



Outstanding  
Optometrist  
of the Year

INDEPENDENT  
Prescribing  
OPTOMETRISTS

## Extending the Role of Community Based Eyecare

### Further accolades and honours for Aaron Optometrists

Apart from the huge financial investment, Peter has achieved a number of things over the years to clinically put Aarons and the North East firmly on the map.



Most recently we were approached by Manchester University to be an associate practice for their elite 'Masters of Optometry' programme. Only four clinical centres are involved: The Royal Victoria Infirmary

(Newcastle), Royal Manchester Hospital, Nick Rumney (BBR Optometrists Hereford) and Aarons. Our first 'Masters' Pre-Reg, Ruchi Gupta joined us in January 2013. Each student stays with us six months before, or after, their hospital placement. In January 2013 Peter Frampton was also made an honorary lecturer at Manchester University.

Other university affiliations include Glasgow Caledonia where Peter completed his Independent Prescriber qualification. He now co-presents the opening lecture for the new intake of qualified optometrists wishing to pursue Therapeutic Prescribing. Also Aston University where Peter is currently doing his doctoral research in Glaucoma.



Peter also co-authored and co-presents the 2-day 'Red Eye' seminar at Johnson and Johnson Vision Care Institute.

## Higher Qualifications: Do patients deserve the effort?

The need to change the way optometry works has been evident for many years. Fortunately, for community health care, things are changing. Some of us, but by no means all, have advanced qualifications to ensure we are recognised as primary health care practitioners rather than spectacle sellers. The clinical role of optometry must not be masked by its' over represented commercial image.

Peter Frampton is committed to changing this perception.

As early as 2001 Peter Frampton commenced his Masters Degree in Ocular Therapeutics at Bradford University; achieving an MSc with Distinction. While continuing education may not bring immediate financial returns, it helps enormously in day-to-day clinical practice.



Since then he has attained Additional Supply and Supplementary Prescribing qualifications; the first stepping stones of the optometry profession toward a medical status. Those qualified can prescribe an increased, but still limited, range of drugs to treat non-sight threatening ocular conditions.

However the most significant change to the way optometrists can practice came in 2009 with Independent Prescriber status. An Independent Prescribing Optometrist can 'prescribe any licensed medicine for ocular conditions'.

Peter is very proud to have been one of the first 30 optometrists in Britain to achieve Independent Prescribing qualifications; there are currently only about 200 independent prescriber optometrists in all of Britain so quite an exclusive group.



THE CEREMONY CELEBRATED THE GROUNDBREAKING ACHIEVEMENT OF OPTOMETRY'S FIRST INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBERS

### Awarding of the Diploma in Therapeutics – Independent Prescribing

Presented by the President, Dr Rob Hogan to Pradeep Kumar Bahri, Susan Bowers, David Burghardt, Peter Frampton, Clare Green, Dr Robert Harper, Samara Hodi, Joanne Mackenzie, Cora Macleod, Gary Orriss, Kate Powell, Dr Paul Spry, Margaret Timlin, Dr Cindy Tromans, Geoffrey Wayte and Angela Whitaker

### Awarding of the Diploma in Therapeutics – Additional Supply and the Diploma in Therapeutics – Additional Supply and Supplementary Prescribing

Presented by the President, Dr Rob Hogan to Peter Frampton, Joanne Mackenzie and Naomi Stringer

# IN FOCUS

The newsletter for the College of Optometrists

Spring 2010

## Achievements celebrated at College Ceremony

Over 200 diplomates joined together on Tuesday 9 February to celebrate their entry to the profession and membership of the College of Optometrists. The Diploma Presentation Ceremony is one of the highlights of the College year; around 800 guests attended the Ceremony, held at Central Hall Westminster, London.

The Ceremony was a historic occasion, marking the award of the first ever Diploma in Therapeutics, Independent Prescribing. 16 of the 30 candidates who qualified as Independent Prescribers, following the first sitting of the exam last November, were recognised at the Ceremony.

This group are qualified to prescribe any licensed medicine for ocular conditions affecting the

**"The Ceremony was a historic occasion, marking the award of the first ever Diploma in Therapeutics, Independent Prescribing."**

eye and adnexa, within their recognised area of expertise and competence.

Dr Rob Hogan, President of the College

offered his congratulations to the group, telling them that they were at the leading edge of the development of optometry in the UK.

