**USHA CHAKRAVARTHY**

Usha Chakravarthy is Professor of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences in the Queen’s University of Belfast. Her clinical interests lie in the management of retinal disorders and she has been the lead clinician for medical retina since her appointment.   She was appointed Clinical Director for Ophthalmology Services in the Belfast Trust in 2010 leading a group of 50 strong clincal medical staff.  She relinquished this post in 2014 but maintained her lead clinical role in the macular service.

She has a varied portfolio of research interests .   Her interest in research burgeoned and grew after she completed her PhD on the therapeutic potential of ionising radiation on intraocular cellular proliferation. Notably she undertook one of the first studies that characterised the proliferative potential of fibroblasts within the eye and modifications to their cell biology from exposure to ionising radiation.   She subsequently examined the  molecular expression of vasoactive peptides in the retina and profiled gene expression under conditions of simulated hyperglycemia in experimental using both in vitro and in vivo studies. She consolidated this work into clinical translational medicine for which she was awarded the Welcome University Award and Senior Clinical Lectureship and was appointed . Professor in Ophthalmology and Vision Science.

Her  clinical research involves studies of retinal and choroidal vascular diseases and degenerative aging changes contributing to sight loss in older adults.  She is recognised internationally for her work on age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy their pathogenesis and key risk factors including gene and environment interactions and clinical management of these disorders.   She has in excess of 300 publications and many book chapters.  She was chairperson of the ophthalmology specialty group for UKCRN and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists Academic Group.

On an international level she has served on innumerable scientific bodies and panels including the International AMD alliance, Laskar Foundation, the credentials and scientific committee of the macula society,    the awards committee member for the Association for Research and Vision in Ophthalmology,  the German Research Foundation, The French research Foundation, The Austrian Research Panel.  She has been on the editorial board of national and international journals and was a member of the oversight committee for  JAMA Ophthalmology . She  has delivered many eponymous and other invited lectures in the UK and abroad including the prestigious Paul Henkind lecture for the Macula Society, the Friedman lecture, Distinguished Professor National Eye Institute and the Wilmer Eye Institute John’s Hopkins The Bowman Lecture at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the Gass Award from the macula society.  She  continues to serve on advisory boards of several national and international governmental organisations.   In 2016 she was awarded the Alan Alderman award and Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for her services.