



The 17th Annual Congress on Controversies in Ophthalmology: COPHy 2026
March 20-21, 2026

COPHy 2026 Scientific Program updated as of January 26, 2026

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026	
08:00-09:00	Polish Ophthalmology Society (PTO) session
Chairs:	Zofia Anna Nawrocka, Poland; Ewa Izabela Mrukwa-Kominek, Poland
08:00-08:06	Introduction
08:06-08:24	Debate 1: Is femtosecond laser-assisted cataract surgery advantageous?
08:06-08:12	Yes: Jacek Szaflik, Poland
08:12-08:18	No: Bartłomiej Kałużny, Poland
08:18-08:24	Discussion
08:24-08:42	Debate 2: Has penetrating keratoplasty gone to the past?"
08:24-08:30	Yes: Anna Machalińska, Poland
08:30-08:36	No: Dariusz Dobrowolski, Poland
08:36-08:42	Discussion
08:42-09:00	Debate 3: Which irradiation method for uveal melanoma is better: brachytherapy or proton therapy?
08:42-08:48	Yes brachytherapy: Natalia Mackiewicz-Jezior, Poland; Bożena Romanowska-Dixon, Poland
08:48-08:54	Yes protonotherapy: Magdalena Dębicka-Kumela, Poland; Bożena Romanowska-Dixon, Poland
08:54-09:00	Discussion
09:00-10:30	BIG CONTROVERSIES IN RETINA AND BEYOND IN 2026 HALL A
Chairs:	Baruch Kuppermann, USA; Anat Loewenstein, Israel; Zofia Anna Nawrocka, Poland
09:00-09:10	Welcome Remarks Baruch Kuppermann, USA; Anat Loewenstein, Israel; Zofia Anna Nawrocka, Poland
09:10-09:30	Keynote Lecture:
09:10-09:25	Role of AI in Modern Vitreo-Retinal Surgery Stanislao Rizzo, Italy
09:25-09:30	Q&A
09:30-10:00	Debate 1: Premium intra-ocular lenses can be considered for patients with macular disease
09:30-09:40	Yes: Zofia Anna Nawrocka, Poland
09:40-09:50	No: William F. Mieler, USA
09:50-10:00	Discussion
10:00-10:30	Debate 2: Sustained Delivery for NVAMD will be the preferred therapy in the future
10:00-10:10	Yes: Baruch Kuppermann, USA
10:10-10:20	No: Michaella Goldstein, Israel
10:20-10:30	Discussion
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break, Visit Exhibition, View ePosters EXHIBITION AREA



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HALL A		HALL B	
11:00-12:30	MEDICAL RETINA 1 Neovascular (“Wet”) AMD Management	11:00-12:30	NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY 1 The Afferent Pathway
Chairs:	Michaela Goldstein, Israel; Baruch Kuppermann, USA; Robert Rejdak, Poland	Chairs:	Andrew G. Lee, USA
11:00-11:30	Debate 1: Should the risk of converting to wet AMD influence use of complement inhibitors in treating GA?	11:00-11:30	Debate 1: Should we worry about “sulfa allergy” in IIH treatment with acetazolamide (Diamox)
11:00-11:10	Yes: Jean Francois Korobelnik, France	11:00-11:10	Yes: Alex Sinclair, UK
11:10-11:20	No: Jordi Monés, Spain	11:10-11:20	No: Andrew G. Lee, USA
11:20-11:30	Discussion	11:20-11:30	Discussion
11:30-12:00	Debate 2: Treat and extend will continue to be the preferred treatment strategy in the era of sustained drug delivery	11:30-12:00	Debate 2: Do GLP-1 agonists cause NAION?
11:30-11:40	Yes: Linda Lam, USA	11:30-11:40	Yes: Leonie Keidel, Germany
11:40-11:50	No: Anat Loewenstein, Israel	11:40-11:50	No: Andrew G. Lee, USA
11:50-12:00	Discussion	11:50-12:00	Discussion
12:00-12:30	Debate 3: Gene therapy in the (near) future will play a central role in the management of neovascular Age Related Macular Degeneration	12:00-12:30	Case Presentations: Afferent
12:00-12:10	Yes: David Almeida, USA		Moderator: Andrew G. Lee, USA
12:10-12:20	No: Michaela Goldstein, Israel		Panelists: All Speakers
12:20-12:30	Discussion:		
12:45-13:45	Industry Sponsored Luncheon Symposium (Lunch boxes served 12:30-12:45)	HALL A	
14:00-15:00	Industry-Sponsored Dessert Symposium (Dessert boxes served 13:15-13:30)	HALL A	



