

Ophthalmic Hub 2025: Light Through Shadows

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There are events that are remembered for their science. And then there are those that are remembered for their soul. Ophthalmic Hub 2025 was both.

As the war in Ukraine continues to cast long shadows over the country, this congress stood tall as a beacon of resilience, hope, and progress. Organized by the Ukrainian Alliance of Ophthalmologists, the conference brought together hundreds of passionate professionals from across Ukraine and the world, gathering not just to share knowledge - but to remind ourselves and each other why they continue.



Figure 1: The Logo of the congress series "Ophthalmic Hub".

Science in the midst of struggle

Across three powerful days, Kyiv's Mercure Congress Hall became a vibrant epicenter of cutting-edge ophthalmology. From retinal surgery masterclasses to complex case symposia, discussions spanned technologies, techniques, and personal experiences. International speakers, including experts from Brazil, Pakistan, Germany, the USA, and Poland, shared insights that transcended borders.

Yet it was the Ukrainian voices that struck the deepest chords. Presenters from Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro and Odesa - cities scarred by war - stood on stage not only as scientists, but as survivors. Their research was shaped by urgency, their clinical stories marked by patients whose lives were changed not just by disease, but by missile strikes and loss.



Figure 2: The fully packed conference room with ca. 900 attendees onsite and more than 400 online.

The silent themes: War, trauma, and healing

One of the most emotionally stirring moments came during sessions that addressed the war directly. Dr. Alina Osharova's presentation on the link between depression and dry eye disease as a consequence of full-scale war was more than a lecture - it was a mirror to the collective psychological burden.

And when Dr. Jorge Corona from the USA presented "Restoring Hope: The Experience of Eye Reconstruction after the Conflict in Ukraine", the room fell into reverent silence. These weren't just cases. They were lives - lives interrupted by trauma and rebuilt with skill and compassion.

Strength in community

Despite everything, this was a conference filled with warmth. In between the packed sessions were reunions between colleagues, hugs that lingered longer than usual, and conversations laced with both laughter and shared sorrow.



Figure 3: As in every year, the industry exhibition presented the most modern medical equipment and pharmaceutical products.

Prof. Oksana Vitovska opened the event with words that carried both weight and light: “Even in darkness, vision must be protected”. She set the tone for a congress that reminded everyone that they are not only healers, all are witnesses, innovators, and builders of Ukraine’s medical future.



Figure 4: Prof. Oksana Vitovska, National Medical University O. O. Bogomolec in Kyiv (Ukraine), Head of “Ukrainian Alliance of Ophthalmologists”, Head of scientific conference “Ophthalmic Hub”.



Figure 5: Prof. Vitovska’s core team.

Looking ahead with purpose

From global insights on artificial intelligence in glaucoma treatment to the future of retinal therapies and reconstructive surgery, Ophthalmic Hub 2025 showed that Ukrainian ophthalmology does not wait for peace to grow. It adapts. It leads.

As bombs continue to fall, their microscopes remain steady. As air raid sirens cry, they keep examining retinas, suturing corneas, implanting lenses. Because every eye saved, every vision restored, is an act of defiance - and of hope.

In the words of one attendee: “This congress didn’t just teach me. It reminded me why I stayed”.

The full OPHTHALMIC HUB 2025 on Youtube:

04.04.2025:

- Ophtik Science <https://youtube.com/live/H6BIl6hn68>
- Master Ophtik <https://youtube.com/live/4O8YvaDKZmg>
- KOptik Especially https://youtube.com/live/XRB_CDmiDZo

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- Master Ophtik <https://youtube.com/live/w23d8QVRhxxg>
- Ophtik Especially <https://youtube.com/live/oNRTwKTAjnA>

More information: <https://www.opthalmic-hub.com.ua/en>.

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