport and conference venue to assist visitors if required. There will be designated areas for guide dogs and volunteers will ensure that each guide dog's needs are taken care of for the duration of the conference.

Professional Conference Organiser

Fighting Blindness plans to partner with Conference Partners International, a Professional Conference Organiser. Conference Partners International will liaise with delegates on registration to ascertain their individual requirements and will ensure their specified needs are met for the duration of the conference.

Venue Proximity

The RDS is located 16km or just 45 minutes from the airport via the Port Tunnel. The venue can be easily reached by car by travelling on the M50. Alternatively, the Aircoach bus stops which leaves Dublin Airport every 10 minutes stops directly outside the grounds. Taxi and car hire services are also easily available from the airport.

If travelling to and from Dublin Airport to the Convention Centre Dublin, the Aircoach bus transfer takes approximately 25-30 minutes and brings you to a bus stop which is a 10 minute walk from the venue. Taxis can

be found directly outside the Arrivals Hall in Dublin Airport. Behind the CCD, there is also a LUAS (Dublin tram) stop, which has trams running to the City centre, taking approximately 10 minutes.

International Airline Connections

Dublin Airport has direct flights to over 180 destinations in 40 countries on 4 continents. It is also the only major airport in Europe to offer US Preclearance, enabling passengers to save time by completing all the necessary immigration and customs checks prior to departure.

Dublin Airport manages an average of 60,000 passengers per day, rising to 80,000 during the peak season, and handles more than 600 aircrafts movements every day. Expansion in 2015 was fuelled by 22 new routes and extra capacity in passenger numbers on almost 40 existing routes. This is expected to continue into 2017, as 6 new scheduled services have already been announced for this year, including new direct transatlantic services to Boston, Miami, Doha,

Dublin Airport is located just 11 km or 7 miles from Dublin city centre. There are excellent transport links in place both to other regional airports and to Dublin city centre. Transfer time from the airport is approximately 25 minutes. Not only is it Ireland's busiest airport, it is also the fifth largest airport in Europe, having had a record 27.9 million passengers traveling through its doors during the past 12 months.

Dublin Airport also won a major global aviation industry marketing award in 2016 and was named the 2016 World Routes Award winner for airports in the 20-50 million passengers per year category. In June 2016, it was named the Best Airport in Europe for Accessibility at the 2016 ACI Europe Awards. It was also rated number one for passenger experience ahead of all other European airports of a similar size in the 2015 ACI Airport Service Quality survey.

Access to the country

UK – 1 hour

North America – 7 hours

Germany – 2.5 hours

United Arab Emirates – 8 hours

Asia – 13 hours

Australia – 22 hours

- More than 150 direct flights to the US and Canada each week
- The only major airport in Europe to offer US Preclearance – Arrive in the US, pick up your bags and go
- Flies to 180 direct destinations in over 40 countries on 4 continents
- 2036 world routes award winner for the ‘Airports in the 20-50 million passengers’ category
- Free charging stations, comfortable seats and free unlimited Wi-Fi available

8 – Conference Venue

Royal Dublin Society (RDS)

The RDS is an iconic, accessible and flexible venue located on a beautiful 42 acre site, close to Dublin City Centre. It is regarded as Ireland's premier venue for exhibitions, conferences, meetings and entertainment events.

The RDS venue offers organisers the flexibility and versatility to create a memorable event no matter how big or small. With 10 multi-purpose conference and exhibition halls, 15 breakout rooms, an outdoor stadium, a variety of concert venues, meeting rooms and 22,000sq m of versatile floor space, the RDS venue offers an extensive breadth of possibilities to event organisers.

With an excellent reputation as Ireland's premier venue the RDS offers an extensive range of catering facilities, technical expertise, as well as

the support and advice of the RDS team who are always on hand to ensure a great event is created and experienced.

RDS Conference Village

The flexible RDS Concert Hall is a unique venue for conferences and exhibitions.

On the technical side, the RDS also has a comprehensive new Audio-Visual system which includes state of the art sound and video equipment.

