



optometryscotland

# newsletter

March 2009

Striving to create a world class eye health and primary eyecare service for the people of Scotland

## Welcome

WELCOME to Newsletter No 2. We have been delighted with the response from our 1st Newsletter and are pleased to tell you that we've had a lot of practices and individual optometrists joining OS since then. This really does make such a difference to the work that we can do.

We would like to congratulate Donald Cameron and Janet Pooley in their new posts as Optometry Programme Directors with National Education Scotland (NES). It's only been one week since they started and already they've made significant advances; we are confident that they will ensure the future training needs of the Profession are both captured and delivered.

Unfortunately Donald's new position means he is stepping down as vice-chair of OS; we are all sad about this but extremely grateful for all the work that Donald has put in to being vice-chair in his time in the role. The good news however is that he will still be involved with OS and we'll still be able to call upon his expertise. In the meantime OS are looking to appoint a new vice-chair and we will let you know as soon as we know who this person is.

Please read on for an update on the work of Optometry Scotland and if you would like to contact OS, please email Debbie at [debbie.mcgill@optometryscotland.org.uk](mailto:debbie.mcgill@optometryscotland.org.uk).

Gill Syme  
Chairman



## Scottish Parliament meetings



Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Optometry Scotland Chair Gill Syme

DEBBIE, Stuart Crawford and I continue to meet with senior MSPs' at the Scottish Parliament.

We recently met with members of the Health and Sport Committee, we highlighted current optometric issues with a number of the MSP's on this committee.

They all seem very interested and supportive of our cause. The AOC leads attached to the OS Council will hopefully be inviting their local MSP's into their practice again soon to promote Optometry to members of the Scottish Parliament.

## £1 million Training Grant – NES (National Education Scotland)

THE £1 million training grant has now been transferred to NES.

Optometry Scotland is working closely with National Education Scotland on the training requirements for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians. Donald Cameron and Janet Pooley are leading the NES Advisory Committee that will consist of representatives from OS, GOC,



## Optometry Scotland IN THE MEDIA

OPTOMETRY Scotland have had some great hits in the media recently. We are always keen to hear from you on patient success stories that you think might be of interest to the press!

Please contact Debbie McGill at the OS office for more information on how to do this.

The College and Glasgow Caledonian University.

Please note that OS represent you and welcome any suggestions you

have regarding training, refresher and advanced courses.

Please email Debbie at the OS office with any suggestions you may have.



## OPTOMETRY SCOTLAND

OUR aim is 'to develop, maintain and promote a world class eye health and primary eye-care service for the people of Scotland'.

We work to achieve this aim by:

- Striving for the highest possible standards of professional competence and care within the optometric professions.
- Securing funding to enable Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians and their staff to provide high quality equitable services across Scotland and thereby equipping practices to the highest practical standards and enabling and encouraging ongoing training and personal development for Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians and their staff.
- Working towards the elimination of avoidable blindness through the early detection and appropriate management of eye disease, thereby complying with the VISION 2020 directive .
- Working with other relevant stakeholders, organisations, and the media, to raise awareness of the importance of regular eye examinations and extended specialist services provided within optometry practice.

Thank you to all our members, we could not carry out this important work without your support.

## E-referral development progress

OPTOMETRY SCOTLAND negotiated with the Scottish Government Health Directorate to have all Optometrists in Scotland electronically linked to the NHS net which will allow email access to Ophthalmology and GP's, resulting in online referrals and pictures being sent down the line securely.

The benefits of this service are endless, March 2009 is the deadline for the outline business case and following this it moves to full business plan. It is hoped the system will be in place by 2011 where all practices in Scotland will be e-referring!!

Not only this but we will be able to communicate electronically with PSD too which will allow us to send claims more efficiently.

The SGHD have agreed to investigate the possibility of IT connections throughout Scotland and there is a process we have to go through to do this.

We are at the very early stages of this project, however the wheels are in motion.

Two groups have been setup to take this forward. The IT Project Group and the IT Project Review Group. Both of these groups have representation



from Health Board officials, Computer Technicians, PSD, SGHD, Optometry and Ophthalmology.

Debbie McGill from OS will chair the IT Project Review Group. This group will investigate all issues around electronic linking. Debbie will be sending a questionnaire to all practices soon, OS urge everyone to

complete and return this, it is essential to allow us to move forward for our e-referral date of 2011. We don't want anyone missing out!

## PSD rejection letters update

IN September 2008, Debbie McGill and Frank Munro from Optometry Scotland met with PSD. The meeting was held to discuss rejection letters that have been received from the GOS 1 form submitted to PSD.

PSD presented 4 alternative options to the 4 page error letter which you might have received recently. Frank and Debbie both confirmed that the best option would be to send one covering letter along with a copy of the original form submitted highlighting the error. To view this option please log on to: [www.psd.scot.nhs.uk/professionals/ophthalmic/docs/ophthalmicRTC.pdf](http://www.psd.scot.nhs.uk/professionals/ophthalmic/docs/ophthalmicRTC.pdf)



Debbie and Frank from OS with John McCartney from PSD

PSD agreed to implement this change but will have to make significant amendments to their system to do so. In the meantime if you require guidance on the error messages received, please refer to: [www.psd.scot.nhs.uk/professionals/ophthalmic/error-messages.html](http://www.psd.scot.nhs.uk/professionals/ophthalmic/error-messages.html)

## Newly formed SEG group



Members from Optometry and Ophthalmology working together

MEMBERS of the OS Executive committee, the RNIB and Eyecare Scotland have joined forces to form the Scottish Eyecare Group. The aim of the group is to promote and implement the workings of both Optometry and Ophthalmology.

The SEG met with Shona Robinson MSP recently where she endorsed the work of the group and expressed her encouragement in joint working between both professions, by supporting the setup of managed clinical care networks for eyecare.

The Scottish Government are happy to support SEG and will encourage health boards to establish networks.

## Subscribe to OS NOW!

IF you are a full time practice, all we ask for is £67 per month, less than the cost of two eye examinations. For individual Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians the cost is £5 per month.

If you have a part-time practice and would like to be an OS member then we can negotiate a discounted rate for you.

Please contact Debbie at the OS office on 0141 202 0610 to discuss further.

## Locums List

THANK you to everyone who has signed up to Optometry Scotland and would like to be included in the locum list.

Once employment checks have been finalised the list will be published on the OS website in March 2009.

Please note that Practices will still be liable to check confirmation of certificates upon employment.