

PROFILE



My life's mission is to make the world a better place by eradicating avoidable blindness in T&T and our Caribbean Region.

After several years of working in the Public Hospital system, I've served in the Private Sector as the CEO and Chief Surgeon at Caribbean Vitreous & Retina Surgery Ltd (CVRS). My subspecialty is vitreo-retinal surgery.

In 2016, I created Trinidad Eye Hospital (TEH), a non-profit organization, dedicated to deliver Free Eye Care Programs to patients in need.

Starting an Ophthalmic Specialist Training Program for Residents is one of my fondest achievements to date as developing new surgeons is very special to me.

I enjoy leading Audits and practicing Clinical Governance at CVRS | TEH which I observe has transformed the standard of care for our patients.

I am a firm believer in the effectiveness of Public-Private models of eye care delivery as well as high volume cataract surgery approaches to service delivery.

Above all I aim to serve all with love, kindness and compassion, improving accessibility to high quality eyecare everywhere.

QUALIFICATIONS

FRCOphth (UK), FRCS (Ed), CCT (UK), Dip Ed (UK), MBBS (UWI)

FRCOphth 2022 (By Election) – Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London

CCT 2007 - Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London

Dip Ed 2006 - University of Sheffield, Sheffield

FRCS 1999 - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

MBBS 1993 - University of the West Indies, Jamaica

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

Sept 2012- John A. Moran, University of Utah, USA
General Ophthalmology Observership

Oct 2010 - Aravind Eye Hospital, Nepal, India
Small Incision Cataract Surgery

WORK EXPERIENCE

July 2011 to Present

Caribbean Vitreous & Retina Surgery Limited (CVRS)
Chief Executive Officer

- Leads the organization towards a vision of a world where everyone sees.
- Collaborates with local, regional and international leaders in eye health to increase the standard of care and collaboration across public and private eyecare systems.

August 2016 To Present

Trinidad Eye Hospital (TEH), Non -profit Organization
Chairman of the Board

- Founded TEH to design and implement free programs for the prevention of avoidable blindness.
- Diabetic Eye Screening, Charity Surgery and Vision Screening Programs designed and implemented.

July 2011 to Present

Caribbean Vitreous & Retina Surgery Limited (CVRS)
Consultant Ophthalmologist/ Vitreo Retinal Surgeon

- Successful performed approximately 10,000 cataract surgeries, 5,000 vitrectomy surgeries and other eye procedures to date.
- Average of 10,000 patient interactions per year.

TEACHING & TRAINING POSTS

- 2018- Present** Educational Supervisor, CVRS | TEH.
- 2012- Present** Adjunct Professor, John A. Moran Eye Centre, University of Utah
- 2009- 2019** Associate Lecturer, University of the West Indies
- 2001 - 2007** Clinical Lecturer in Ophthalmology, University of Sheffield, England.

OTHER POSTS

- 2022- Present** Vice President, Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies
- 2021- Present** Public Relations Officer, Ophthalmological Society of Trinidad & Tobago
- 2014- 2016** Secretary/Treasurer, Ophthalmology Society of the West Indies.

KEY CONFERENCES

- July 2023** 34th Annual OSWI Congress Meeting, Miami
- Sept 2022** Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association 28th Annual Medical Research Conference, Trinidad
- July 2022** 33rd Annual OSWI Congress Meeting, Antigua
- July 2021** 32nd Annual OSWI Congress Meeting, Virtual
- Feb 2020** Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados

REGIONAL TEACHING, TRAINING & PRESENTATIONS

- Bhola R.** Role of the Physician in Diabetic Retinopathy Screening. SANFER Conference. Guyana **2023**
- Bhola R.** Reducing Cataract Surgery Backlog in the region through Partnerships. Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association 29th Annual Medical research Conference. Trinidad and Tobago **2023**
- Bhola R.** 'Trini back flip' Quick Bimanual Scissor Surgery delamination technique. Ophthalmology Society of the West Indies. Miami **2023**
- Bhola R. Mohammed Z.** Hyaloid Elevation. Ophthalmology Society of the West Indies. Miami **2023**
- Bhola R.** Capsulorhexis. Ophthalmology Society of the West Indies. Miami **2023**
- Bhola R. Fraser A.** Posterior Polar Cataract. Ophthalmology Society of the West Indies. Miami **2023**
- Bhola R. Fraser A.** Laser for DME-CI. Ophthalmology Society of the West Indies. Miami **2023**
- Bhola R.** Diabetic Retinopathy Screening and Treatment. Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association 28th Annual Medical research Conference. Trinidad and Tobago **2022**

Bhola R. Scientific Session 4- Other Emergencies, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Antigua **2022**

Bhola R. Scientific Session 8- Interesting Surgical Videos, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Antigua **2022**

Bhola R. Dubai S. Vitreous in AC with Sublux IOL. Video Based presentation. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago **2021**

Bhola R. Proliferative Retinopathy Case. Retina Section Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago **2021**

Bhola R. Iris Prolapse Video based presentation, Cataract Section, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago **2021**

Bhola R. Vitreo-Retinal Interface, Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2020**

Bhola R. Update on Macular Hole in the Caribbean, Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2020**

Bhola R. An analysis of failure rates utilizing scleral loops to position bands for encirclement. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, **2019**

Bhola R. To present a relatively new technique using ILM inverted flap that provides a scaffold over macular holes to aid closure, and their outcomes. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, **2019**.

Mohammed Z, Bhola R. Complications of intravitreal Bevacizumab injections at the Trinidad Eye Hospital, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, **2019**.

Bhola R. Update on the Trinidad Eye Hospital Diabetic Eye Screening Program. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, **2019**.

Bhola R. Challenges of setting up the Trinidad Eye Hospital, Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2019**.

Bhola R. Buckling in Retinal Detachment Surgery. Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2019**.

Bhola R. Inverted flap technique for macular hole surgery. Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2019**.

Bhola R. Combining Retina and Glaucoma Surgery in Rubeotic Eyes. Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2019**.

Bhola R. Diabetic in the English-Speaking Caribbean. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, **2018**.

Bhola R. Cataract surgery in presence of Weak Zonules, OSWI, Guyana **2017**.

Bhola R. Diabetic retinopathy - when to consider surgical treatment in the age of Avastin, OSWI, Guyana **2017**.

Bhola R. Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy and Diabetic Vitrectomy, Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2016**.

Bhola R. Macular degeneration in Trinidad and Tobago, do we have a different perspective in the Caribbean? Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2016**.

Bhola R. Traumatic retinal detachment repair, Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2016**.

Bhola R. Most interesting case of my career, Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados Feb **2016**.

Bhola R. Phaco Pearl in Cataract Surgery (Anterior Vitrectomy via Par Planar). OSWI, Curacao July **2015**.

Bhola R. Pterygium Surgery (Perfect for Pterygium Surgery; 'Caribbean population experience'). OSWI. Curacao July **2015**

Bhola R. Anti-VEGF vs IVTA vs FAL for foveal sparing diabetic macula oedema, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014**

Bhola R. Phacoemulsification Cataract Surgery Pearls (Phacoemulsification and SICS), Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014**.

Bhola R., Anterior Vitrectomy in Cataract Surgery, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies Jamaica **2014**.

Bhola R. Maharaj A, Persad N, Modeste D. The Caribbean Diabetic Vitrectomy– When to Operate, Aim of Surgery and Causes of Poor Visual Outcomes. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014**.

Bhola R. Modeste D, Persad N, Maharaj A. 'The Macular Hole' A survey of the most common non-diabetic cause of vitreoretinal surgery in a Caribbean population, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014**.

Bhola R. Novel Retinal Surgical Maneuvers using a 4 and 5 port pars planar vitrectomy approach. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Suriname **2013**.

Bhola R. Cataract Complications requiring vitreo-retinal surgical management. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Suriname **2013**.