- Central location in Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
- Over 22,000 square meters of floor space
- 10 multi-purpose conference and exhibition halls and 15 breakout rooms
- Access to 1,500 hotel rooms at preferential rates in 3, 4 and 5 star hotels
- Free Wi-Fi throughout the venue.
- Only 25 minutes from Dublin Airport

Conferences CPI have previously organised in the RDS

Conference Name: Connect 17, 2017, 3,500 delegates

4th Global Health Forum on Human Resources for Health, 2017, 1,200

World Congress on Women's Health, 2017, 600 delegates

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, 2017, 3,800

The 16th World Congress of Food Science and Technology, 2016, 3,500 delegates

Connect 16, 2016, 2,756 delegates

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, 2016, 3,500 delegates

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, 2015, 3,500 delegates

World Alliance of Cities against Poverty, 2013, 358 delegates

Allsop Event, 2013, 1548 delegates

Convention Centre Dublin (CCD)

Located in the heart of Ireland's vibrant, popular and historic capital city, the CCD is just 25 minutes from Dublin airport. A convenient city centre location with excellent transport links makes the CCD an easily accessible conference venue.

The Convention Centre Dublin is accessible, iconic, flexible and inspirational, offering you and your delegates the perfect venue for The Retina World Congress, delivered to exceptional standards.

The CCD includes the following features;

- A stunning tiered-seating auditorium for plenary sessions
- Six flat-floored halls for exhibitions
- 22 multi-functional meeting rooms and boardrooms for breakout sessions
- Six spacious, light-flooded foyers with stunning views overlooking the city of Dublin and the foyers are ideal for registration and networking receptions.
- Banqueting facilities for up to 3,000 guests
- Technical Package is included in the rooms – in-house technicians, high spec screens, projectors, lighting, microphones, comfort monitors and digital signage.
- Complimentary cutting edge technology and state of the art Wi-Fi which can support up to 12,000 devices
- Registration Desks
- CCD hosts to greet delegates on arrival & security personnel onsite

Conferences CPI have previously organised in the CCD:

World Congress on Family and Law and Children's rights, 2017, 650 delegates

20th International Symposium on Industrial Crystallisation, 2017, 450

International Magnetism Conference 2017 (INTERMAG 2017), 1,200 delegates

World Congress of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association, 2016, 800 delegates

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics European Region Congress, 2015, 1,255 delegates

One Young World Summit, 2014, 1,400 delegates

Annual Meeting of the International Urogynecological Association (IUGA 2013), 2013, 1,548 delegates

EuroNanoForum, 2013, 1,300 delegates

International Conference on Ocean Energy (ICOE 2012), 2012, 600 delegates

Euro Science Open Forum (ESOF 2012), 2012, 2,700 delegates

The AVIVA Stadium

The AVIVA stadium is an ideal and spectacular venue to host the 2022 Retina International World Congress Meeting.

Located just 15 minutes from the city centre, the AVIVA is home to the Irish Rugby Team, and multiple large international Conferences.

- Multiple corporate meeting rooms with pitch views
- The Atrium on Level 3 can hold up to 150 theatre style
- The Presidents area on Level 2 can hold up to 1000 theatre style
- The Havelock are on Level 4 can host up to 400 theatre style

- The AVIVA has 5 other meeting spaces, each capable of hosting 200 or more delegates theatre style.

The spectacular event spaces can transform from plenary sessions of 800 to gala dinners of 1140. The AVIVA is quickly becoming one of Europe's most sought after conference venues, and one that would be a perfect fit for The Retina International World Congress 2022.

9 – Social Programme

Welcome Reception Venue: Croke Park

The Hogan Suite, Croke Park

Croke Park is the home of the Irish national sports of Gaelic football and hurling and it plays a large part in the Irish identity. Croke Park is an iconic stadium steeped in history and has been at the heart of Irish sporting and cultural life for over 100 years.

Guests will enjoy a red carpet arrival with a Prosecco drinks reception in their luxury foyer which overlooks the stadium's manicured grounds and is surrounded by bespoke pieces of Irish art. Tours of this landmark stadium and the museum can also be organised for delegates. Guests can also have an introduction to the Gaelic Games that are so revered in Ireland for centuries and will also get the chance to learn how to play with a hurley and a Gaelic football in the hallowed grounds of Croke Park.

