



الجمعية اللبنانية لاطباء العين
Lebanese Ophthalmological Society

UNDER THE PATRONAGE AND PRESENCE OF HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. RAKAN NASSERELDINE
MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

THE 32nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
**LEBANESE
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**
LOS 2026

PROGRAM

25-26 | SEPTEMBER
2026

📍 InterContinental Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut - Lebanon



THE 32nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEBANESE OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY LOS 2026

WORD OF WELCOME

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Honored Guests,

It is with great joy and pride that we welcome you to the 32nd Annual Congress of the Lebanese Ophthalmological Society, taking place on the 25th and 26th of September 2026, in our vibrant and resilient city of Beirut.

This year's meeting brings together an exceptional community of ophthalmologists, researchers, educators, and innovators from Lebanon, the region, and across the globe. We are especially honored to host many internationally renowned faculty alongside our distinguished local experts, united by a shared mission to push the frontiers of excellence in eye care.

We are particularly proud this year to host a dedicated session co-organized with the Rothschild Foundation in Paris. This focused half-day collaboration will spotlight the latest innovations in anterior segment diagnostics and refractive surgery, offering deep insights into cutting-edge techniques directly from one of the world's leading institutions.

A highlight of the meeting is the Aleph Award and keynote lecture, the Society's highest honor.

Throughout the two-day program, participants will experience a vibrant mix of sessions covering retina, glaucoma, premium and complex cataract surgery, pediatric ophthalmology, refractive surgery, potpourri sessions, and dynamic video panel discussions.



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We are also excited to introduce the first-ever LOS Live Podcast, featuring conversations with leading speakers and key industry partners. These recorded episodes will distill the most impactful pearls, showcase emerging innovations, and capture the energy of the meeting, making the spirit of LOS 2026 accessible long after the congress concludes.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering dedication of our scientific and organizing committee members, the invaluable contribution of our international and local speakers, and the generous support of our sponsors and industry partners, whose collaboration enables a meeting of this scale and significance. We deeply thank you for your ongoing commitment.

We look forward to two days of shared ideas, meaningful discussions, and the kind of connection that propels our field forward.

Sincerely,



Shady Awwad, MD
President & Chairman
of the Congress



Hassan Chahine, MD
Chairman of the
Organizing Committee



Mohamad Houry, MD
Secretary, Lebanese
Ophthalmological Society

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Awwad'.



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- ▶ Shady Awwad, MD
- ▶ Alaa Bu Ghannam, MD
- ▶ Hassan Chahine, MD
- ▶ Carole Cherfan, MD
- ▶ Daniel Cherfan, MD
- ▶ Rola Hamam, MD
- ▶ Mohamad Hour, MD
- ▶ Nada Jabbur, MD
- ▶ Wajiha Kheir, MD
- ▶ Ziad Khoueir, MD

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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- ▶ Shady Awwad, MD
- ▶ Mohamad Hour, MD
- ▶ Nada Jabbur, MD
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LOS 2026

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

08:00 - 08:45

Registration

08:45 - 09:00

Word of Welcome

Hassan Chahine, MD

09:00 - 09:55

SESSION I

**Rothschild Gatinel Department:
Mastery in Cataract,
Cornea, & Refractive Surgery**

Moderators: Hassan Chahine, MD

Alexandre Schakal, MD

Nada Jabbur, MD

09:00 - 09:10

Surgical Microscope:

The future, Today

Christophe Panthier, MD

09:10 - 09:20

**How to Choose the Best IOL
for your Patient**

Wassim Ghazal, MD

09:20 - 09:30

**Point Counter Point: LASIK is the
Best Treatment for High Myopes**

Damien Gatinel, MD

09:30 - 09:40

**Point Counter Point: ICL is the Best
Treatment for High Myopes**

Alain Saad, MD

09:40 - 09:55

 **Discussion | Q&A**

09:55 - 10:25

 **Coffee Break**

10:25 - 11:05

OPENING CEREMONY

Introduction to LOS Congress 2026

Shady Awwad, MD

**Remarks by the President of the
Lebanese Order of Physician**

Elias Chelala, MD

Remarks by the Minister of Health

Rakan Nassereldine, MD

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11:05 - 12:10

SESSION II

Rothschild Gatinel Department Session: Mastery in Cataract, Cornea, & Refractive Surgery

