



THE COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRISTS

Your professional body – now more than ever

Annual Report
2019 – 2020



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President's report

When I took on the role of College President at the end of February 2020, we were weeks away from the first national lockdown and there was much confusion and apprehension within the profession. You will read in this report how the College took the lead in speaking up for optometrists and helping them to navigate their way through the rapid and dramatic changes.



As practitioners, we should be proud of our swift response to the situation, and the ingenuity displayed in adapting practice so that we continued to practise safely and effectively across the UK. As hospital eye services reduced and medical colleagues were deployed into the care of COVID-19 patients, many of us were able to utilise our clinical skills in providing secondary care. Talking to my patients, I have realised how important it was to continue to offer the care they needed, to minimise the risk of sight loss. Through the actions of our profession and professional body during this time, I believe that we have proved that we can take on a greater role in delivering eye healthcare in the future.

The College has focused on a joined up approach to ensuring safe and effective eye care through the pandemic. We have actively strengthened our relationships with government and health services in all four nations, with other sector bodies, including the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth). This has enabled us to produce common resources and statements that not only provide guidelines for optometrists, ophthalmologists and dispensing opticians, but also demonstrate the benefits of multidisciplinary working.

In England, the College worked collaboratively with the RCOphth to develop and endorse the clinical pathways at the heart of the COVID-19 Urgent Eyecare Service (CUES). Building on this success, the College is currently represented at NHS England's Eye Care Restoration and Transformation steering group, which aims to transform outpatient eye care services across primary, secondary and community care. We have recently endorsed new integrated eye care pathways covering cataract, glaucoma and medical retina. These pathways move more care to primary care professionals and promote shared care and decision-making across primary and secondary care.

Reviews of eye care services are also taking place across the other UK nations. In Wales, we are working with the Welsh Government on primary eye care contract reform, which forms part of a programme of work to reform all primary care contracts. In Scotland, the Cabinet Secretary for Health has asked us to contribute to the review of the provision of community eye care. And in Northern Ireland, we have been invited to join the Northern Ireland Eyecare Network – which is developing an Ophthalmic Services Rebuilding Plan, based on learning from the impact of COVID-19 on ophthalmic services in both primary and secondary care.

In August, the College and the RCOphth set out a joint vision for delivering patient eye care services during and beyond COVID-19, which outlines three key principles and recommendations for the development and governance of a high quality eye care service. Importantly, this vision ensures that the eye care sector will take forward the new ways of working as a framework for the future delivery of primary and secondary eye care services in England. We plan to develop similar joint visions for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The coronavirus pandemic has been brutal, and many of you have been through unimaginable hardship and anxiety, but you have shown your resilience, flexibility and commitment to patients. People talk about the 'new normal' – but we don't want a return to the pre-pandemic status quo. We want to build on the events of the last year, and the improved recognition and stronger role for the profession. Moving forward, we will be looking at eye care delivery models, development of the profession, and reviewing our higher qualifications. We want to ensure that we extend our influence, and that the profession is equipped and ready to build on its recent experiences and achievements.

We will continue to work with members, policy-makers, partners and patients to ensure we are making effective progress towards our vision for optometry across the UK. By ensuring eye health is high on the agenda of commissioners and policy makers, we will ensure that optometrists' skills continue to be recognised, used appropriately in designing eye care services, and trusted by patients and the public.

I would like to congratulate you all for your unfaltering effort and commitment during the past year, and wish you a better, and easier year ahead.

Colin Davidson FCOptom DipTp(IP)
President.

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We want to build on the events of the last year, and the improved recognition and stronger role for the profession.

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Chief Executive's report

This review looks back on the year commencing 1 October 2019 – a year like no other. With no idea on how coming events were about to transform the world, we had a number of major projects scheduled for the year ahead including, establishing collaborative partnerships across the eye care sector, influencing the GOC's Education Strategic Review, developing our CET and CPD support, building a new website, and producing an ambitious five year strategic plan.



By the end of January, COVID-19 had reached the UK and we had started to plan for a very different year ahead for the College, our members and the profession. Our first COVID-19-related member alert went out on 20 February, and the country went into the first Coronavirus lockdown on 23 March 2020.

Work continued apace to ensure that members and their colleagues were; kept informed of the changing situation and how it affected their practice; were represented, recognised and supported by governments and national health authorities across the UK; and had the guidance and resources they needed to provide safe and effective eye care. Meanwhile, our education team worked to adapt the Scheme for Registration, Independent Prescribing and higher qualifications so that they could be delivered in the pandemic.