Bhola R. Diabetic Retinopathy Photographic Screening in Trinidad and Tobago. World Congress of Surgery, Obstetrics and Trauma, Trinidad **2013**

Bhola R. High Volume Cataract Surgery at San Fernando General Hospital doubles cataract surgical rate. World Congress of Surgery, Obstetrics and Trauma, Trinidad **2013**

Bhola R. Are Visiting Cataract Surgeons and Cataract projects a thing of the past? World Congress of Surgery, Obstetrics and Trauma, Trinidad **2013**

Bhola R. Paediatric Retina Trauma. Latest Updates in Ophthalmology, Barbados **2013**

Bhola R. Diabetic Eye Disease. Arnott Cato Symposium, St Vincent **2011**

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Bhola R. Vitrectomy in the Caribbean. World Ophthalmology Congress **2016**, Mexico.

Maharaj A, Persad N, Sohanpal G, Ramoutar **R, Bhola R.** 'Haptic lasso' makes for simplified intrascleral insertion of haptics in fixation of three-piece intraocular lens.

Bhola R. Vitrectomy in the Caribbean. World Ophthalmology Congress **2016**, Mexico.

Poster session presented at: American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting; **2013** November 16-19; New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

NATIONAL TEACHING & TRAINING CONTRIBUTION

I initiated and held a national local eye meeting yearly for 5 consecutive years using CVRS | TEH, which started as south doctor meeting and grew to a national meeting.

Nov 2017 Ophthalmological Society of Trinidad and Tobago Conference, 1 day

Nov 2016- Ophthalmological Society of Trinidad and Tobago Conference, 1 day

Dec 2015- Ophthalmological Society of Trinidad and Tobago Conference 'Updates in Ophthalmology', 1 day

Dec 2014 - South Doctors Eye Meeting, 1/2-day meeting,

IN-HOUSE CVRS | TEH RESIDENT TRAINING PROGRAM

TEH | CVRS OST program has 2 consultants and 3 residents

Our curriculum mirrors the RCOphth curriculum.

I am actively involved as the lead educational supervisor in our Resident OST Training Program.

SUPPORTING TRAINEE PRESENTATIONS

Fraser A. **Bhola et al.** Occupational Sedentary Behavior of Ophthalmologists. Ophthalmology Society of the West Indies. Miami **2023**

S Sooknanan, R Ramoutar, N Udit, **Bhola R,** et al. Pioneering Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in Trinidad and Tobago: 'The Early Years'. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2015.**

Ramoutar R, Udit N, Maharaj A, **Bhola R.** Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) at Public Hospitals in Trinidad and Tobago, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2015**

Udit N, Ramoutar R, Sooknanan Shival, **Bhola R.** A comparative analysis of the different modes of topical anaesthesia utilized for the administration of intravitreal Anti-VEGF injections Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014.**



Modeste D, Persad N, Maharaj A, **Bhola R.** Is Dilation Necessary for Diabetic Screening in the Caribbean Eye. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014.**

Maharaj A, **Bhola R.** Persad N, Sohanpal G. A comparative analysis of the various suture-less sulcus fixation techniques. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014.**

Maharaj A, Persad N, Sohanpal G, **Bhola R.** Extensive tenonectomy for pterygium surgery, how important is it? Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014.**

Persad N, Sohanpal G, Maharaj A, **Bhola R.** An analysis of the surgically induced astigmatism (SIA) of corneal incision extracapsular (ECCE) surgery. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Suriname **2013.**

Maharaj A, Sohanpal G, Persad N, **Bhola R.** P.E.R.F.E.C.T. for PTERYGIUM... Is it perfect for the Caribbean Pterygium? Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Suriname **2013.**

EXPERT PANEL MEMBER/ CHAIR

Bhola R. Chair of Ophthalmic Surgical "Mishap" Videos, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Miami, **2023**

Bhola R. Chair of Scientific Session 3- Cataract Session, Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Antigua, **2022**

Bhola R. Retina Panel Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, **2021**

Bhola R. Chair of Retina Panel, Latest Updates in Ophthalmology Conference, **2020**