Moderators: Elias Warrak, MD
Naji Waked, MD - Sami Nehmeh, MD
Samir Farah, MD

11:05 - 11:15

Aleph Award Introduction

Shady Awwad, MD

11:15 - 11:40

Aleph Award Keynote Lecture

Damien Gatinel, MD

11:40 - 11:45

Delivery of the Aleph Award

11:45 - 11:55

CAIRS, Surgical Technique & Pearls

Nicole Mechleb, MD

11:55 - 12:05

DMEK: Where Do We Stand Today

Alain Saad, MD

12:05 - 12:10

 **Discussion / Q&A**

12:10 - 12:30

Symposium Roche I

Ammar Safar, MD

12:30 - 14:00

 **Lunch Break**

14:00 - 14:55

SESSION III

Insights in Corneal & Lens-Based Refractive Surgery

Moderators: Johnny Khoury, MD
Bashir Abiad, MD - David Fahd, MD
Walid Amche, MD

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14:00 - 14:10

The Cursed Ring is Ready!

Mohamed Hosny, MD

14:10 - 14:20

Mind Map for a Torn Flap

Mohamed Hosny, MD

14:20 - 14:35

The Science of Ocular & Corneal Wavefront

Mazen Sinjab, MD

14:35 - 14:45

EDOF IOL Planning: Deciphering Spherical Aberration

Mohamed Hosny, MD

14:45 - 14:55

How to Incorporate Enhanced Monofocal IOLs in your Practice

Mazen Sinjab, MD

14:55 - 15:10

 **Discussion / Q&A**

15:10 - 16:05

SESSION IV

Glaucoma: Treating Under Pressure

Moderators: Ziad Khoueir, MD

Karim Tomey, MD - Bahaa Nouredine, MD

15:10 - 15:20

Primary Tubes: Is it Time?

Tarek Shaarawy, MD

15:20 - 15:30

Connecting the Dots:

A Topographic Framework for RNFL, GCL, and Visual Field Loss in Glaucoma

Ahmad Muneer Otri, MD

15:30 - 15:40

The Hidden Truth about Medical Therapy

Tarek Shaarawy, MD

15:40 - 15:50

Glaucoma Under Pressure:

Tackling Difficult Cases with Creative Thinking

Ahmad Muneer Otri, MD

15:50 - 16:05

 **Discussion / Q&A**

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16:05 - 16:35

 *Coffee Break*

16:35 - 17:05

Symposium Medicals Int

Mohamed Hosny, MD

17:05 - 17:45

SESSION V

5 Pearls in 5 Minutes To Improve your Surgeries: Round 1

Moderators: Mohamad Hourri, MD
Roland Seif, MD - Yahya Shaheen, MD
Karim Sleiman, MD