Opening the Ceremony, Dr Hogan reminded new members that each of them was an ambassador for the profession. He went on to say; "Life is about relationships, and it is the quality of the relationships you forge with each and every one of your patients that will make them return, asking to see you each and every future time. Involve them during the short time you spend together, help patients to understand the importance of eye care and your role in providing it."

Unfortunately commissioning groups have not, as yet, considered a budget to utilise, via the NHS, these qualified clinical optometrists and so we are forced to charge privately; although most people value the locally available scheme. Lack of funding however must not stop us striving for improvements. It is sad but true that a common reason for not pursuing extra skills is simply financial. Why go through a tough, time consuming and expensive process which will not necessarily be remunerated? Peter simply can't agree with this sentiment. Regardless of financial difficulties patients should be allowed choice. You should not have to face a drive to the RVI if this can be avoided. Our goal is to be able to supply a total service. For our contact lens patients there is an ethical reason for pursuing prescribing status:

### **An Enhanced Contact Lens Service**

**The ability to treat complications immediately and without referral to hospitals means our contact lens patients can be looked after even more promptly and efficiently.**



## Previous Achievements culminating in a 'Fellowship'

Our very first award was way back in 2003; a Northumberland Care Trust 'Innovation in Practice Pushing the Boundaries' award in recognition for our Patient Transport service for less mobile patients. It is a service we supply free, it is not funded by the NHS but it allows patients to attend a fully equipped optometric practice.

Commitment to both our enhanced service programme and our more traditional roles was recognised when we won : 'Outstanding Optometrist of the Year'; the very first practice to be awarded this honour. This represented recognition on a national level the work we have put into improving patient care. We continue to strive for the excellence expected of this honour. At the same ceremony we also won 'Technology Practice of the Year'.

Unprecedented for a largely private concern, Aarons has won not one but two Care Trust awards. Our second 'Innovation in Practice' award was in recognition for those having demonstrated excellence in the manner in which services are provided.

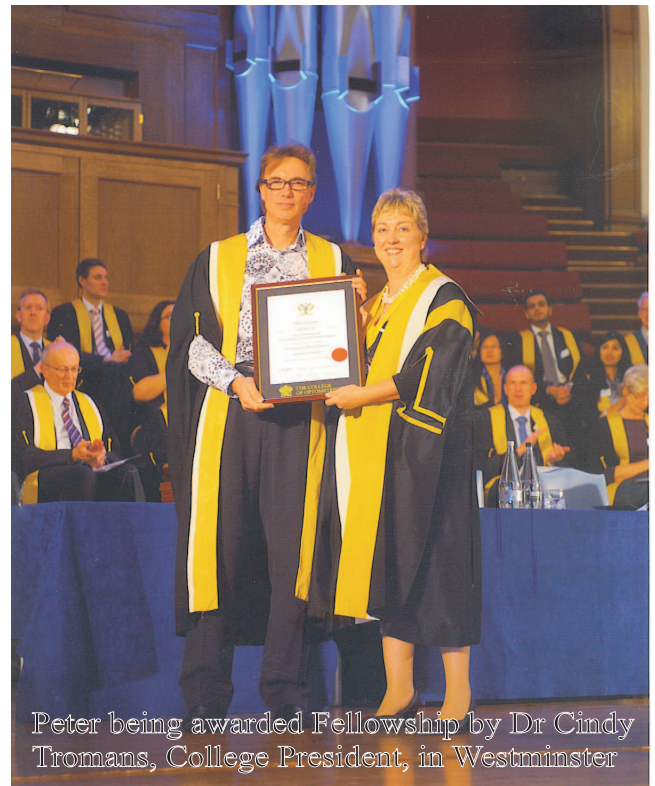
Peter Frampton Msc FCOptom BAppSc(Optom)(AUS)  
DipTp(AS) DipTp(SP) DipTp(IP)

### Peter Frampton is awarded 'Fellowship' of the College of Optometry

This commitment to improving the patient experience culminated in Peter Frampton being awarded 'Fellowship' of the College of Optometrists.

A Fellowship is the highest honour awarded by the college and the award citation reads :

*In recognition of his commitment  
to clinical excellence*



Peter being awarded Fellowship by Dr Cindy Tromans, College President, in Westminster

To be acknowledged by your peers is a great honour. We certainly do strive to give a clinically excellent service under extremely difficult financial constraints.