Bhola R. Chair of Cataract Panel, Latest Updates in Ophthalmology Conference, **2020**

Bhola R. Chair Medical Retina Session. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica **2014.**

Bhola R. et al Virtual Retina Clinics (Video based case panel discussion) Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, **2019.**

Bhola R. Virtual Cataract Clinics (Video based case panel discussion) Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, **2019.**

Bhola R. Interactive Retina Clinical Cases. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Jamaica, **2018.**

Bhola R. Cataract Session. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Guyana, **2017.**

Bhola R. Mini Macular Symposium. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Guyana, **2017.**

Bhola R. Cataract Misadventures, video presentation with panel discussion. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Barbados **2016.**

Bhola R. OSWI Retinas: Retinal Misadventures in the operating theatre. Ophthalmological Society of West Indies, Barbados **2016.**



PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

Bhola R. Diabetic Screening and Diabetic Retinal Surgery. West Indian Med J **2016**;65 (Suppl.4) 36.

Bhola R. Ocular Pharmacology. West Indian Med J **2015**;64(Suppl.3) 39.

PUBLICATIONS

Mohammed I, Dubay S, **Bhola R.**, et al. Optometry meets ophthalmology- cycloplegic refraction and examination under general anaesthesia in a paediatric high myope. Adv Ophthalmol Vis Syst. 2023;13(1):20-24. DOI: 10.15406/aovs.2023.13.00433

Sareta D K, Dorian D, **Ronnie B.** Corneal integrity in ahmed valve implantation: pars plana vs ciliary sulcus vs anterior chamber. Adv Ophthalmol Vis Syst . 2022;12(3):87-88. DOI: 10.15406/aovs.2022.12.00426

Sareta K Dubay, Dorian Dwarika, **Ronnie Bhola** and Balakrishna Vineeth Kumar, Long-term outcomes of pars plana Ahmed valve implant and vitrectomy in eyes with refractory glaucoma. Medical Hypothesis discovery and innovation in ophthalmology; 2022.

Amit S Verma, Dorian Dwarika, **Ronnie M Bhola**, Sheraiz Emamali, Photokeratitis following the manipulation of aquaria disinfection lamps. Emerg Med J 2007 March;24(3):232

Sears KS, **Bhola RM**, Winder S. Visually significant persistent outer retinal fluid following closure of a macular hole. Acta Ophthalmol Scand. 2007 Mar;85(2):213-5.

Cirovic S, **Bhola RM**, Hose DR, Howard IC, Lawford PV, Marr JE, Parsons MA. Computer modelling study of the mechanism of optic nerve injury in blunt trauma J Ophthalmol.2006 Jun;90(6):778-83.

Cirovic S, **Bhola RM**, Hose DR, Howard IC, Lawford PV, Parsons MA
A computational study of the passive mechanisms of eye restraint during head impact trauma Comput Methods Biomech Biomed Engin.2005 Feb;8(1):1-6.

Singh AD, Mudhar HS, **Bhola R**, Rundle PA, Rennie IG. Sebaceous adenoma of the eyelid in Muir-Torre syndrome. Arch Ophthalmol. 2005 Apr;123(4):562-5.

Desai SP, Teggihalli BC, **Bhola R.** Superglue mistaken for eye drops. Arch Dis Child. 2005 Nov;90(11):1193.

Bhola RM, Dhingra S, McCormick AG, Chan TK. Central retinal artery occlusion following staphylococcal orbital cellulitis. Eye (Lond). 2003 Jan;17(1):109-11.

Squirrell D, **Bhola R**, Bush J, Winder S, Talbot JF. A prospective, case controlled study of the natural history of diabetic retinopathy and maculopathy after uncomplicated phacoemulsification cataract surgery in patients with type 2 diabetes. Br J Ophthalmol. 2002 May;86(5)

McCormick A, **Bhola R**, Brown L, Squirrel D, Giles J, Pepper I. Quantifying relative afferent pupillary defects using a Sbisa bar. Br J Ophthalmol. 2002 Sep;86(9):985-7.

