

Curriculum Vitae Dr Carl Claes

Carl C Claes was born on 14/03/1959 in Brussels, Belgium and holds a medical degree from the University of Antwerp, Belgium since 1983, year that he passed the ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) exam for foreign doctors in the USA.

He finalized a 4 years residency program in 1987, in the Antwerp University and the affiliated University Hospitals, obtaining his Ophthalmology Title in the same year. He completed then, a fellowship in Vitreoretinal Surgery at Harvard Medical School and Retina Foundation in Boston (1987/1988) followed by another fellowship(1989) in the same field in the Eye Hospital Rotterdam under the supervision of the world renown Dr Zivojnovic, pioneer in vitreoretinal surgery. During his fellowship in Boston he worked with Prof Hal MC Freeman and Prof Ch. Schepens.

In 1989 he initiated a new Vitreoretinal Department in Middelheim Hospital, which treated several hundreds of international patients with advanced vitreoretinal diseases, referred from all over Europe, North Africa, Middle East and even beyond. Dr Zivojnovic was his associate between 1989 to 1997 and they worked together in a very close relationship. In 1997 Dr Claes became the head of Vitreoretinal Department in AZ Middelheim, position he held until 2005 when he moved to St Augustinus Hospital to start a new Vitreoretinal Department. There he continued to operate and treat the same number of international patients with advanced diseases. He is still currently the Head of this Department.

He is the founder and organizer of the Advanced Vitreoretinal Course Antwerp, held every 2 years since 1989, hosting up to 300 participants from over 30 different countries. Numerous fellows and observers have been trained in his department coming from different countries such as Belgium, Italy, Egypt, Syria, Thailand, Japan, India, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Spain, Bulgaria, Brazil, Argentina, England, United States and many other nations.

Dr Claes has presented over 400 invited guest lectures in conferences in five continents. He has performed live surgery demonstrations during Ophthalmology meetings in 7 different European countries, as well as several times in the Middle East, South America, Asia and Africa. He has written several book chapters and has published numerous articles in scientific journals, being currently a reviewer for the Retina Journal.

He is a member of several societies including American Academy of Ophthalmology, Club Jules Gonin, European Vitreoretinal Society, European Retina Society and Société Belge d'Ophtalmologie. He is part of the Advisory Board of the Schepens International Society, and faculty at the ESASO, European School for Advanced Studies in Ophthalmology in Lugano, Switzerland.

In collaboration with different medical companies he developed many new surgical instruments, equipment and techniques, contributing to the development of modern vitreoretinal surgery, for what he was laureated with many international awards such as the Belgische selectie Award in Rome 1985, the Achievement Award American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2001, the Junior Honor Award at the Greek Vitreo-Retinal Society in 2010 and recently the Nataraja Pillai Orator Award in December 2011.

He practices in Antwerp and has an international reputation being specialized in surgery of complicated retinal detachments, trauma, Retinopathy of Prematurity, Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy, Macular Translocations, Pigment Epithelial Transplantations and pediatric cases. He performs 1000 surgical interventions per year with over 50% of the patients coming from abroad.