



## Hants LOC –Review of the Year 2018/2019

---

At the AGM this year we are privileged to have Professor Pete Coffey from UCL come to talk about Stem Cell research and how it is hoped to completely change the way we view incurable conditions like dry AMD in the next few years.

This isn't futuristic –this is a man who is currently hoping to start a full clinical trial later on in the year and it is one more example of how the world of vision is changing.

Optometry as well is changing –now we have hundreds of patients being seen in practice across Hants each month in extended services, chief of which are MECS, IOP referral refinement, LVA's, post cataract exams and stable glaucoma monitoring.

With the advent of such services to West Hants and the extension of services such as OHT monitoring in practice to North Hants in the near future then a large amount of future practice will involve participation in these services.

To do this we need an accredited workforce and Hants LOC is currently in negotiation with WOPEC as to how we could provide training for a number of practitioners up to the Professional certificate in Glaucoma level in order to build their confidence in managing these patients and doing so reliably and safely.

The first steps to this is taking the WOPEC level 2 qualification in Glaucoma –there is a new assessment for this taking place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June in Optegra Eye Hospital in Fareham –codes for the online learning 1<sup>st</sup> part of the assessment may be obtained from Ian Silk at Hants LOC [isilk@hampshireloc.org.uk](mailto:isilk@hampshireloc.org.uk) if this is something which interests you as a practitioner.

If your interests are less specialised then participation in one of our CET events might be more to your taste.

This year Hants LOC's aim was to plan and deliver CET free to our members not only covering all GOC competencies but with enough points to cover a whole years CET requirements both for optometrists and dispensing opticians which we are well on the way to doing. If you want to be kept abreast of all developments again please send your contact details to Ian at the above address.

Hants LOC is a very broad church representing the interests of all contractors and performers in Hants. Our committee at present represents a wide spectrum of interests from DO run small independent practice to the largest of the multiples and a range of ages from the recently qualified to those of us heading for retirement.

I have been honoured to be a part of this committee and to chair it for the last three years and as I believe that all institutions benefit from a regular change in leadership I'm stepping down as chair at the next LOC meeting in July. I have no doubt that the committee will flourish and I strongly encourage those of you who feel that they have a few hours spare every month to further the interests of Optometry in Hants to consider joining.

I must admit that when I took the job on I didn't realise how far things would progress in such a short time and I look forward to the next few years where practices and patients thrive in Hants.

Roisin Carruthers-retiring chair of Hants LOC