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HALL A		HALL B	
15:00-16:30	SURGICAL RETINA 1 Controversial Approaches to Common Surgical Questions	15:00-16:30	NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY 2 The Efferent Pathway
Chairs:	William F. Mieler , USA; Stanislao Rizzo , Italy; Zofia Anna Nawrocka , Poland;	Chairs:	Andrew G. Lee , USA
15:00-15:30	Debate 1: In vitrectomy surgery for epiretinal membranes (ERMs), it is essential to remove the internal limiting membrane (ILM) in order to maximize visual improvement and limit recurrences.	15:00-15:30	Debate 1: Should we scan all third nerve palsies regardless of the pupil?
15:00-15:10	Yes: Stanislao Rizzo , Italy	15:00-15:10	Yes: Andrew G. Lee , USA
15:10-15:20	No: Orit Vidne-Hay , Israel	15:10-15:20	No: Leonie Keidel , Germany
15:20-15:30	Discussion	15:20-15:30	Discussion
15:30-16:00	Debate 2: Are methotrexate injections needed to improve outcomes in PVR RDd?	15:30-16:00	Debate 2: Should you test for Lambert Eaton Myasthenia Syndrome (LEMS) in suspected myasthenia gravis (MG)?
15:30-15:40	Yes: Zofia Anna Nawrocka , Poland	15:30-15:40	Yes: Andrew G. Lee , USA
15:40-15:50	No: Jerzy Mackiewicz , Poland	15:40-15:50	No: Alex Sinclair , UK
15:50-16:00	Discussion	15:50-16:00	Discussion
16:00-16:30	Debate 3: Pars plana vitrectomy is safe and effective in the management of myodesopsia (symptomatic vitreous floaters).	16:00-16:30	Case Presentations: Efferent
16:00-16:10	Yes: Francesco Boscia , Italy		<i>Moderator: Alex Sinclair, UK</i>
16:10-16:20	No: William F. Mieler , USA		<i>Panelists: All Speakers</i>
16:20-16:30	Discussion		
16:30-17:00	Coffee Break, Visit Exhibition, View ePosters	EXHIBITION AREA	



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	HALL A
17:00-18:00	VISION ACADEMY IN RETINA 2026 Confronting challenges in an evolving retinal disease management landscape HALL A
Chairs:	<u>Anat Loewenstein</u>, Israel; <u>Baruch Kuppermann</u>, USA
17:00-17:05	Introduction to the Vision Academy <u>Anat Loewenstein</u>, Israel
17:05-17:10	Rapid-fire presentation: Spotlight briefing: Imaging biomarkers in the management of nAMD <u>Thibaud Mathis</u>, France
17:10-17:15	Q&A Moderators: <u>Anat Loewenstein</u>, Israel; <u>Baruch Kuppermann</u>, USA
17:15-17:35	Debate: anti-VEGF therapy can be discontinued in patients with nAMD that remains inactive with treatment at the maximum injection interval
17:15-17:21	Yes <u>Jean Francois Korobelnik</u>, France
17:21-17:27	No: <u>Paolo Lanzetta</u>, Italy
17:27-17:32	Discussion (panel):
17:32-17:35	Vision Academy recommendations: <u>Anat Loewenstein</u>, Israel
17:35-17:55	Panel discussion / Q&A: Current status and impact of AI use in screening, diagnosing and managing retinal diseases Moderators :<u>Anat Loewenstein</u>, Israel; <u>Baruch Kuppermann</u>, USA Panelists: <u>Jean Francois Korobelnik</u>, France <u>Paola Lanzetta</u>, Italy <u>Thibaud Mathis</u>, France
17:55-18:00	Session close <u>Anat Loewenstein</u>, Israel, <u>Baruch Kuppermann</u>, USA
18:00-19:00	Welcome Reception EXHIBITION AREA
	End of Day

