

Peter Watson, FRCOphth
1931 – 2017



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Peter Watson, a professor, clinician and researcher originally from the United Kingdom whose work was of great significance to ophthalmology on an international level.

Along with the late John Cairns, Prof Watson developed the trabeculectomy procedure for the treatment of glaucoma in the 1970s. This procedure remains the most commonly performed surgery for glaucoma today. His other main contributions to the field of ophthalmology include significant research on scleral diseases and corneal graft rejection. Prof Watson published the influential textbook *The Sclera and Systemic Disorders* in 1977. Now in its 3rd edition (published in 2012), it remains the only comprehensive text on the subject.

In 2012, Prof Watson was the most deserving awardee of the APAO Jose Rizal International Medal, one of the most important APAO named awards recognizing outstanding personalities from outside the Asia-Pacific region whose contributions have been exceptionally valuable to ophthalmological developments in the Asia-Pacific region.

Prof Watson was also dedicated to the development of ophthalmic education, as evidenced by his work with the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO). He was ICO Founding Director for Assessments (now called ICO Examinations). In his honor, the ICO initiated the Peter Watson Award in 2010, which is given annually to the ICO Examinations candidate with the most outstanding performance on both the Clinical Sciences and the Basic Sciences Examinations. He was also awarded the ICO International Duke Elder Medal for the development of international relations and friendship between ophthalmologists in 2002, and the ICO Jules François Golden Medal for ophthalmic work of high scientific quality in 2014.

Throughout his career, Prof Watson held many important positions in major international ophthalmological organizations, including President of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AOI). He was also extensively involved in charity work, as Founder and Chair of the Cambridge Eye Trust, and Deputy Hospitaller for the Order of St John of Jerusalem, among others.

Prof Watson is survived by his wife, five children, and many grandchildren.