Bhola RM, Horne GV, Squirrell DM, Chan TK, Kumar D Autosomal dominant congenital superior oblique palsy. Eye (Lond). 2001 Aug;15(Pt 4)

Bhola RM, Prasad S, McCormick AG, Rennie IG, Talbot JF, Parsons MA. Pupillary distortion and staphyloma following trans-scleral contact diode laser cyclophotocoagulation: a clinicopathological study of three patients. *Eye (Lond)*. 2001 Aug;15(Pt 4)

Squirrell DM, **Bhola RM**, Talbot JF. Indocyanine green angiographic findings in serpiginous choroidopathy: evidence of a widespread choriocapillaris defect of the peripapillary area and posterior pole. *Eye (Lond)*. 2001 Jun;15(Pt 3)

McCormick A, Dinakaran S, **Bhola R**, Rennie IG. Recurrent sixth nerve palsy following measles mumps rubella vaccination. *Eye (Lond)*. 2001 Jun;15(Pt 3)

CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

Root Cause Analysis- Occurrence of Endophthalmitis Following the Intraocular Administration of Avastin- 2020

Review of Case of Wrong Biometric Error (IOL)for 2021- Recommendation: A new data form designed

AUDITS & SURGICAL CASE REVIEWS

Intravitreal Injection Audit 2020

Objective: To report the vision threatening complications of intravitreal injection service at CVRS | TEH from January 2019 to December 2019

Retrospective review of patients who were administered intravitreal injections at CVRS | TEH clinics, was conducted for the period January 2019 to December 2019

Glaucoma Audit 2020 - Pars plana Ahmed Valve as a mainstay of treatment for Refractory Rubeotic Glaucoma

Objective: Audit outcomes of pars plana ahmed valves implants for rubeotic glaucoma at Trinidad eye hospital from 2015 to date.

A retrospective case notes review of all patients who had pars plana ahmed valve implants for rubeotic glaucoma from October 2015 to December 2019. Objective was IOP management (minimum 20% reduction) and visual acuity improvement or maintenance.

Diabetic Screening Review 2020 - Diabetic Eye Screening Program at Trinidad Eye Hospital

Objective: Report of Diabetic Eye Screening Program DESP at the Trinidad Eye hospital for the period March 2018 to December 2019.

A retrospective review of all program processes, pathways, execution timelines, interactions, equipment, reach and results

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **2019- Present** **Public- Private Partnership – Lead Surgeon**
The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Antigua & Barbuda

Ophthalmology Surgeries
669 surgeries completed

- **2022 – Present** **Private- Private Partnership – Lead Surgeon**
St Lucia Eye Hospital, St Lucia
Ophthalmology Surgeries
38 surgeries completed
- **2023- Present** **Private- Private Partnership – Lead Surgeon**
HMS Eye Centre Inc, Dominica
Ophthalmology Surgeries
83 surgeries completed

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Editor At Large**, Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies Magazine 2022/2023
- **CVRS | TEH Insight Newsletters 2019 - 2023**
<https://www.trinidadeyehospital.org/newsletter>
- **TEH Video Documentaries**
Gift of Sight, Charity Cataract Surgeries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jClf3h2SkdQ>
Sight Saver, Charity Vitrectomy Surgeries: <https://youtu.be/FYddbZVaG7M>
- 383 Free Surgeries provided since 2016 via TEH Charity Programs

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Toastmasters International - **2023**
- The Leadership Mindset- The Discipline of Adding Zeros- 1 day **April 2023**
- The Global Leadership Summit – *Everyone has Influence* – 1 day, **2019**
- Global Leadership Summit John Maxwell - *Live to Lead* – 1 day, **2018**
- Management Priorities in Eye Care Delivery –Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai, India – 2 weeks, **2017**

REFERENCES

Dr. Randell Olsen
Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and CEO at John A. Moran Eye Centre, University of Utah.

Dr Vineeth Kumar FRCS(Ed)
Consultant Ophthalmologist