

aaron's update

Newsletter Number 34

Northumberland 


Innovation in Practice Awards



**Outstanding
Optometrist
of the Year**

Spring 2018

**MEDICAL
Optometrists**

Extending the Role of Community Based Eyecare



Medical Optometrists

The new way to
practice optometry

Dr Peter Frampton

DOptom MSc FCOptom
BAppSc(Optom)(AUS)
DipTp(AS) DipTP(SP) DipTP(IP)

Medical Optometrist,
Glaucoma Specialist

Andrew Watson

BSc (Hons) MCOptom
DipTP (IP) FBDO CL

Medical Optometrist

Debbie Liu Tam

BSc (Hons)
MCOptom Dip(IP)

Medical Optometrist,
Prof Cert Med Ret

Aaron's decision to only employ Medical Optometrists

Aarons has totally committed to the medical ethics of optometric practice. It is now Aaron policy to specifically employ Medical Optometrists. This decision is not to satisfy an immediate business strategy but because we have always believed achieving the highest educational qualifications, combined with technological innovation, is self-evidently the correct course of action for patient care within the community. Our stated Credo reads: The patient needs must be considered first with the well being and support for all colleagues an equal first. The business needs third. We believe if the first two goals are achieved business rewards will follow.

Aarons is the only optometrist in Northumberland with full time cover of Medical (IP) Optometrists ensuring a seamless service for our patients. Our hope is patients will value this commitment.

The majority of optometrists still need to refer acute or un-interpreted findings to a hospital based clinician. This incurs enormous inconvenience and cost in time for the patient; further the patient's GP surgery is charged by the hospital for the clinical service.

Medical Optometrists treat immediately with licensed drugs specific for the condition. The training to interpret advanced medical scanning techniques also ensures referral is on an intent-to-treat basis, not simply to have images interpreted by a clinician.

There are still very few Medical Optometrists practising in the community where they are needed most. It remains a very exclusive group.

'Medical Optometrists'. Technology cannot be a surrogate for qualifications, experience and competence

Investing in excellent diagnostic equipment, without the educational skills to interpret, results in unnecessary referral to a hospital system already under stress. Technology must be coupled with qualifications. 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.

The Aaron credentials:

Peter Frampton achieved a Masters Degree in Ocular Therapeutics with Distinction in 2001. He was one of the first to enrol on Additional Supply and Supplementary Prescribing courses in 2004. Independent Prescribing only became a legal reality in 2009. Peter is very proud to have been one of the first 30 optometrists in Britain to achieve Independent Prescribing qualifications. In 2017 he completed his Doctorate investigating aspects of glaucoma management. Debbie Liu Tam achieved Independent Prescribing in 2015 and has also finished her 'Medical Retina' certificate in 2017. Andrew Watson has now finished his Independent Prescribing study and is our Specialist Therapeutic Contact Lens practitioner.