Our key achievements during the first stages of the pandemic included:

- ▶ securing key worker status for optometrists
- ▶ ensuring optometrists were prioritised to receive sufficient and appropriate PPE
- ▶ providing timely professional guidance on adapted practice, and ensuring members were kept updated and informed
- ▶ developing online learning and networking events to help members to feel connected, support them in their adapted practice and to develop new knowledge and skills
- ▶ working with key organisations across the sector to maintain essential eye health provision across primary and secondary care – for example, our collaboration with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists on joint management principles and pathways that minimise the risk of vision loss
- ▶ gaining agreement from the GOC to ensure that as many trainees as possible could progress through the Scheme while ensuring the safety of trainees, supervisors and the public, and maintaining quality standards
- ▶ collecting data to provide insights into how COVID-19 was affecting eye health provision in the UK.



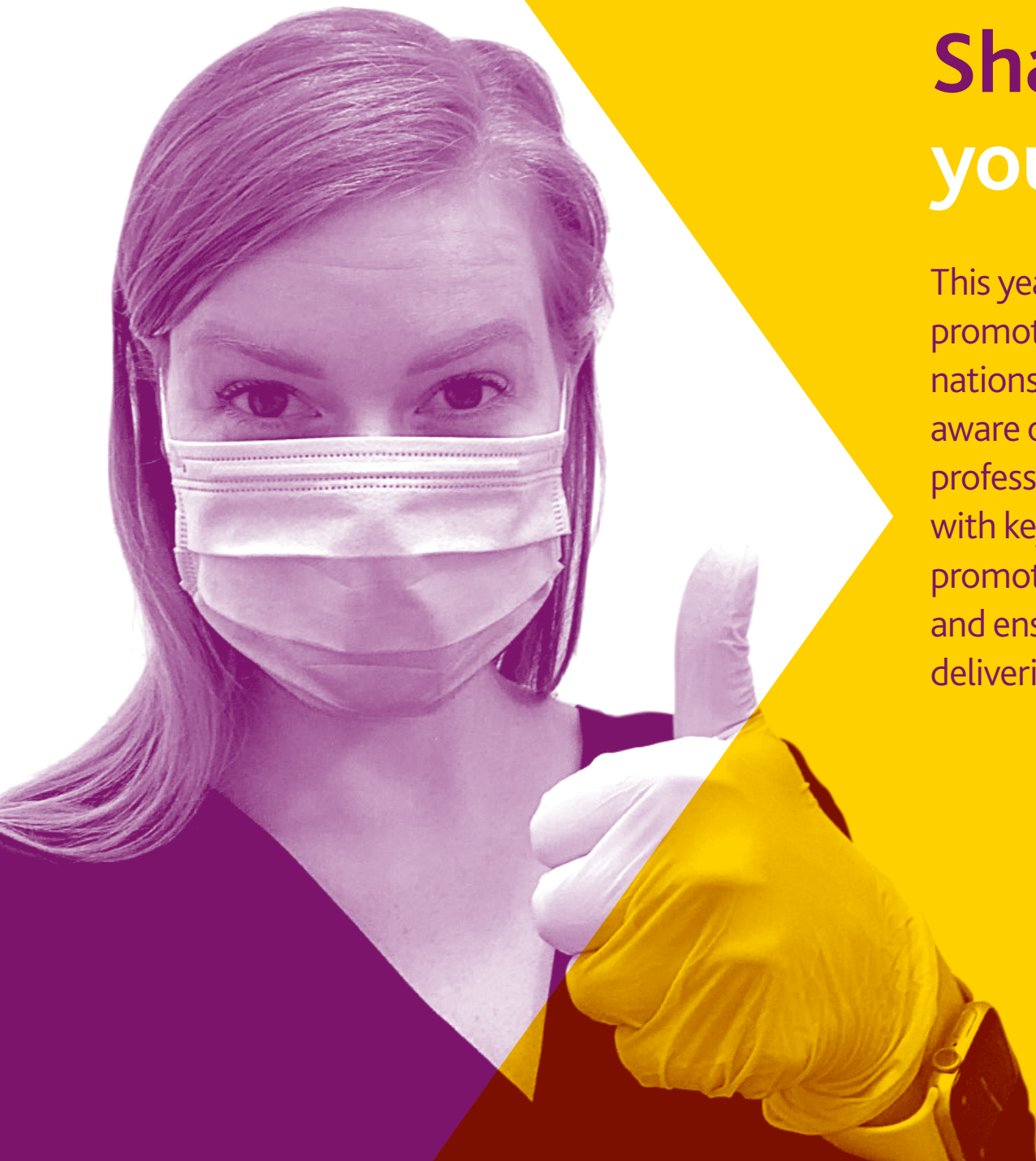
Although we still have significant challenges ahead of us, your work through the pandemic has enabled us to raise awareness and recognition of optometrists' skills and knowledge across the wider health sector.