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

HALL A		HALL B	
08:00-09:30	MEDICAL RETINA 2 Diabetic Macular Edema (DME) and Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy	08:00-09:30	GLAUCOMA 1
Chairs:	<u>Francesco Bandello</u> , Italy; <u>Linda Lam</u> , USA; <u>Bozena Romanowska-Dixon</u> , Poland	Chairs:	<u>Francesca Cordeiro</u> , UK; <u>Ewa Izabela Mrukwa-Kominek</u> , Poland
08:00-08:30	Debate 1: Can artificial intelligence safely replace human graders in diabetic retinopathy screening?	08:00-08:30	Debate 1: Glaucoma Surgical Training Should Focus on MIGS Rather Than Traditional (Trabeculectomy/Tubes) Surgery
08:00-08:10	Yes: <u>Goran Petrovski</u> , Norway	08:00-08:10	Yes: <u>Qëndresë Daka</u> , Kosovo
08:10-08:20	No: <u>Kamil Jonak</u> , Poland	08:10-08:20	No: <u>Tomasz Żarnowski</u> , Poland
08:20-08:30	Discussion	08:20-08:30	Discussion
08:00-09:00	Debate 2: Novel topical steroids can be an option for the treatment of DME	08:00-09:00	Debate 2: Early Glaucoma Detection Should Prioritize Structure Over Function
08:30-08:40	Yes: <u>Baruch Kuppermann</u> , USA	08:30-08:40	Yes: <u>Francesca Cordeiro</u> , UK
09:40-08:50	No: <u>Francesco Bandello</u> , Italy	09:40-08:50	No: <u>Bartłomiej Kaluzny</u> , Poland
08:50-09:00	Discussion	08:50-09:00	Discussion
09:00-09:30	Debate 3: Sustained drug delivery can be an effective treatment for DME	09:00-09:30	Debate 3: GlaucoMICS Should Guide Treatment Decisions in Clinical Practice
09:00-09:10	Yes: <u>Patricia Udaondo</u> , Spain	09:00-09:10	Yes: <u>Jacek Szaflik</u> , Poland
09:10-09:20	No: <u>Sobha Sivaprasad</u> , UK	09:10-09:20	No: <u>Barbara Cvenkel</u> , Slovenia
09:20-09:30	Discussion	09:20-09:30	Discussion
09:30-10:00	Industry Sponsored Mini Symposium HALL A		
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break, Visit Exhibition, View ePosters		
			EXHIBITION AREA

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

HALL A		HALL B	
10:30-12:00	MEDICAL RETINA 3 Novel Technologies and Therapies in Retinal Diseases	10:30-12:00	UVEITIS 1
Chairs:	Jakub Kałużny , Poland ; Francesco Boscia , Italy; Andrzej Grzybowski , Poland	Chairs:	Bahram Bodaghi , France; Zohar Habot-Wilner , Israel
10:30-11:00	Debate 1: Retinal vein occlusion is best managed with injections of new long-acting anti-VEGF drugs	10:30-11:00	Debate 1: Systemic therapy is the best option to control uveitic macular edema
10:30-10:40	Yes: Izabella Karska-Basta , Poland	10:30-10:40	Yes: Sarah Touhami , France
10:40-10:50	No: Christiana Dinah , UK	10:40-10:50	No: Zohar Habot-Wilner , Israel
10:50-11:00	Discussion	10:50-11:00	Discussion
11:00-11:30	Debate 2: Gene therapy is the best treatment option for inherited retinal diseases	11:00-11:30	Debate 2: Prophylactic laser retinopexy and early PPV for preventing RD in ARN
11:00-11:10	Yes: Max Gerhardt , Germany	11:00-11:10	Yes: Aniruddha Agarwal , UAE
11:10-11:20	No: Paolo Lanzetta , Italy	11:10-11:20	No: Sarah Touhami , France
11:20-11:30	Discussion:	11:20-11:30	Discussion
11:30-12:00	Debate 3: Photobiomodulation is the preferred treatment for intermediate dry AMD	11:30-12:00	Debate 3: HLA - testing is mandatory in the investigation of posterior uveitis
11:30-11:40	Yes: David Almeida , USA	11:30-11:40	Yes: Bahram Bodaghi , France
11:40-11:50	No: Jordi Monés , Spain	11:40-11:50	No: Ines Leal , Portugal
11:50-12:00	Discussion	11:50-12:00	Discussion
12:05-12:50	Industry Sponsored Innovation Symposium	HALL A	
13:05-14:05	Industry Sponsored Luncheon Symposium (Lunch boxes served 12:50-13:05)	EXHIBITION AREA	
14:20-15:05	"On the Horizon" Industries Sponsored Dessert Symposium (Dessert served 14:05-14:20)	HALL A	



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SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

