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The newsletter for AOP members

July 2007

AOP Runs Conference Week

The AOP is running five days of conferences in the Chesford Grange Hotel near Kenilworth in October (24-28). The

National Optometric Conference kicks off (24 & 25 October) with a dinner and then a day of political discussion and is followed by a half day of training for LOCs and AOCs (26 October) on practical business skills. On the same day there is a one day CET conference, offering 8 CET points. The CET day is followed by the

Hospital Optometrists Annual Conference (27 & 28 October), which offers a day and a half of CET, and also on the 28th there will be a conference for employed optometrists.

The AOP is working to provide members with forums through which they can improve their practice, use their skills more effectively and increase their potential earnings through delivering more and better services to patients.

The NOC

The NOC is a well established conference which supports practitioners who are involved (or want to be) in providing enhanced services to patients. Delegates discuss how best to approach commissioning NHS trusts in order to implement schemes to use optometrists to monitor diabetes, glaucoma and cataracts, to supply low vision aids, to provide for the special requirements of children. The AOP advises on how such approaches should be made and on how to assess the value of such services, to ensure that practitioners are rewarded realistically for their expertise.

LOC Training

Following the NOC there will be a half day of training for LOCs and AOCs, providing their officials with the business skills required to convince commissioners of the value of optometric involvement. Issues such as tendering, negotiation and writing business plans will be covered.

CET Day

The one day CET course, OT Live, can be booked as a whole day or as half days (morning or afternoon). 8 CET points will be on offer. The day will focus on the provision of

enhanced services in primary care through high street practice, using examples in clinical grand rounds to show how optometry can benefit patients, the NHS and the practitioner.

Hospital Optometrists Annual Conference

The Hospital Optometrists Annual Conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday (27th & 28th), providing CET points via courses aimed at optometrists who work in secondary care (either full time or on a sessional basis).

Employed Optometrists

There will be a conference for employed optometrists held on Sunday 28 October. This will discuss many of the issues which are peculiar to the employed – such as:

- Employment contracts
- Working for a multiple on your own terms
- The need for your own medical insurance
- Employment protection
- Pay negotiations
- Taxation

The NOC, the LOC training and OT Live can be booked now on the AOP web site, www.aop.org.uk.

The HOAC and the employed optometrists

conference will be on line by mid August. For further details contact Tracy Symons on 020 7787 1119, email tracysymons@aop.org.uk.



Chesford Grange Hotel



Conference room

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Former AOP chairman passes away



Margaret Packman

Former AOP chairman Margaret Packman passed away this month at the age of 53.

Ms Packman was Chairman of the AOP between 1993-1994. The contribution she made to the Association was reflected in the fact that she was granted honorary membership in 2003 after serving on the Council for 10 years.

Margaret qualified as an optometrist in 1976 after completing her pre-registration year at Moorfields Eye Hospital. She then followed her father into practice in South East London, eventually succeeding him as Managing Director in 1985.

Her career in the industry spanned 30 years and in this time she made contributions in many areas of eye care, and beyond. In the early part of her career she performed sessions for the Hospital Eye Service as well as her private practice. These skills were developed in the latter decade of her career as she became a behavioural optometrist with expertise dealing with the visual needs for children and adults with learning disabilities.

She served on the GOC from 1991-1996, was Chairman of her Local Optometric Committee, represented her colleagues on the Clinical Governance Committee and was Chair of the Professional Conduct board of the British Psychological Society.

AOP Chief Executive Bob Hughes said: "The Association's email system has been full of personal tributes to Margaret. Through her work, many optometrists benefited from her knowledge and generous ability to train others. She is missed by more people than she could possibly have thought."

WORLD SIGHT DAY CHALLENGE

Optometry's 'World Sight Day' Challenge

Optometry Giving Sight (OGS), the AOP's International Charity of Choice, has issued a challenge to all UK Optometrists. Thursday 11th October is World Sight Day and OGS is challenging Optometrists to donate the fees from their eye exams to help the estimated 13 million children world wide who are considered blind or visually impaired because they do not have access to a pair of spectacles.

OGS is the only global initiative that specifically targets preventable blindness due to refractive error. They hope that patients and students will also support the campaign by signing up to a regular donation of as little as £2.50 per month which is enough to provide an eye exam, a pair of glasses and training for local staff in countries that lack eye care services.

Optometrists who wish to participate in the World Sight Day Challenge should call 0207 202 8168, email uk@givingsight.org or visit www.givingsight.org

Diabetes UK launch



2007 Measure Up Campaign

At the end of August 2007, Diabetes UK will launch its latest UK wide campaign to increase awareness of Type 2 diabetes. Named 'Measure Up', it aims to identify the 750,000 people in the UK who remain undiagnosed with this form of diabetes. The campaign will run until November 2007.

