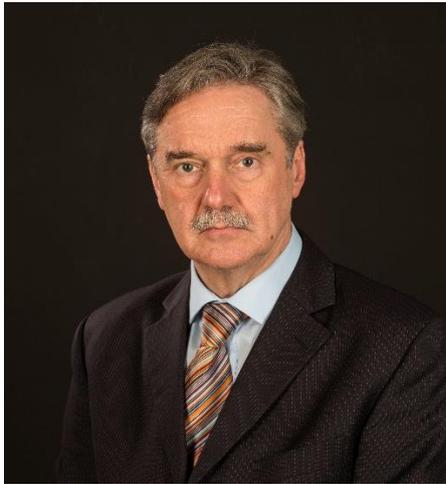


SOE Markus Gunn Lecture 2025

Title: 40 years with Optic Neuritis



Dr Gordon Terence Plant MA MD (Cantab) FRCP FRCOphth FEVER FENA

Gordon Plant took the Medical Sciences Tripos in Cambridge in 1974 with a first in Physiology, on the way acquiring an interest in Visual Science. Undergraduate Clinical Medicine at St Thomas' Hospital followed, qualifying in 1977. After completing his postgraduate training in medicine he returned to Cambridge for 2 years in Clinical Neurology, then to Physiology for 3 years supported by the Wellcome Trust. His research centred on the visual deficit in optic neuritis. He also developed an interest in cortical visual disorders. Throughout this period he attended Professor Ian MacDonald's weekly clinic at Moorfields Eye Hospital, then known as the "Physicians' Clinic". Further clinical training at the National Hospital for Neurology in Queen Square, London, UK was followed by a year as Medical Research Council Travelling Fellow at the Smith Kettlewell Institute in San Francisco. Here he studied disorders of visual motion perception with Ken Nakayama. He also took the opportunity to spend time with Bill Hoyt at UCSF to extend his experience in Neuro-Ophthalmology. In 1991 he was appointed a full time NHS consultant to The National, St Thomas' and Moorfields. Activity in several research fields has resulted in over 400 articles and book chapters with an h-index of 89. Gordon is world #1 for lifetime contribution to research in Optic Neuritis according to ScholarGPT. As of April 2020 he has retired from all clinical work but continues in academic activities, teaching and training. He is a past-president of the Neurology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and was the Founder(2010) and the first President (2020) of the UK Neuro-Ophthalmology Society. He has received international recognition and has been invited to give numerous named lectures and received several academic awards. He has taken a particular interest in research and teaching in less developed regions and environments including research on the ground in Zaire, Tanzania and Cuba, and collaborations with workers in Brazil and Thailand. He has also taken a particular interest in developing Neuro-Ophthalmology as both a clinical and research field in Europe and has been elected a Fellow of the European Neurological Association and the European Association for Vision and Eye Research.

Outside medicine Gordon enjoys participating in Music (he is a clarinet player) Painting (he has exhibited with the Cambridge drawing society) and he met his wife Marilyn while undergraduates through a common interest in Theatre. They have three daughters and two granddaughters.