Although our focus was very much on supporting the profession through the ongoing pandemic, we still managed to achieve much of what we had originally planned for the year ahead, including inviting members to contribute to the College's response to the GOC's Education Strategic Review consultation, reviewing and updating the Guidance for Professional Practice, and finalising the 2020 – 2025 strategic plan for launch on the first day of the new College year.


I am proud of what the profession has achieved. Although we still have significant challenges ahead of us, your work through the pandemic has enabled us to raise awareness and recognition of optometrists' skills and knowledge across the wider health sector. And I am also proud of what the College has achieved, which has been down to the hard work of members and staff, supported by the time and commitment of the College's Board and Council. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to you all.

Ian Humphreys,
Chief Executive



Shaping your profession

This year marks 40 years of the College representing, promoting and advancing the profession in all four nations. We work to ensure that optometrists are aware of, and involved in, the issues shaping their profession, have a voice in the debate and are working with key decision makers and organisations to promote the skills and knowledge of our members, and ensure that they are able to play their part in delivering effective patient care.



At the beginning of the College year, a key issue for optometry was the the GOC's education strategic review. The review questioned whether the accreditation, quality assurance and standards of education for optical professionals in the UK would remain fit for purpose, as the optical sector evolves. We ensured that our members were aware of the main topics, how they would affect practitioners and that their voices were heard.

One of the more provocative issues affecting the future of optometric education was the proposal for a degree apprenticeship in optometry. We were not initially part of the trailblazer group which made the recommendation for a degree apprenticeship, but subsequently joined the group to ensure that professional standards and patient safety are upheld, and called for a halt to further developments until our members' concerns could be addressed. Our consultation with members elicited more responses than any previous consultation or policy topic. This informed the College's response to the apprenticeship consultation in January 2020.

NHS England and NHS Improvement's major national programme, which aims to reduce out-patient appointments by 30%, was set to launch in April 2020. Ophthalmology was to be the first outpatient speciality to be transformed, and the College has been involved with the National Outpatient Transformation Project (NOTP) from the outset. In January 2020, the College, AOP and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) published a joint statement on improving referrals in England. In June, working closely with LOCSU, we started to redesign pathways for the three main eye conditions within ophthalmology outpatients – cataract, glaucoma, wet maculopathy and Diabetic Macular Oedema.

As the pandemic took hold in the UK, all areas of College activity became focused on ensuring our members were recognised and supported. We established effective strategic partnerships with organisations in the eye care and wider health sector, and in government, to represent and advocate for the profession. We succeeded in persuading the government to award optometrists key worker status. Working closely with Public Health England and the Association of Medical Royal Colleges, we were able to ensure that optometry was recognised and included in national guidance, issued in April, which established the professions which should be issued with PPE as a priority.

We led the urgent request for optometric access to NHS.net email accounts, to ensure clinicians are able to provide urgent and emergency primary care during the pandemic, which resulted in the granting of fast track access in March.

Throughout the pandemic, we worked with others to co-ordinate our approaches and advice. This included our work with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists on statements regarding the importance of maintaining safe and effective eye care services during lockdown and how this could be achieved. This was reflected in our development and endorsement of the clinical pathways at the heart of the COVID-19 Urgent Eyecare Service (CUES) in England. We also issued joint guidance on a number of areas affecting practice in the pandemic, including the use of NCT and cleaning of visual fields equipment.

In August, more than 600 delegates attended a joint College and RCOphth webinar on Implementing CUES. Also in August, the College and RCOphth announced a joint vision for our two professions to work together to support the delivery of safe and sustainable eye care services in England based on the established COVID-19 urgent eye care services (CUES), and delivered by multidisciplinary teams. This extended collaboration between the hospital eye service and primary care will provide coordinated services for more eye health conditions, and a greater role for IP and HQ qualified optometrists.

