ABSTRACT
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a world-renowned consumer protection agency that regulates the sale and marketing of prescription drugs and therapeutic devices. With many of the world’s largest drug companies based out of the U.S., the FDA often sets the standard that countries around the globe tend to follow. Despite its far-reaching authority, it may therefore seem somewhat of a paradox that the FDA allows doctors to arbitrarily prescribe drugs for non FDA-approved uses, i.e. off-label drug use. In a world ridden of malpractice suits and professional liability hearings, it follows that the practice of off-label drug use might very well run the spectrum of “back room” experimentation and profound therapeutic discovery.

In this seminar, the author takes a deeper look into this world of seemingly unorthodox medicine, highlighting a variety of off-label therapies with a focus on the eye care arena.

Originally a native of Canada, Dr Lance McNaughton began his graduate studies under the guidance of Dr Marek Radomski at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in the mid 1990's. Following completion of a Ph.D. in pharmacology, he went on to complete a Doctor of Optometry degree at the New England College of Optometry in Boston, MA, USA. Upon graduation he moved to Madrid, Spain, where he practiced at a clinic in central Madrid and also taught ocular pharmacology. The following year he began a 5 year period of private optometric practice in various cities along the eastern coast of the United States. Most recently, in 2009, he moved to southern California where he currently serves as assistant professor and Chief of Contact Lens Clinical Services at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry.