

Mini-abstract

An experienced low vision optometrist reviews the current standards and reports on 3 years experience of an accredited DVLA fields practice. The author will review the scope of practice, role and responsibility of the optometrist advising low vision clients with a view of the issue of bioptic telescopes in the UK.

CV

I currently own and run a large full-time private optometric practice in Hereford. I am also Company Secretary and founding Director of Optometric Educators Ltd. In 2001 I was elected to the General Optical Council the body which regulates Optometry in the UK.

My main clinical interest is in visual impairment. I was the first UK optometrist to complete an MScOptom at the University of Melbourne having gained clinical experience in one of the world's first multi-disciplinary low vision clinics. I was also the first optometrist to sit the UK College Fellowship examination in Partial Sight (additional module Ocular Disease). I have been instrumental in expanding our practice into the provision of low vision care outside the normal hospital setting and in recognition of this we won the "Optician" "Specialty Practice award" in 1995. We are part of a Co-Management Project in Low Vision provision through optometric practice funded by the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust.

I have published over 30 papers in optometric journals, including: Journal of the Optical Society of America, Ophthalmic & Physiological Optics, Optometry & Vision Science, Optometry Today, Optician, British Journal of Visual Impairment, British Journal of Optometry and Dispensing. I present lectures and workshops to optometrists and ophthalmologists on low vision assessment, low vision management, investigative techniques, ocular therapeutics and red eye management. I have presented at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists 1996 and 1999 meetings.

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