

OphthalmicHUB 2026: International Networking and Clinical Excellence in Challenging Times

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From April 2nd to 4th, 2026, the OphthalmicHUB was once again held in Kyiv - in a hybrid format with on-site participants and international online participation. In recent years, the event has become one of the most important platforms for continuing ophthalmic education in Eastern Europe and exemplifies the ongoing development of ophthalmology, even under extraordinary difficult circumstances.

Founded in 2018 by Prof. Oksana Vitovska, the OphthalmicHUB aims to unite evidence-based medicine, clinical experience, and innovative technologies in an interactive format. Despite the pandemic and ongoing geopolitical challenges, the congress has not only been successfully maintained but also significantly enhanced and its international standing strengthened.



Figure 1: Prof. Oksana Vitovska opens the 9th OphthalmicHUB as a hybrid congress in Kyiv (Ukraine).

This year's congress impressively confirmed this development: Over three days, parallel sessions were held in three halls, featuring a diverse scientific program. In total, more than 800 participants attended in person, and over 500 participated online, complemented by 27 international speakers and 146 Ukrainian experts, underscoring the event's high international standing.



Figure 2: The fully packed conference room in Kyiv.

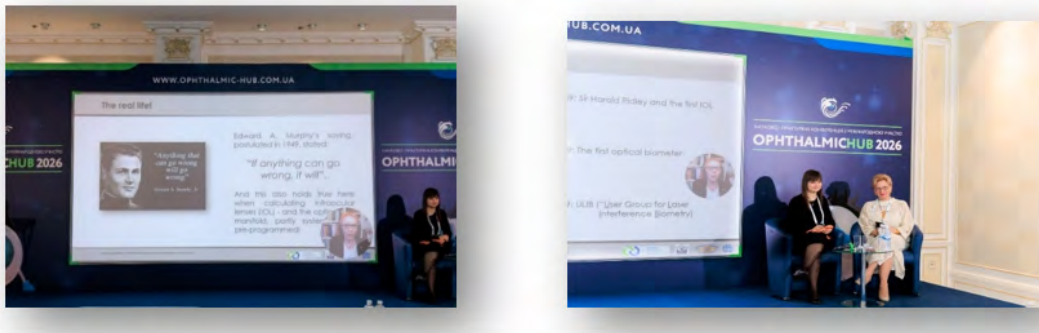


Figure 3a and 3b: Dr. Tetiana Komarova (left) and Prof. Oksana Vitovska (right) moderating the hybrid Set-Up.

The congress was supported by several Ukrainian professional societies and international partners, including the RetinAwesome initiative. For the first time in Ukraine, two AAO symposia were organized as part of a collaboration between the Ukrainian Ophthalmological Alliance and the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Interdisciplinary partners were also involved, particularly the Research Institute of Neurosurgery.

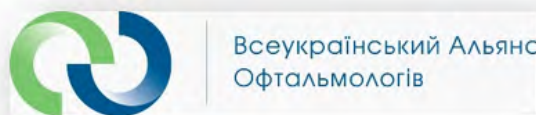


Figure 4: The logo of the "Ukrainian Alliance of Ophthalmologist".

The program covered a broad spectrum of topics: from modern diagnostic procedures and innovative therapeutic approaches to issues of medical education and interdisciplinary collaboration. A particular emphasis was placed on practice-oriented formats such as case discussions, masterclasses, and hands-on courses, which promote the direct transfer of knowledge into clinical practice.

In addition to its scientific dimension, the congress's special role was also highlighted. The OphthalmicHUB increasingly sees itself as a platform that not only imparts knowledge but also actively contributes to the further development of medical education and ophthalmic care in Ukraine. In this context, Prof. Vitovska formulated the guiding principle of the event: The congress is "not the finale, but the starting point for the next phase of development in Ukrainian ophthalmology."

At the same time, the importance of international collaboration was emphasized. The exchange between Ukrainian and international experts, as well as the active participation of the professional community, illustrates the growing network and a shared understanding of future developments.

Last but not least, the event also reflected the specific societal context. The opportunity to hold scientific congresses and continuously advance medical education is closely linked to the current framework and was expressly acknowledged by the organizers.

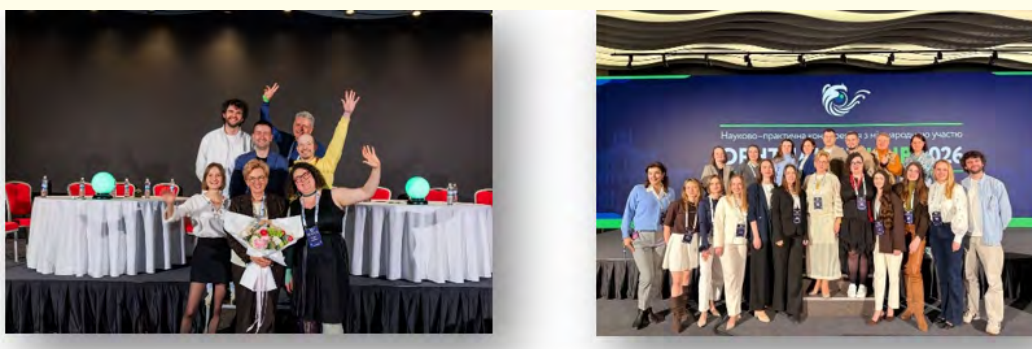


Figure 5a and 5b: The organization team of OphthalmicHUB 2026 (center: Prof. Vitovska).

With its clear focus on clinical practice, interactive learning, and international collaboration, the OphthalmicHUB 2026 not only provided professional impetus but also serves as an important starting point for the further development of ophthalmology in Ukraine. Let's look forward to OphthalmicHUB 2027!

More information about the congress:

<https://ophthalmic-hub.com.ua/eng>

Links to the lectures on Friday

- Ophtik Science: <https://www.youtube.com/live/P0RNL5e7wII>.
- Master Ophtik: <https://www.youtube.com/live/AT3RIKKSbtQ>.
- Ophtik Especially: <https://www.youtube.com/live/LMFpLdM7UrM>.

Links to the lectures on Saturday

- Ophtik Science: <https://www.youtube.com/live/K5TThWpQYrM>.
- Master Ophtik: <https://www.youtube.com/live/4R5KF909zws>.
- Ophtik Especially: <https://www.youtube.com/live/lf4YtY1P9bo>.

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