17:05 - 17:20

Introduction & Sinjab Academy Awards

Mazen Sinjab, MD

17:20 - 17:25

***My 5 Pearls for not to Miss a Glaucoma
Diagnosis***

Ziad Khoueir, MD

17:25 - 17:30

***My 5 Pearls in Cataract Surgery in Eyes
with Shallow & Deep Chambers***

Ameed Samaha, MD

17:30 - 17:35

***My 5 Pearls to Make the Most
Miserable Dry Eye Patient Happy
(No Kidding)***

Joanna Saade, MD

17:35 - 17:40

***My 5 Pearls in Performing
Trabeculectomy for the General
Surgeon***

George Azar, MD

17:40 - 17:45

***My 5 Pearls for a Smooth
ICL Surgery***

Walid Haddad, MD

17:45 - 17:50

 ***Discussion | Q&A***

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17:50 - 18:15

SESSION VI

5 Pearls in 5 Minutes To Improve your Surgeries: Round 2

Moderators: Alex Jalkh, MD
Riad Maluf, MD - Rafic Antonios, MD
Rania Warrak, MD

17:50 - 17:55

Old Habits Die Hard: How to Kill Them in 5 Minutes

Alex Assi, MD

17:55 - 18:00

My 5 Pearls in Anterior Vitrectomy for the Anterior Segment Surgeon

Daniel Cherfan, MD

18:00 - 18:05

My 5 Pearls for Ptosis Repair

Ramzi Alameddine, MD

18:05 - 18:10

5 Surgical Pearls in Uveitis: What Every Ophthalmologist Should Know

Rola Hamam, MD

18:10 - 18:15

When Cataract Isn't the Whole Story: Neuro-Ophthalmology Around Cataract Surgery

Ama Sadaka, MD

18:15 - 18:20

 **Discussion | Q&A**

18:20 - 18:30

**Sinjab Academy
Prizes Giveaway**

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SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

08:00 - 08:45

Registration

08:45 - 09:30

SESSION I

What Would You Do?

Pediatric Ophthalmology

Fire Cases with Expert Panel

Moderators: Alaa Bu Ghannam, MD

Anthony Saade, MD

Panelists: Jamal Bleik, MD

Christiane Haddad, MD

Jihad Menassa, MD

09:15 - 09:22

Case 5 - Wandering Eyes

09:22 - 09:30

Case 6 - Tiny Eyes, Big Stakes

09:30

End of Session I

08:45 - 08:54

Case 1 - Race Against Myopia

08:54 - 09:01

Case 2 - Small Cloudy Eye

09:01 - 09:08

Case 3 - The Red Face & Big Eye

09:08 - 09:15

Case 4 - Spring that Never Leaves

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SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

09:30 - 10:15

SESSION II

The New Foundations of Retinal OCT

Moderators: Souha Allam, MD
Mohammad Khalifeh, MD
Fadi Maalouf, MD - Oussama Jebai, MD

09:30 - 09:45

The Updated Foundations of OCT Technology

Carl-Joe Mehanna, MD

09:45 - 10:00

Clinical Application of Macular/Retinal OCT

Wajiha Kheir, MD

10:00 - 10:15

OCT Biomarkers & Prognostication

Carl-Joe Mehanna, MD

10:15 - 10:30

 **Discussion | Q&A**

10:30 - 11:00

Symposium AMICO

Alain Saad, MD

11:00 - 11:30



Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:10

SESSION III

Retina Today: What Matters Most in Your Practice

Moderators: Ziad Bashshur, MD
Daniel Cherfan, MD
Rola Hamam, MD
Georges El Mollayess, MD

11:30 - 11:40

Vitreoretinal Surgeon in War Zone

Mohamed Tawfik, MD

11:40 - 11:50

Peripheral Retina: What Matters & What Doesn't?

Ammar Safar, MD

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11:50 - 12:00

***Age-related Macular Degeneration
Mimickers on Optical
Coherence Tomography***

Haytham Salti, MD

12:00 - 12:10

***Challenges of Pathologic Myopia:
Overview, Management,
Cataract Tips, & Beyond***

Avinash Gurbaxani, MD

12:10 - 12:25

 ***Discussion / Q&A***

12:25 - 12:55

Symposium Roche II

Avinash Gurbaxani, MD

12:55 - 14:25

 ***Lunch Break***

14:25 - 14:45

Symposium BAYER

Wajiha Kheir, MD

14:45 - 15:55

**SESSION IV
EXCELLENCE IN CATARACT
& ANTERIOR SEGMENT SURGERY**

Moderators: Pierre Mardelli, MD
Riad Bijjani, MD - Nabil Macaron, MD

14:45 - 14:55

***Complementary Lenses for
Presbyopia Correction during
Cataract Surgery***

Ahmed Assaf, MD

14:55 - 15:05

Transitioning to KLEx/SMILE
Miltos Balidis, MD

15:05 - 15:15

***My Top Pearls for
Brunescent Cataracts***

Ahmed Assaf, MD

15:15 - 15:25

***Spiral IOL Technology:
A Game Changer?***

Miltos Balidis, MD

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SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