In September, we produced a video with College President, Colin Davidson FCOptom DipTp(IP), and Bernie Chang the new President of the RCOphth, discussing how the two professions are working together through the crisis and opportunities for joint working post-pandemic.

This was part of our *In Conversation with...* series of videos, which gave members an opportunity to find out how COVID-19 was shaping optometric practice across the four UK nations, how the College was working with these organisations, what had been achieved, and the lessons learnt. College President, Colin Davidson, hosted David O'Sullivan, Chief Optometric Adviser to the Welsh Government, Raymond Curran, Head of Ophthalmic Services for Northern Ireland, Poonam Sharma MCOptom, Optometry Adviser, NHS England & NHS Improvement and Janet Pooley, Optometric Adviser to the Scottish Government.



600 delegates attend joint College and RCOphth webinar on implementing CUES



457 clips of media coverage



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The professions our two Colleges represent are the natural collaborative workforce to deliver effective and sustainable patient care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this has led to the development of quality urgent eye care services needed by patients and the general public in England. We have a shared vision to lead transformation of eye health delivery across the primary and secondary care sector. This combined leadership will continue and only increase in the future, working across all four UK nations, post COVID.

”

Professor Bernie Chang FRCOphth FRCSEd
President, Royal College of Ophthalmologists

Providing reliable evidence-based research

The College supports essential research that ensures that optometrists have reliable evidence-based information and are aware of the latest advances in eye health, so that they can evolve their practice and deliver safe and effective eye care. This was especially important as coronavirus spread rapidly across the globe.

In March, we were awarded funding by the Department for Transport's Road Safety Research funding stream. The project will analyse data from more than two million road traffic accidents and survey data from optometrists to investigate the factors relating to vision / perception that contribute to accidents, and the current attitudes and behaviours of optometrists in relation to vision and driving.

In April, the College worked with academic and clinical optometrists and other health professionals to develop four research proposals for submission to COVID-19 research funding streams, ensuring that optometry and eye health were presented among the responses to these funding calls. We also collaborated with Anglia Ruskin University on two questionnaires about the impact of COVID-19 on practice.

In June, College journal, Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics (OPO), achieved its highest two year impact factor (IF) for 6 years, and highest ever five year IF (2.62 and 3.10, respectively), demonstrating its national and international importance to optometrists, ophthalmologists and vision scientists, as articles are increasingly cited in the peer reviewed literature. It has been the top-ranked optometry journal in the world since 2014.

In July, OPO featured COVID-19 and the Eye (Lawrenson and Buckley), a summary of the evidence to date regarding the effects of COVID-19 on the eye and the implications of the ongoing pandemic for eye care practitioners. We recorded a podcast with Professor John Lawrenson FCOptom, explaining the key points of the paper to members.

Informing and reassuring patients

The national lockdowns led to uncertainty and anxiety among patients, and we worked to ensure that the public were aware of the changes to practice and to reassure them of their safety. In March, we developed a range of FAQs for patients and carers, which we posted on our public-facing site – [lookafteryoureyes.org](https://www.lookafteryoureyes.org). These were updated as and when guidance for optometrists changed. We also developed resources throughout the spring and summer for members to use in their communications and in practice, including, web and email banners, a video to post on their websites or run in practice, and informative posters to display.

Following a College-commissioned independent study in July, we found that one in five adults in the country thought that their vision had become worse in the previous four months, with one in three blaming it on too much screen time. However, over half of those responding to our survey stated that they would be concerned about attending an optometrist appointment because of the risk of coronavirus. 'Coronavision' garnered a lot of media interest and this presented a great opportunity for the College to advise and inform the public of changes to practice to ensure patient safety while providing effective eye care. National Eye Health Week in September was also an opportunity to engage with the public. We produced two videos on avoiding dry eye and ensuring clarity of vision while wearing a mask and spectacles.



1,413 enquiries received by clinical advisers



Two Postgraduate Scholarships and a Clinical Research Fellowship awarded.



After the initial lockdown lifted, we successfully integrated the CUES pathway into the practice and my IP qualification came in really useful for this. We were seeing in excess of 10 emergency patients a week sent via various channels. This has been a real success in our area and the IP qualification is a real bedrock of the service.



