

Extending the Role of Community Based Eyecare

THE AARON CHALLENGE

Technology versus Advanced Qualifications.

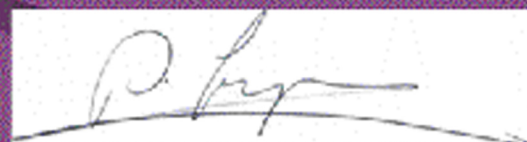
While both are important, technology in isolation is of limited value without the advanced qualifications to interpret!

We are somewhat cynical of the increasing boasts of multinationals suggesting they are innovators making available the latest technologies for patient care. We challenge this and pose the question. Why now? The technology has been available for some time, did patients not deserve it previously?

Who are we?

Dr Peter Frampton (Owner of Aarons) is proud to have been one of the first 30 Optometrists in the UK to become an Independent Prescribing (Medical) Optometrist. The ability to prescribe and treat directly, without referral, is a fundamental change to clinical care in the community. To enable a complete patient journey, Peter only employs Medical (IP) Optometrists. Aarons remain the only practice in Northumberland to offer continuous access to Medical Optometrists; a valuable service.

Our commitment to enhancing community care is reflected not simply by this policy. Our track record, for all our colleagues, reflects ongoing training and clinical advancement. If you value care please read more, our extended qualifications are open for inspection.



Dr Peter Frampton BOptom MSc FCOptom BAppSc(Optom)(AUS)
DipTp(AS) DipTp(SP) DipTp(IP)

[Read More](#)

Technology must be coupled with qualifications (hard won). A technician can capture an image, the clinical skill is in interpreting the results. Interpretative skill is where the value of 'Medical (IP) Optometrists' lies. Our commitment to the medical ethics of optometry practice is explicitly stated on the home page of the Aaron website (pictured left). This long term policy is not simply to try to impress consumers. It is because achieving the highest educational qualifications, combined with technological innovation, is self-evidently the correct course of action for patient care within the community.

An historical review of our long term commitment.

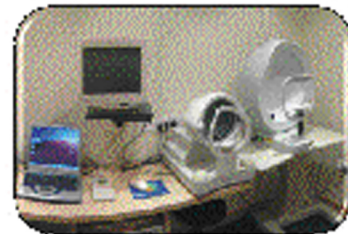
We remain vanguards in technology innovation.

TECHNOLOGY IN PRACTICE



Retinal photography introduced, when polaroid film was still necessary! Over 20 years ahead of mainstream.

1994



Automated Computer controlled perimetry



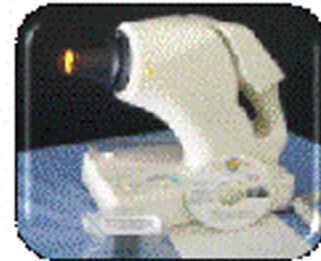
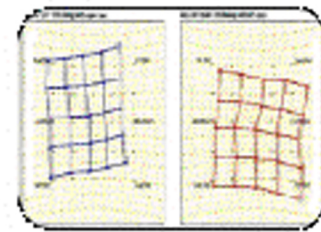
Corneal Topography for earliest detection of Keratoconus. Alongside Retinoscopy, vital for assessing all young people. Remains the only practice in Northumberland with this technology.

1996



GDx: Retinal Nerve Scanner for enhanced glaucoma detection.

2003



Computerised HESS for Binocular Vision assessment. We also upgraded our Topographer for Keratoconus detection. These technologies remain unavailable locally in community Optometry.

2004



Retinoscopy and Keratoconus With the advent of effective treatments for Keratoconus it is ethically wrong not to actively look for the signs in ALL young people.

As a profession we should never forget **RETINOSCOPY!**

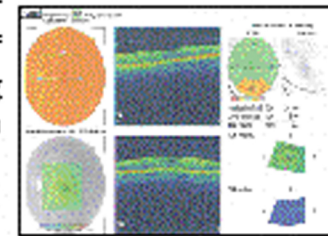
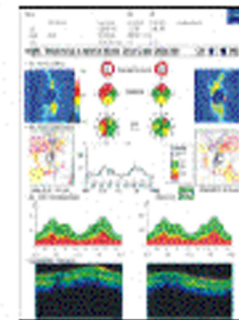
An old technique, retinoscopy is essential for the diagnosis of Keratoconus. Often ignored by certain groups to increase testing speed, this hand held device remains mandatory in Aarons and most independent practices.



Pachymetry: an instrument to measure corneal thickness. A vital measure for the detection and treatment of Glaucoma as recommended by NICE in 2009. Aarons incorporated pachymetry into routine practice for glaucoma immediately after its recommendation by NICE.

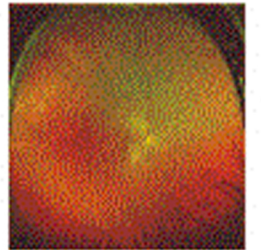
2009

Macula tomography for earliest detection of retinal disease including Macular Degeneration



2011 also saw the upgrading of our 'Retinal Nerve' scanner for early detection of Glaucoma (initially invested in 2003).

2011



Costing in excess of £80,000 the Optos, for aiding the detection of retinal holes and tears in the far peripheral retina is planned.

2018

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

'Medical Optometrists':
Technology can never replace qualifications and hard earned experience.

2001 - 2005

Peter Frampton commenced his Masters Degree in Ocular Therapeutics, 15 years before a national strategy on advanced qualifications was agreed.

Peter received an MSc with Distinction in 2005.



2004
Andrew Watson becomes Aarons' 'Specialist Contact Lens' practitioner. Fitting an extended range of lenses for severe prescriptions and therapeutic lenses.

2004 - 2009

Overlapping with the MSc Peter Frampton was a member of the first group to commence study for the qualifications of 'Additional Supply' and 'Supplementary Prescribing'. Preliminaries prior to 'Independent Prescribing' becoming a legal reality. Peter was successful in achieving both qualifications.



2009
Peter Frampton is very proud to be one of the first 30 optometrists in Britain to become a Medical 'Independent Prescribing' Optometrist.

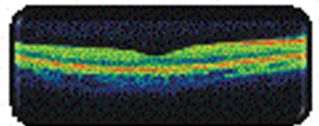


2011 - 2017

Taking 6 years to complete Peter Frampton became **Dr Peter Frampton** having completed his Doctorate investigating aspects of glaucoma management.



2017
Debbie Liu-Tam successfully completed her 'Medical Retina' qualification; essential to interpret modern scanning techniques.



2016 - 2018

Early next year Andrew Watson will also become a Medical (IP) Optometrist.

2013 - 2015

After 2 years of intense study Debbie Liu-Tam joined Peter as our second Independent Prescribing (Medical) Optometrist



Award winning practice

Little wonder Aarons is a multi award winning practice.



Dr Peter Frampton was made a 'Fellow' of the College of Optometrists for his 'Commitment to Clinical Excellence' To be recognised by your peers is a great accolade.

Our Second NHS Care Trust 'Innovation in Practice' award for demonstrating excellence in the manner in which they work and services provided.



- We were the first ever recipient of:
- 'Outstanding Optometrist of the Year'.

Dr Peter Frampton became an honorary lecturer at Manchester University



Our first NHS Care Trust 'Innovation in Practice' award was way back in 2003!

Aaron's became one of three community optometrists in the country to be selected to work alongside Manchester University's Master of Optometry course. Mentoring these high achieving students.



With our significant ongoing investment, Aarons won 'Technology Practice of the Year'.

- With the long term investment came:
- Winner of 'Technology Practice of the Year'