The campaign will highlight a person's waist measurement as being one of the risk factors of diabetes. As well as a press campaign there will be a Roadshow visiting 21 towns and cities around the UK aiming to build on the 150,000 people who went to get tested on the back of last year's campaign. The roadshows will offer support, information and blood glucose tests.

If you would like to help promote the campaign there is a copy of the poster available for display in your practice. Call 0800 585 088 quoting reference OP07 and poster code 4890 or visit www.diabetes.org.uk/MeasureUp for more information.



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Government reshuffle – new ministers announced

Ann Keen MP was announced as the new minister for ophthalmic services this month, in Gordon Brown's first ministerial reshuffle as Prime Minister. She succeeds Rosie Winterton in the role.



Ann Keen

Ms Keen has been welcomed into the role by AOP Chief Executive Bob Hughes, who, in a joint letter with ABDO, FODO and the College of Optometrists, invited her to the National Optometric Conference in October. Mr Hughes said: "Ann comes to this post with a high reputation and understanding of the role as a former nurse. We look forward to having as close a relationship with her as with her predecessor Rosie Winterton."

Ms Keen has a nursing background working as a tutor nurse and a district nurse in the past. Her credentials in the healthcare sector are further enhanced by her work on the Health Select Committee, high-profile campaigning for a national cancer charity and serving as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Health until 2001.

She has been the MP for Brentford and Isleworth since 1997 and was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Gordon Brown whilst he was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Conservative party has appointed Anne Milton MP, also a former nurse, as Shadow Health Minister and their spokesperson for optics and. She is quoted as saying: "I am delighted that David Cameron has asked me to join the Health Team as a Shadow Minister. Having trained as a nurse... I hope to be able to use my experience to help and improve healthcare across the country."

Ms Milton has spoken in Parliament on a wide range of health issues including MRSA and access to NHS Services. Bob Hughes said: "In welcoming Anne Milton, the profession owes a debt of gratitude to her predecessor John Baron MP. Along with his colleagues in the Conservative Health Team he ensured that our points were solidly argued during the passage of the Health Act 2006 and played a significant part in reaching the favourable outcomes we achieved."



Anne Milton

Department of Health: find out what it really means!

The Department of Health has launched a new 'Glossary of Terms' on its website.

The aim is to offer a jargon-free glossary of over 300 terms used in health care and is primarily aimed at the public, although it does contain governmental terms.

The site actively encourages those who use it to give feedback about the glossary. To view the glossary, visit www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/DH_076439 and send any comments to the Department through their feedback form via email.



Domiciliary eye testing equipment.

As a resource to all of our members, the AOP website contains information for those who provide mobile ophthalmic services.

The section provides documents produced by the Eye Health alliance advising on different aspects of domiciliary eye care including a comprehensive equipment list. The list provides a guide for the equipment that may be needed when performing various tasks in the field. It is by no means exhaustive and is a single element in a larger source of documents that combine to provide a useful guide to domiciliary work.



To view the equipment list and other documents visit <http://www.aop.org.uk/1105722468.html>



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CET funding claim deadline.

The deadline for optometrists in England to claim their CET Funding from 2006 is rapidly approaching. In order to claim you must be an optometrist who has provided GOS for at least 6 months in 2006 and who carried out CET during 2006.

The fee payable by the Department of Health is £ 436 and the deadline for the claim to be submitted is 31st August 2007. For further information, including the English CET Claim form, please visit the CET section AOP's website at www.aop.org.uk

Pre-Registration Supervisors

The AOP has recently had requests for information regarding pre-registration supervision from members.

In order to become a pre-registration supervisor, a member must have been practicing for at least three years and be a member of the College of Optometrists.

The prospective supervisor should contact the College and they will put them on their list of supervisors. Once they have found a student to supervise, they will need to get a PR1 form from the College and submit it to them.

There is a £2,665 grant available for the supervisor which should be claimed from the supervisor's health authority. After six months from the commencement of the pre-registration period they can claim half of the grant from their Primary Care Trust or Local Health Board; the other half can be claimed at the end of the pre-reg period.

For further information contact the College of Optometrists, your local PCT or health board or the AOP.

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New marketing manager at ABDO



The Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) has appointed a new Marketing Manager, Michael Potter. Mr Potter qualified as a Dispensing Optician in 1977 then registered with the GOC and joined a practice in Kent. He then joined lens makers Rodenstock where he worked in marketing and sales, before assuming his new role at ABDO.

Mr Potter joins the Association on an initial six-month contract with a view to developing a marketing strategy for ABDO. Mr Potter said: "I am delighted to be offered this new challenge and look forward to playing a part in progressing the role and status of Dispensing Opticians".



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