Drew Thompson MCOptom Dip Tp (IP) independent optometrist



Supporting your profession

As the professional body for optometry, one of our key roles is to provide practical and timely support and guidance to optometrists. Our members rely on us to provide evidence-based information and advice, along with the tools and resources they need to deliver effective eye care and a safe, professional service.

The College's Guidance for Professional Practice is based on the GOC's Standards of Practice for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians, and is there to support optometrists in putting those standards into practice. The Guidance is reviewed in consultation with practitioners and updated every three years, and this year we carried out consultations from October 2019 onwards, with a view to publishing an updated version in January 2021.

When the pandemic took hold, there was a pressing need for guidance for adapted practices. So we started to develop COVID-19 Guidance, based on directives from the government and national health bodies.



Scheme for Registration
Update videos viewed
27,312 times

Our COVID-19 Guidance is cited by NHS England and all the UK health authorities, ABDO, AOP, GOC and FODO. In April, after consultation with members and key stakeholders, we produced a 'traffic light table', a useful reference that outlined adaptations to practice in different phases of the pandemic. We also developed and regularly updated more than 70 FAQs to complement and contextualise new and changing COVID-19 guidance, between March and September.

Dedicated pages on our website became the hub for all COVID-19 related information and advice. From 20 February onwards, members were directed to new website content via often daily emails and social media posts. As well as the written FAQs, we regularly held live Q&A sessions with our clinical advisers on social media, and posted onto YouTube. Our clinical advisers were also providing 1-1 support to members. There was a significant rise in the number of members getting in touch as we moved into lockdown – increasing from 208 enquires in the first three months of the College year to 418 in the following quarter.



The College has been an excellent support, and the clinical advisers responded quickly and concisely to my questions. The traffic light system was clear, makes sense and allows competent optometrists to use their judgement. The email updates and alerts were excellent, and improved through the pandemic, as the College learned how to respond to Government announcements.



Gerard Fernandes BSc (Hons)
MCOptom DipGlauc DipTp (IP),
Optometrist Director independent
practice, Glaucoma Specialist
Optometrist I Bristol Eye Hospital

The College's careers and professional development journal, Acuity, has kept members informed on the leading issues of the day, publishing articles on topics as diverse as the degree apprenticeship debate, to the hidden dangers of papilloedema. Digital Acuity adapted quickly to prioritise COVID-19 content. Our most viewed article was 'Vitamin D and COVID-19' which garnered more than 14,000 page views. Use of the College's online library and information services soared during the lockdown, and were accessed by members more than 2,500 times.

Based on member feedback, we developed a range of practical resources for optometrists to use in practice and for remote consultations. These included a clinical telephone/video review form, a visual acuity chart for remote consultations, risk assessment forms for employees, symptoms posters for the four nations, and vibrant floor stickers to encourage social distancing.

The pandemic has had a huge impact, not only on our members' professional practice and financial wellbeing, but also on their personal and emotional health. Lockdown can be very isolating so, to help our members stay connected, we launched a series of nine College Coffee Breaks for locums, NQOs, independent practice members and others to share their experiences.

Members could also share experiences via the College's social media accounts. Our Day in the Life series showed the diverse lockdown experiences of members; some working in adapted practice, some taking on new challenges and roles in eye care and some doing something completely different!

We also produced a series of three podcasts, the Eyes and Lows of Lockdown, with the interviews conducted by Council member, Parth Shah FCOptom, covering wellbeing, business response and workforce development.



26% increase in page views on College website (total 4.1 million)



64,291 page views for digital Acuity



16,714 podcast plays



316% increase in webinars and peer discussions



“

The College’s clinical advisors have been invaluable during the pandemic. Their guidance documents and support when contacted have been very clear – and speedy. You are never left not knowing what to do if you are stuck. We had the posters in our practices and used the telephone consultation forms throughout. The modified routine table was also very handy.

”

Sarah Joyce BEM MCOptom, Optical Compliance Team,
Asda

Developing your profession

Advances in technology, changing demographics within society, and the need to relieve pressure on hospital services by bringing the management of a range of eye conditions into community practice, are having a profound effect on how optometry is delivered. This is leading to new eye care service delivery models and career pathways, requiring new and different skill sets – and fundamental change in all aspects of professional development, from undergraduate courses and the Scheme for Registration, to CET and higher qualifications. The College has a leading role in the advancement of optometry and is working to ensure that new and current practitioners are able to benefit from the opportunities of a changing eye care profession.