15:25 - 15:35

***Submerged IOL Repair by
Green Endolaser Welding***

Ahmed Assaf, MD

15:35 - 15:45

***Endoillumination-Assisted
Foreign Bodies Chase***

Miltos Balidis, MD

15:45 - 15:55

 ***Discussion / Q&A***

15:55 - 16:10

Symposium UPO

Ahmed Assaf, MD

16:10 - 16:25

Symposium J&J

16:25 - 16:55

 ***Coffee Break***

16:55 - 17:30

SESSION V

***The Ophthalmologist in the
Era of Social Media Panel
Discussion***

Moderators: Elias Chelala, MD

Mohamed Tawfik, MD

Hassan Chahine, MD

16:55 - 17:05

Creating Value, not Noise

Mohamed Tawfik, MD

17:05 - 17:20

 ***Discussion / Q&A***

17:20 - 17:25

Voting/Stay till the Giveaways

17:25 - 17:30

Concluding Remarks / Adjournment

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AHMED ASSAF, MD

Dr. Ahmed Assaf is a Professor of Ophthalmology at Ain Shams University and a consultant in phaco-refractive surgery at Al-Watany Eye Hospital, Cairo. He specializes in cataract surgery with premium IOLs and Femtosecond laser technology, which comprises 30% of his surgical volume. He has won multiple international awards, including best paper at ASCRS 2017 and best video and case awards in Milano (2019, 2022), IIRSI Chennai (2022), and ASCRS 2025. In 2023, he received the prestigious Kelman Lecture Award. In 2024, he became the first non-European FEBOS-CR Fellow and won the Ophthalmic Premiere League at the AAO meeting.



AHMAD MUNEER OTRI, MD

Professor Ahmad Muneer Otri is currently serving as a Senior Consultant in Ophthalmology at The View Hospital in Qatar. He specializes in Glaucoma and Cataract surgeries and has been in the field since 2002, with extensive medical and surgical training in the UK. He is also a Clinical Professor in Surgery at Qatar University. Previous posts and experience: Consultant Ophthalmologist at Coventry University hospital, UK between 2019 and 2024. Surgical Fellowship in Glaucoma and Cataract Surgery, Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham, UK Clinical Research Fellowship in Cornea and Anterior Segment at Queens Medical Center, Nottingham, UK Clinical fellowship in Oculoplastic in Birmingham eye center, Birmingham, UK Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists in London (FRCOphth), UK Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Glasgow (FRCS), UK PhD in Ophthalmology, University of Nottingham, UK.

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ALAIN SAAD, MD

Dr. Alain Saad is Vice Chair at Rothschild Foundation Hospital in Paris and Deputy Medical Director at Centre de l'Oeil in Switzerland. A board member of SAFIR, he is also on the editorial board of the Journal of Refractive Surgery and has published over 75 peer-reviewed articles. With Damien Gatinel, he co-developed the AI-based ectasia detection tool "SCORE" and contributed to the PEARL IOL calculation formula. Recognized internationally, he was ranked #10 in The Ophthalmologist's "Top 40 Under 40" (2015), and listed among France's top ophthalmologists by Le Point (2023) and The Ophthalmologist (2024).



AMMAR SAFAR, MD

Dr. Ammar Safar is an American Board-Certified Ophthalmologist and Vitreoretinal Surgeon, currently serving as Chief Medical Officer of Moorfields Eye Hospitals UAE and Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology at Mohammed Bin Rashid University. He completed his ophthalmology training at Georgetown University and a two-year fellowship in Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He previously served as Associate Professor and Director of Vitreoretinal Surgery at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. His clinical and research expertise includes diabetic retinopathy, retinal vascular diseases, and age-related macular degeneration.

