Growing Eyes, Changing Perspectives

A child's glasses prescription can reveal how short-sighted they are, but it does not tell the whole story of how their eyes are developing. Understanding that growth was a key theme of Dr Leo Seo Wei's contributions to the eye care meetings held in London in September 2026.

Dr Leo joined more than 15,000 eye care professionals at the **44th Congress of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS)**, the largest ophthalmology meeting in Europe. Alongside her congress presentation, she took part in discussions on the future of myopia management and the use of artificial intelligence in paediatric eye care.

A Shared Vision for Myopia Care

On 10 September, Dr Leo was a panellist at the inaugural WSPOS Myopia APEX meeting, organised by the **World Society of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (WSPOS)**.

The expert panel discussed the future of myopia management and how to improve access to effective care for children worldwide.

Where AI Fits Into Children's Eye Care

At the WSPOS Subspecialty Day on 11 September, Dr Leo chaired a session and spoke on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in paediatric diagnostics.

She described where AI is already useful, such as helping to make screening more consistent, as well as areas where caution is still needed.

Looking Beyond the Glasses Prescription

On 12 September, Dr Leo presented "Beyond the Dioptre: Reading the Growing Eye" at the 44th ESCRS Congress.

Myopia, or short-sightedness, commonly develops as the eyeball grows longer than it should. A longer eye carries a higher lifelong risk of problems such as retinal detachment and myopic macular degeneration, which affects the central part of the retina responsible for detailed vision.

Dr Leo explained how she reads four measurements together to understand a child's eye development:

- **Eye length compared with peers:** An axial length percentile chart shows where a child's eye length sits compared with children of the same age and sex.
- **Rate of eye growth:** Changes in axial length show how much the eye lengthens each year.
- **Eye length in relation to corneal curvature:** The axial length-to-corneal radius ratio (AL/CR) is calculated by dividing the eye's length by the radius of curvature of the cornea. It provides

additional information about the eye's proportions and can help assess the likelihood of myopia, including before it develops.

- **Glasses prescription:** Refraction measures the eye's focusing error and the lens power needed to correct it, showing how short-sighted a child is and whether their prescription is changing.

Tracking these measurements over time, rather than relying on a single reading, gives a clearer picture of how a child's eyes are developing. This helps guide decisions about when to start treatment and whether it is working to control myopia progression.

Recognition From ZEISS

Dr Leo was recognised by ZEISS as an Ambassador of FORUM Myopia Workplace, a software platform that plots children's eye measurements over time. These include axial length (AL) and the axial length-to-corneal radius ratio (AL/CR), allowing changes to be viewed across successive visits. Dr Leo was the platform's first user globally.

Keeping an Eye on Your Child's Vision

At our clinic, children with myopia, or those at risk of developing it, have their eye length measured and tracked over time using optical biometry, a quick and non-invasive scan. Follow-up measurements allow Dr Leo to monitor the rate of eye growth and consider these changes alongside the child's prescription when planning their care.

If you are concerned about your child's vision or short-sightedness, please contact us to arrange an assessment.