



Title: The History of the Founding of ISCLS

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Abstract:

This talk traces the founding history of the ISCLS from the very first meeting in 1951 to its consolidation as a formal international organization in the late-1950s. Drawing on a previously unexplored private archive, it tells the story of three pioneers - Frank Dickinson (England), Wilhelm Söhnges (Germany), and John C. Neill (USA) - whose friendship and shared passion for contact lens research gave rise to one of optometry's most enduring international societies. The lecture explores how personal bonds, informal gatherings, and a spirit of scientific and cultural curiosity gradually transformed into congresses, statutes and a lasting institution.