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AVINASH GURBAXANI, MD

Dr. Avinash Gurbaxani is a Consultant Ophthalmologist at Moorfields Eye Hospital Dubai, specializing in Uveitis, Medical Retina, and Cataract Surgery. He trained in ophthalmology in Oxford and London and completed advanced fellowships in Uveitis and Medical Retina at Moorfields Eye Hospital London and Sydney Eye Hospital, Australia. He has extensive expertise in managing complex inflammatory and retinal eye diseases, as well as associated cataract cases. Dr. Gurbaxani is actively involved in clinical research and has presented and published his work at numerous national and international conferences.



CARL-JOE MEHANNA, MD

Dr. Carl-Joe Mehanna is an ophthalmologist with a particular clinical and research interest in retina, macular diseases, retinal imaging, and optical coherence tomography (OCT). He completed his medical education and ophthalmology residency at the American University of Beirut, where he was also actively involved in ophthalmic research. He subsequently pursued advanced fellowship training in retina at the Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal de Créteil in France. Dr. Mehanna has authored and co-authored numerous scientific publications covering retinal diseases, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, and ophthalmic imaging.

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CHRISTOPHE PANTHIER, MD

Dr. Christophe Panthier is an eye surgeon at the A. de Rothschild Ophthalmological Foundation in Paris, France. In addition to being a key member of the surgical team for this department, he also leads a working group dedicated to improving the practice of cataract surgery.



DAMIEN GATINEL, MD

Prof. Damien Gatinel is Head of the Anterior Segment and Refractive Surgery Department at the Rothschild Foundation Hospital in Paris and Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Abulcasis International University of Health Sciences in Rabat. Holding dual doctorates in medicine and applied mathematics, he is internationally recognized for translating advanced optical and mathematical modelling into clinical practice.

He designed the optical profile of the first diffractive trifocal intraocular lens and is co-conceptor of the open-source PEARL-DGS intraocular lens power calculation formula. His innovations also include the SCORE Analyzer for detecting subclinical keratoconus, the Gatinel-Malet polynomials, vergence-based wavefront expansions expressed in diopters, and the “no rub, no cone” hypothesis on the role of eye rubbing in keratoconus. His current research includes AIOLsci, a platform for patient-specific simulation of intraocular lens optical performance before implantation, and Project GRACE, which introduces individualized quantification of refractive uncertainty in intraocular lens power calculation.

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HAYTHAM SALTİ, MD

After finishing fellowships in Retina at the University of Virginia and Harvard Medical School in the USA, Dr. Salti joined the American University of Beirut Medical Center to assume the position of assistant professor of Ophthalmology in 2003. From 2018 until 2022, he was head of the retina division at the department.

In September 2022 he joined Cleveland Clinic Foundation working at the Abu Dhabi campus. He currently holds the position of Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University at Cleveland Ohio. His main interests are retinal vascular diseases, retinal imaging and phacoemulsification in patients with retinal pathologies.



MAZEN SINJAB, MD

Prof. Sinjab is an internationally recognized ophthalmic surgeon with expertise in cornea, anterior segment, and refractive surgery. He holds multiple prestigious qualifications including MD, PhD, FRCOphth (London), and CertLRS (London). Based at Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Hospital in Dubai, he is also the Founder and President of Sinjab Academic Consultancy (UAE), President of MEACRS, and Chief Co-Founder and Honorary General Secretary of the International Keratoconus Society.

Prof. Sinjab serves as a board examiner for both the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRCSEd) and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (London).

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MILTOS BALIDIS, MD

Consultant ophthalmologist specializing in cornea, cataract and refractive surgery, with advanced training in London and fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Former Postdoctoral Cornea Consultant at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Scientific Chief of the Eye Department at Interbalkan Medical Centre of Northern Greece. Co-founder of IRIS Laser Centers and Protypo Eye Center. Currently Director and Co-Founder of Ophthalmica Eye Institute, the first multidisciplinary eye clinic in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Leadership roles include President of the Hellenic Society of Intraocular Implants & Refractive Surgery (HSIOIRS), President of the South East Europe Cataract & Refractive Society, and Greece Representative to the ISRS International Council.