At the beginning of the year, the strategic focus of the education team was informing the final phase of the GOC's Education Strategic Review and updating the education requirements and route to registration. Our aim was to ensure that optometry education is updated to meet changing needs, and that any change is enacted safely and fairly – particularly in the context of COVID-19. Our Director of Education, Sally Gosling, was part of the GOC's Expert Advisory Group (EAG), helping to shape the new outcomes for registration and the standards for education providers.

When the pandemic hit, we had to shift our focus to the current Scheme – adapting in-practice work-based assessments, as well as the final examination, and ensuring the safety of all those involved whilst still meeting the GOC's requirements.



522 new trainees
enrolled onto the
Scheme for Registration



170 optometrists
IP qualified

Early on in the pandemic, and with GOC approval, we extended the time that trainees have to complete the Scheme, and supervision arrangements became more flexible and intuitive. We designed and launched a virtual hospital eye service placement for those trainees unable to secure face-to-face experience. We worked to make specific changes to each stage of the Scheme, and agreed to allow final year university students to pick up any outstanding competencies in their pre-registration period, ensuring they could graduate as planned in the summer of 2020. To prepare trainees for this adapted Scheme, we produced an online Preparing for pre-registration course, with the support of learning materials from DOCET, Boots Opticians, the Optometry Schools Council, Specsavers and Vision Express. We made revisions to the final assessment in order to provide a safe and effective examination in pandemic conditions, and were pleased to be able deliver this safely to trainees in September 2020.

Trainees at all stages of the Scheme were understandably anxious about the situation. We endeavoured to ensure that they were kept fully informed and that their concerns were addressed in a relevant and timely way. In addition to the usual emails, social media updates, and an FAQ page on the website, we produced videos featuring our Head of Assessment, and live Instagram Q&As with the College's Lead and Deputy Lead Assessors. Our Scheme for Registration Update videos, launched in April, have been our most viewed videos to date, with more than 27,000 views.



266 members achieved a Higher Qualification bringing the total to **2238**



Nine online COVID-19 related courses produced for pre-registration trainees

Supporting learning and career development

Our annual events calendar helps members to develop their skills and knowledge and gain CET points, and network with peers and College Council and staff to share ideas and feedback. In October 2019, we hosted Optometry Tomorrow Bitesize in Milton Keynes – a mini version of the College's 2019 conference – and between October and December we ran five regional events. More than 550 members attended.

In February, we ran what was to be our last live event of the year, the College's annual conference – Optometry Tomorrow 2020. More than 680 delegates attended a weekend packed with lectures, seminars and workshops, and a trade exhibition. In March, we moved our regional CET events online, and between March and September we delivered 30 online peer discussion sessions, including three for IP optometrists. We had over 1000 attendees at this series of events.

The majority of our CET provision is available through our dedicated online learning area, and we swiftly moved to produce new content to support members in adapted practice. New College courses covered; practising during COVID-19, planning for post-pandemic business, Independent Prescribing and OCT.

DOCET was set up, and is funded by the government to provide high quality CET for optometrists. It is managed and delivered by the College, and we ensure that there is effective coverage of all key learning themes and topics. DOCET released its first course of a comprehensive six part series on glaucoma in October 2019, and a four part course on dry eye disease in February. In June, the DOCET team launched 'Sound Optometry' – an audio series combining a case study followed by an in depth discussion, and more than 2000 listeners tuned in between June and September. Specific lockdown provision included a webinar on effective remote patient consultation in June, attended by more than 1500 optometrists.

Early on in the pandemic, we engaged with the GOC to make the case for expediting the review of IP education arrangements to meet increasing demand for IP optometry capacity. In May 2020, we delivered the first ever IP final assessment through an online platform, and ran additional exams in June. The summer sitting had 16% more candidates than for the same sitting in the previous year and, over the year, we enabled 170 optometrists to become qualified independent prescribers.

The College's higher qualifications enable optometrists to take on greater responsibility and follow new career paths in a changing eye health service, and there has been growing interest from members in these qualifications. We have worked with providers to ensure that higher qualifications can continue to be delivered under COVID-19, and have approved changes to 22 courses. This year, working with providers, we started on a thorough review of our higher qualifications and completed a two-way mapping of these to The Ophthalmic Common Clinical Competency Framework, funded by Health Education England.



