



FOR THE FAITH AND  
IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY



# Eyes on the Future

THE ORDER OF ST JOHN

PRIORY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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## ST JOHN OPHTHALMIC ASSOCIATION INVESTITURE MEETING

On Friday afternoon of Investiture and Rededication weekend in New York, the American chapter of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Ophthalmic Association (SOA-USA) held its tenth meeting. Established in 2015, the SOA global is now formed of 11 chapters across five international hubs, and includes iYouth, the Young professional group.

SOA-USA was formed in 2018 and since has hosted an annual meeting at the American Academy of Ophthalmology as well as a dedicated event during the US Priory's Investiture weekend. The most recent Investiture at the Barclay Intercontinental in New York was the fourth such meeting and the second open to all Confrères.

The event was led by Dr. Charles Mosteller, the Honorary Secretary of SOA-USA. Following an introduction from Prior Nigel Heath, the program speakers included the Chairman of the St John Eye Hospital, Sir Andrew Cash, Order Hospitaller and founder of the SOA, Dr. David Verity, US Confrère, Dr. James Lehmann and recordings from the CEO of the SJEHG, Dr. Ahmad Ma'ali and two of our Eye Hospital Group resident doctors, Dr. Mohamed Nasereddin and Dr. Zaina Saleh.

Sir Andrew Cash gave a general update on the clinical activities of the SJEHG in Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem, a financial overview with sources of donations/gifts and the emergency plan for Gaza. Dr. David Verity discussed an overview of the programs and activities of the SOA-Global including a Masterclass in "Artificial Intelligence and the Eye," held in April 2024 with keynote speaker and Nobel Prize recipient, Geoffrey Hinton. David also presented copies of



*Prior Nigel Heath, KStJ, introduces speakers at the SOA meeting.*

"Jerusalem 1000" to the over 100 Confrères attending the meeting, his recently coauthored booklet on the history the Order and the Eye Hospital. Dr. James Lehmann presented a slide presentation on his years of experience with teaching and managing corneal disease and surgery at the Jerusalem Eye Hospital. Dr. Ahmad Ma'ali unfortunately could not attend this year's Investiture because of prohibited travel from Jerusalem, so he joined the meeting by sending a recording on the academic and research impact of the SJEHG. To close the meeting there were two recorded case studies presented by resident doctors of patients being managed in Jerusalem.

Dedicated to promoting the profile and reputation of the St John Eye Hospital Group, the SOA has now run almost 40 events around the world. This meeting in New York successfully brought experts together from a wide range of medical and non-medical specialties to discuss the service work of the Hospital Group, our clinical and research projects and case reports from the Eye Hospital. The SOA-USA and the US Priory are grateful to the extraordinary international leaders of the SJEHG and the devoted doctors in Jerusalem for enabling us to host such a high quality meeting to further advance our mission to serve *our Lords, the sick and the poor* by restoring sight in the Holy Land. ✨



*Dr. Charles Mosteller, KStJ, Honorary Secretary of SOA-USA, and Order Hospitaller and founder of the SOA Dr. David Verity, KStJ.*