

You are formally invited to join us for a conversation on:

The Patient as the Teacher

*Working Together for Better Research & Treatment:
A Conversation for Patients, Researchers and Clinicians*



Photo caption: Attendees at a World Café event sit in groups and discuss questions posed by the facilitator.

Would you like to be part of an amazing international project that brings patients, researchers and clinicians together? Are you a patient living chronic vision loss or chronic eye disease like Glaucoma, AMD, or Diabetic Retinopathy? Or are you supporting a patient in their everyday life? Are you working directly within the vision research field? If so, we would like to warmly invite you to this discussion.

When: Saturday, March 26, 2022 | 9:30am - 12:30pm (followed by lunch)

Where: Instituto Superior Técnico | Av. Rovisco Pais nº1 | 1049-001 Lisbon

Event Website and Registration | <https://tinyurl.com/yeunvp77>

Please note: Registration is required in order to facilitate the event

The event is organised by one of the ORBITAL partners: the fantastic team at Instituto Superior Técnico, Ireland's leading Sight Loss Charity Fighting Blindness, and supported by the World Cafe Community Foundation.

Following a warm welcome (and, of course, a cup of coffee or tea to begin our day together), everyone is invited into conversations in small groups. You will meet different people in each of the three rounds and learn from each other's experiences and perspectives. We'll come back to the whole group and collect ideas and insights. After the event, you are invited to enjoy lunch with all participants.

Are you interested in participating? You'll have the chance to talk to one of our team members so that you can ask any questions you might have and also hear more about the event. Simply check out the event website, here (<https://www.orbital-itn.eu/join-us-in-lisbon-the-patient-is-the-teacher-a-world-cafe-event/>) or email Tess Ames, at Tess.Ames@WIT.ie.

Do you know other patients who might like to share their stories and perspectives? Please share this invitation with your friends and networks. We all know that personal invitations are the best!

Here is what ORBITAL team members have shared about the project:

“Orbital is very much about connecting the research directly to the patient and the patient perspective, at all times. We want to help our researchers to consider the person living with eye diseases while they develop these technologies, because it helps us understand what these patients need and want.”

- **Dr. Laurence Fitzhenry (Project Coordinator ORBITAL)**

*“Patient and Public Involvement has always been a goal for us at ORBITAL: researching not only **for** the general public, but working **with** them, giving voice to their actual needs and experiences and making them an active part in our daily research. Only by **listening and working together** from the very early stages of our research can we produce down-to-earth products with high translatability to clinical practice.”*

- **Felipe Gonzalez (one of the 15 Early Stage ORBITAL researchers)**

Learn more about ORBITAL

The [ORBITAL](#) (Ocular Research By Integrated Training And Learning) network is built on an intersectoral consortium (academia, industry, clinicians, patient advocacy groups and hospitals) composed of 23 members from Europe, Canada and the US. It trains 15 early stage researchers (PhD students) across Europe to develop drug delivery technologies that can help treat posterior segment diseases of the eye and is focused on patient-centered research approaches.

Learn more about World Cafe

World Cafe is a simple yet powerful conversational process that makes visible that we are indeed “wiser together”. You are invited to three rounds of 20-minute conversations at different tables (groups of 4 - 5 participants) in response to a specific question. You’ll meet different people in each round of conversation. As you move from table to table, you’ll look for themes, connections, and insights.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. For questions, please contact the team at Tess.Ames@WIT.ie

Warm greetings,

The ORBITAL Team
Dr. Helena Prior Filipe,
Professor Ana Paula Serro
Ms. Nadia Toffoletto (PhD Student)
Mr. Marco Brugnera (PhD Student)
Mr. Felipe Gonzalez (PhD Student)
Dr. Laurence Fitzhenry
Ms. Tess Ames



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