Guests will then move into the largest event space, the Hogan Suite where night-time panoramic views out over the Dublin skyline can be seen. A three course seated meal will be served along with wine. Food takes priority at Croke Park and their chefs use only the best Irish ingredients.

Gala Dinner: Mansion House

The Round Room, The Mansion House

The Round Room was purpose designed in 1821 to receive King George IV. Remarkable political events have taken place here including the first ever meeting of the Dáil Eireann in 1919 and throughout the years it has proudly welcomed high-profile guests from across the globe including Pope John Paul II, Nelson Mandela, Queen Victoria, Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace of Monaco.

The grandeur of the timeless 19th century setting combined with recent restoration and cutting-edge technology guarantees a lasting impression on your delegates. By placing the very latest state-of-the-art equipment at your fingertips as standard; you have the opportunity to convene with confidence.

With the ever-increasing demand in the industry for high-end production, the venue underwent a transformation of its Audio Visual and Lighting offering in August 2015 including State of the art light upgrade, cutting edge audio visual, unique branding opportunities and entertainment with a difference.

Irish Social Night: Guinness Storehouse

Located in the heart of the St. James's Gate Brewery, the Guinness Storehouse is the No.1 visitor attraction in Ireland and in Europe. It is the home of Guinness, the heart of Dublin and an unforgettable addition to an international conference and the start of your Irish adventure. They pride themselves on the feast and celebration aspects with excellent quality Irish ingredients and lots of colour.

Upon arrival guests can avail of a complimentary tour of the Guinness Storehouse. For the night, we will be hiring levels 4 & 5 which are located at the top of the building and offer the best views of the city. A buffet dinner and wine reception will be served during the evening. The event will be filled with interactive experiences that fuse our long brewing heritage with Ireland's rich history.

Once food service ends, guests would then be encouraged to move around the building to experience all the floors. In the evening time, they also offer guests a self-guided optional tour of the main exhibition from the ground to first floor. Entertainment will also be situated on all floors to give a flavour of Irish music and dancing on the night.

Places of Interest

Fabulous Food Trail

The award winning walking tour, Dublin Tasting Trail, brings delegates on a tour of bakeries, food halls, street markets, cheesemongers, delicatessens and other speciality shops. As they enjoy the food, they'll also learn a little about the culture and history of each neighbourhood.

Historical Walking Tour

A guided historical tour will take delegates to a selection of the highlights of a city steeped in history and culture, such as the famous Temple Bar. This will be a fun evening where delegates will get the opportunity to have a pint or two, catch up with old friends, make some new ones, and even meet the locals. Following the tour, delegates will be dropped to a well-known Irish bar where they can enjoy a traditional Irish music session.

Pre & Post Conference Tours

- Kilmainham
- Powerscourt House and Garden Plus Coastal
- Glendalough and Wicklow
- The Merrion Art Tour
- The Literary Pub
- Game of Thrones Tour, Co Antrim
- Skellig Michael (Star Wars Tour) Co Kerry
- Titanic Museum, Belfast
- Cliffs of Moher, Co Clare
- Carrick A Rede Bridge, Co Antrim
- English Food Market, Cork City

Accommodation Availability

Dublin boasts a first-class accommodation infrastructure with over 16,817 bedrooms within 10km of the city centre. Options are available in all price ranges, from boutique hotels, B&Bs, and budget accommodation to major international hotel chains offering 3, 4 and 5 star luxury.

Furthermore, the professional conference organiser, CPI, has an established relationship with many hotels in Dublin, and is in a strong position to negotiate the best rates available on behalf of delegates. Self-catering apartments and student accommodation will also be available, and delegates will be able to book their accommodation online at the time of registration.

Ability to speak English: English is the main spoken language in Ireland and all of the hotels in Dublin are English speaking.

Smoking and non-smoking bedrooms: There are smoking and non-smoking bedrooms available in hotels throughout Dublin.

Disability Access: Hotels in Dublin have full access for people with disabilities. Special rooms are designated in each hotel to cater for people with disabilities.

These prices are based on 2017 prices and are subject to change.

Hotel Star rating:

- 2 stars – 72 euro
- 3 stars – 85 euro
- 4 stars – 91 euro
- 5 stars – 121 euro

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

We look forward to welcoming you to Dublin in 2022