HALL A		HALL B	
15:05-16:35	SURGICAL RETINA 2 Controversies in the Utilization of Cutting Edge Vitreoretinal Surgical Technology	15:05-16:35	GLAUCOMA 2
Chairs:	<u>William F. Mieler</u> , USA; <u>Francesco Boscia</u> , Italy; <u>Jerzy Nawrocki</u> , Poland; <u>Aniruddha Agarwal</u> , UAE	Chairs:	<u>Francesca Cordeiro</u> , UK; <u>Ewa Izabela Mrukwa-Kominek</u> , Poland
15:05-15:35	Keynote Surgical Lecture: Flaps for macular hole <u>Jerzy Nawrocki</u> , Poland	15:05-15:35	Debate 1: Glaucoma Screening Should Be Implemented as a Population-Wide Program
		15:05-15:15	Yes: <u>Barbara Cvenkel</u> , Slovenia
		15:15-14:25	No: <u>Jacek Szaflik</u> , Poland
		15:25-15:35	Discussion
15:35-16:05	Debate 1: The Use of Heads Up Digital (HUD) Imaging in vitrectomy surgery has led to significant visual and anatomic improvement in surgical outcomes.	15:35-16:05	Debate 2: Novel Pressure-Lowering Pathways Should Replace Traditional IOP-Lowering Medications
15:35-15:45	Yes: <u>Stratos Gotzaridis</u> , Greece	15:35-15:45	Yes: <u>Qëndresë Daka</u> , Kosovo
15:45-15:55	No: <u>William F. Mieler</u> , USA	15:45-15:55	No: <u>Francesca Cordeiro</u> , UK
15:55-16:05	Discussion	15:55-16:05	Discussion
16:05-16:35	Debate 2: The use of a preoperative intravitreal anti-VEGF injection 3 to 5 days prior to surgery for a diabetic traction retinal detachment, helps to limit intraoperative complications and improves anatomic and visual outcomes	16:05-16:35	Debate 3: Trabecular MIGS Should Be the First Surgical Option for All Glaucoma Patients
16:05-16:15	Yes: <u>Francesco Boscia</u> , Italy	16:05-16:15	Yes: <u>Ewa Izabela Mrukwa-Kominek</u> , Poland
16:15-16:25	No: <u>Paolo Lanzetta</u> , Italy	16:15-16:25	No: <u>Tomasz Żarnowski</u> , Poland
16:25-16:35	Discussion	16:25-16:35	Discussion
16:35-16:50	Coffee Break, Visit Exhibition, View ePosters	EXHIBITION AREA	



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SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

HALL A		HALL B	
16:50-18:20	MEDICAL RETINA 4 Non Neovascular AMD	16:50-18:20	UVEITIS 2
Chairs:	<u>Mario D. Toro</u>, Italy; <u>Francesco Boscia</u>, Italy; <u>Omer Trivizki</u>, Israel	Chairs:	<u>Bahram Bodaghi</u>, France; <u>Zohar Habot-Wilner</u>, Israel
16:50-17:20	Debate 1: Should deep learning algorithms be used to predict GA progression and guide personalized treatment decisions?	16:50-17:20	Debate 1: Post-operative macular edema may be considered and managed as a uveitis
16:30-16:40	Yes: <u>Omer Trivizki</u> , Israel	16:30-16:40	Yes: <u>Bahram Bodaghi</u> , France
16:40-16:50	No: <u>David Almeida</u> , USA	16:40-16:50	No: <u>Aniruddha Agarwal</u> , UAE
16:50-17:00	Discussion	16:50-17:00	Discussion
17:20-17:50	Debate 2: Cataract surgery should be delayed in patients with non neovascular AMD	17:20-17:50	Debate 2: The use of biosimilars in uveitis
17:00-17:10	Yes: <u>Mario D. Toro</u> , Italy	17:00-17:10	Yes: <u>Zohar Habot-Wilner</u> , Israel
17:10-17:20	No: <u>Robert Rejdak</u> , Poland	17:10-17:20	No: <u>Sofia Androudi</u> , Greece
17:20-17:30	Discussion	17:20-17:30	Discussion
17:50-18:20	Debate 3: The future of management of geographic atrophy will continue to be complement inhibition	17:50-18:20	Debate 3: Inflammatory choroidal neovascularization may be treated by anti-VEGFs alone
17:30-17:40	Yes: <u>Aniruddha Agarwal</u> , UAE	17:30-17:40	Yes: <u>Ines Leal</u> , Portugal
17:40-17:50	No: <u>Sobha Sivaprasad</u> , UK	17:40-17:50	No: <u>Sofia Androudi</u> , Greece
17:50-18:20	Discussion	17:50-18:20	Discussion
End of Congress			