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Throughout the last few months, I have felt a little lost and frustrated, due to the lack of routine and loss of regular daily work. But over time, I have been able to pick myself up and appreciate the support system around me. To try and keep motivated and up-to-date, I've attended a number of webinars and used the helpful resources from the College to guide me through this time. It's likely we will be returning to a very different profession than the one we left behind, so it's good to keep updated where possible.

”

Tulsi Parekh MCOptom, research optometrist at Moorfields Eye Hospital

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I qualified as an independent prescriber in December 2019. During the first lockdown, our local eye department contacted me to set up a new scheme called Leicester Urgent Eye Care Scheme (LUECS) to utilise my IP skills and ensure patients who were anxious about attending the HES were able to be seen and treated. I was seeing a variety of existing and new patients presenting with various conditions, both anterior and posterior – pretty much everything. I was given an FP10 prescription pad by the local HES and I've prescribed a variety of different ocular medications. Higher qualifications such as IP make our job so much more rewarding and enjoyable.

”

Dilraj Gumber MCOptom DipTp(IP),
optometrist for a multiple practice



October

Seventh OT Bitesize in Milton Keynes

First consultation on new Guidance for Professional Practice

December

College announces Council elections results

**February**

First COVID-19 update sent on 20 February

Optometry Tomorrow 2020

Colin Davidson FCOptom becomes College President

April

College supports four collaborative applications to COVID-19 research funding streams, ensuring eye health and optometry research is represented

Scheme for Registration Update videos launched

June

First College Coffee Break

DOCET launches 'Sound Optometry' audio series

**August**

The College and RCOphth announce a joint vision for our two professions to work together to support the delivery of safe and sustainable eye care services in England

Professor Mark Rosenfield MCOptom, PhD, FAAO appointed as Editor-in-Chief for OPO

Optometrists' Formulary updated

Our year

November

More than 350 MCOptoms welcomed to the College at annual Diploma Ceremony

College issues position statement on degree apprenticeship in optometry

**January**

The College, AOP and RCOphth publish a joint statement on improving referrals in England.

College responds to consultation on an optometrist apprenticeship standard

March

OPO annual feature issue celebrates women in vision science research

College issues guidance for telephone consultancy

May

First remote IP examination

**July**

OPO features COVID-19 and the Eye (Lawrenson and Buckley)

Joint webinar with RCOphth; How to implement CUES to support a collaborative care pathway for urgent eye conditions in the COVID-19 era

September

National Eye Health Week – we focus on mask wearing



Trustees

Colin Davidson FCOptom
DipTp(IP)
President

Professor Leon Davies
FCOptom PhD FAAO SFHEA
Vice President

Dr Rob Hogan PhD
MCOptom
Co-opted Trustee, Chair of
DOCET

Professor Edward Mallen PhD
MCOptom
Immediate Past President

Dr Aleksandra Mankowska
MCOptom
Treasurer, Chair of the
Professional Conduct
Committee

Dr Joy Myint FCOptom Prof
Cert LV FHEA
Trustee

Sheetal Patel MCOptom,
Dip(Tp)IP
Trustee

Mark Redhead MA, MBA,
FRSA
Lay Trustee, Chair of the Lay
Advisory Panel

Dr Gillian Rudduck PhD
MCOptom Prof Cert Glau Dip
TP (IP)

Trustee, Chair of the Education
and Standards Committee

Dr Parth Shah PhD
MCOptom MBA (Cantab)
Trustee

Kiki Soteri MSc
MCOptom DipTP(IP)
FHEA ProfCertGlau
ProfCertMedRet
Trustee, Vice Chair of the
Education and Standards
Committee

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Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt
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DipTP(IP)
Co-opted Trustee, Chair of the
Board of Trustees

College Council

East Midlands



Kyla Black BSc
MCOptom



Hassnain Safdar
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Eastern



Professor Peter Allen
PhD FCOptom



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Dr Irene Ctori
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Dr Joy Myint
FCOptom Prof Cert
LV FHEA



Meera Shah
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Nitika Sondhi
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North East



Dr George Anthony
Gibson FCOptom



Andrew McGregor
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Robert Harper DPhil
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Matt Roney
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Dr Gillian Rudduck
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Northern Ireland



Lorcan Butler
MCOptom



**Professor Kathryn
Saunders** FCOptom



Dr Laura E Sweeney
MCOptom DipTp(IP)