MOHAMED HOSNY, MD

Dr. Hosny is a Professor of Ophthalmology at Cairo University and a leading Cornea and Refractive Surgery Consultant at Dar El Oyoum Specialized Eye Hospitals, Egypt. He holds an FRCS from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and completed advanced training in refractive and anterior segment surgery at the University of Alicante, Spain. He has contributed to numerous international publications and ophthalmology textbooks. A regular presenter at ASCRS and ESCRS for over 20 years, he has also served as a panelist, session co-chair, and Arab Board of Ophthalmology examiner.

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MOHAMED TAWFIK, MD

Dr. Mohamed Tawfik is a Consultant Vitreoretinal Surgeon from Egypt and CEO of Al Ferdaws Eye Center. He has a special interest in vitreoretinal surgery, surgical education, and ophthalmic training, and is actively involved in training the next generation of ophthalmologists.

Beyond his clinical and educational work, Dr. Tawfik has undertaken humanitarian ophthalmic missions to Gaza, where he volunteered as a vitreoretinal surgeon during the ongoing conflict, treating complex ocular trauma and performing sight-saving retinal surgery under exceptionally challenging conditions.

He is also a prominent ophthalmic educator and social-media voice, with a large online following, using digital platforms to share surgical education, clinical experience, and advocacy for eye care. His work combines vitreoretinal surgery, education, digital outreach, and humanitarian service.



NICOLE E. MECHLEB, MD

Dr. Nicole E. Mechleb is a corneal and refractive surgeon who completed her medical studies and ophthalmology specialization at the Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth. She subsequently completed an advanced clinical and research fellowship in corneal and refractive surgery within the department of Professor Damien Gatinel at the Fondation Adolphe de Rothschild in Paris, where she continues to practice.

She is a member of the faculty at the Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth and practices at Hôtel-Dieu de France and BESH Beirut. Her clinical and research interests focus on anterior segment reconstruction techniques, anterior lamellar and endothelial keratoplasty, refractive surgery, and anterior segment imaging, with a particular involvement in the development and evaluation of Corneal Allogenic Intrastromal Ring Segments (CAIRS) and ICL sizing optimisation.

Dr Mechleb has published in multiple peer-reviewed journals and regularly presents her work at international meetings including ESCRS, SFO, SAFIR, EPOMECE, and the AAO.

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TAREK SHAARAWY, MD

Prof. Tarek M. Shaarawy is a chargé de cours at the University of Geneva and adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas. He practices at the Glaucoma Unit, Clinique de l'Oeil Geneva, and is the founding medical chairman of Swiss Vision Clinics. Previously, he headed the glaucoma division at the University of Geneva Hospitals from 2004 to 2024. He earned his medical degrees from the University of Cairo and University of Lausanne and completed glaucoma fellowships at Lausanne and Basel. Prof. Shaarawy is currently President of the International Society of Glaucoma Surgery and serves on the board of the World Glaucoma Association.



WASSIM GHAZAL, MD

Dr. Wassim Ghazal is an ophthalmic surgeon based at the Hôpital Fondation Adolphe de Rothschild and the Clinique Noémie de Rothschild in Paris. He trained at the Faculté de Médecine in Toulouse and Paris.

His clinical and surgical practice focuses on corneal disease and corneal transplantation (including DMEK), cataract and refractive surgery (laser and phakic ICLs). He routinely teaches and runs wet-labs and scientific presentations within the European Society of Refractive and Cataract Surgery (ESCRS) and Société Française d'ophtalmologie (SFO).

Dr. Ghazal is an active clinical researcher in Pr Damien Gatinel's department, and co-author on peer-reviewed ophthalmology papers addressing corneal imaging, corneal dystrophies and outcomes of DMEK, as well as AI OCT-based detection of corneal edema.

PLATINUM PLUS



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE PLUS



BRONZE



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