Kathryn Trimmer BSc
MCOptom DipTp(IP)



Johnathan Waugh
MCOptom DipTp (IP)

Scotland

College Council continued

South East



Colin Davidson
FCOptom DipTp(IP) –
President



Lucy Blown
MCOptom Prof Cert
Glauc



Sheetal Patel
MCOptom, Dip(Tp)IP



Eddie Pigott
MCOptom

South West



Stephanie Campbell
MCOptom



Kiki Soteri MSc
MCOptom DipTP(IP)
FHEA ProfCertGlauc
ProfCertMedRet



Jodie Wearne
MCOptom

Wales



Clare Pearce
MCOptom



**Dr David Grant
Robinson MCOptom**
FHEA Prof Cert Glauc
Prof Cert LV Prof Cert
Med Ret



Shamina Asif
MCOptom



Prab Boparai
MCOptom



**Professor Leon
Davies PhD FCOptom**
PhD FAAO SFHEA –
Vice President



**Professor Edward
Mallen MCOptom**
– Immediate Past
President



**Dr Aleksandra
Mankowska**
MCOptom –
Treasurer

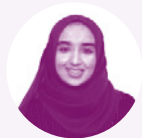


Barbara Watson MSc
FCOptom DCLP

West Midlands

Yorkshire and Humber

Early Career Representatives



Rashida Makda BSc



**Mohammed Bilal
Saleem BSc**



Andrea Clerk MBA,
CIPD



Katie Engel LLB



Rekha Randhawa MA



Mark Redhead MA,
MBA, FRSA



Will Holmes MPhil
PGCertMedEd
MCOptom
MAcadMed FHEA

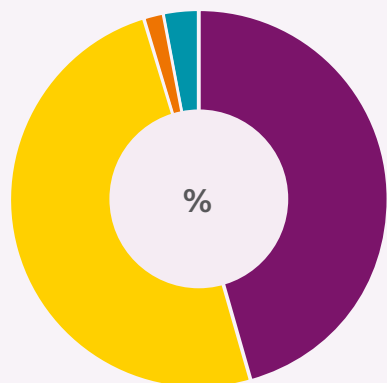
Lay Advisory Panel Representatives

Optometry Schools Council Representative

Financials

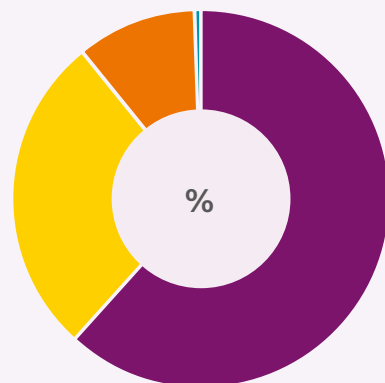
Income

● Education	45.8%
● Membership	49.5%
● Research	1.8%
● Investment income	2.9%
Total income	£5,602,875



Expenditure

● Education	61.7%
● Membership	27.6%
● Research	10.2%
● Investment fees	0.5%
Total expenditure	£6,507,565



Balance sheet

Fixed assets	
Tangible fixed assets	£3,033,561
Investments	£5,140,487
Total	£8,174,048

Current assets

Debtors	£223,048
Cash at bank and in hand	£2,401,977
Total	£2,625,025

Liabilities

Creditors due within one year	£3,331,171
Net current liabilities	£(706,146)

Net assets	£7,467,902
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Restricted funds

Research fund	£393,734
DOCET and PrOVIDe	£421,831

Unrestricted funds

Designated funds	£3,573,554
General funds	£3,078,783
Total charity funds	£7,467,902



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Returning to work after the first national lockdown, I felt anxious and uncertain. It felt like I was starting a whole new job. The College provided the support and information I needed to get up to speed with new regulations and guidance and adapt to the changes in the way we worked. I carefully read the FAQs on the College website, and researched how our local hospital scheme would be running during the pandemic.

A patient's history and symptoms are key to phone triage and I used the College website to brush up on my knowledge. The College's triage forms and guidance were very helpful in structuring the call and making sure I covered all the key areas.

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Insiyah Bharmal MCOptom, optometrist at Vision Express Nottingham.



THE COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRISTS

You can keep up with the College – and
join the conversation – throughout the year
by following us on social media.



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The College of Optometrists is a
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