



European Academy
of Optometry and Optics

MEMBERS NEWS

FRIDAY 19 AUGUST 2011

ACADEMY APPOINTS NEW EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LONDON – The European Academy has today announced the appointment of three new members to its Education Committee. Two members were reappointed:

New appointees:

- Prof Luca Benzoni, Italy
- Prof Peter Gierow, Sweden
- Dr Ellen Svarverud, Norway

Re-appointed:

- Mr Ignacio Costa, Spain
- Dr Julie-Anne Little, UK

This follows a nomination and selection process launched in May 2011 which resulted in a total of 12 nominations being received. In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Nominees were reviewed by the Board of Trustees to ensure the final Committee contains an appropriate representation of skills, specialties and geographic representation of the Academy's membership base.

The Education Committee was established to advise the Academy's Board of Trustees on all aspects of optical and optometric education and training throughout Europe. It is responsible for ensuring that the Academy promotes and supports activities which enable practitioners throughout Europe to develop high standards of professional competence. The Committee does this by advising the Board of Trustees on matters relating to:

- compliance with any relevant regulatory or legal requirements in Europe
- the areas of work about which the Academy should engage with education and training bodies within Europe and internationally
- the educational priorities for the Academy
- the assessment methods and standards for Fellowship of the Academy
- overseeing the development and monitoring the quality of the assessments for Fellowship of the Academy
- the Academy's contribution to continuing education and training and continuing professional development especially through its annual Conference.

In its first year, the Committee comprised of a mix of five representatives nominated by educational organisations that are themselves members of the Academy. These representatives were selected for a two year term. Five representatives from the now disbanded European Council of Optics (ECOO) Education Committee were appointed for a one year term.

The Committee is chaired by Professor Roger Anderson, Academy Trustee, Professor at the University of Ulster and Moorfields Eye Hospital, UK. Dr Mireia Pacheco Cutillas was elected Vice Chair by Committee Members in 2011.

Commenting on the new appointments Professor Anderson said:

“The calibre of nominations we received this year was outstanding and reflects the impact the Academy is building in the international network of optometry, optics and vision science. The individuals appointed this year will bring a broad range of skills and experience to the Committee and I am looking forward to working with them over the coming year.”

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in London, November 2011.

For more information about the European Academy and the work of the Education Committee, visit www.eaoo.info.

For further information on the Academy, please contact

Jane Kielb, Academy Manager on Tel: +44 (0) 20 7766 4345 or email jane.kielb@eaoo.info

Notes for Editors:

1 **Prof Luca Benzoni** is lecturer of contact lens clinic management at the University of Milan, Italy. He graduated as an optician in 1997 and in 2002 went on to qualify in optometry. He is a Fellow of IACLE and BCLA and has been a member of the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society since 2004.

2 **Prof Peter Gierow** is the programme director for optometry at Linnaeus University in Sweden. He has been a member of ARVO's International Members' Committee and is currently a member of the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board of the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society, and President of the Continental European Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry

3 **Dr Ellen Svarverud** is Assistant Professor at the Department of Optometry and Visual Sciences of Buskerud University College, Norway. Ellen received an MSc in Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences from the University of Manchester, UK (1999). She undertook a postgraduate studies at Buskerud University on Teaching in Higher Education (2003-2004). Ellen holds a MSc in Clinical Optometry from Salus Univeristy, Philadelphia, USA (2005) and gained a PhD from the University of Reading UK (2010). Ellen is a member of the Norwegian Optometric Association and a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. She also holds membership of the Applied Vision Society. Ellen was co-opted to the Academy's Board of Trustees in May 2011 to fill the position of Trustee representing an Education Organisation vacated by Dr Paul Murphy on his successful election to President-elect.

4 **Dr. Julie-Anne Little** graduated in optometry from the University of Ulster in 2002. She undertook her pre-registration year in the Eye department of Arrowse Park Hospital, Cheshire

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Company Registration No. 6844057 Charity Registration No. 1134105

and registered as an Optometrist with the General Optical Council in 2003. She then returned to the University of Ulster for post-graduate study concerning Visual loss in Down syndrome and graduated in 2007 with a PhD in Vision science. Julie-Anne is a member of the College of Optometrists and represents Northern Ireland as a Councillor for the Association of Optometrists. She was appointed as a lecturer at the University of Ulster in January 2007. Further to her research at the University of Ulster, she also has a part-time position as a research optometrist in the Royal Victoria Hospital. Dr Little is a member of the Vision Science Recognised Research Group, and also a member of the Biomedical Science Research ethics filter committee.

5 **Ignacio Costa Gonzales** qualified in optics at the Complutense University of Madrid and graduated in optical optometry from the University of Granada. Additionally, he qualified as University Specialist in pre- and post-surgery optometry at the University of Valladolid. Ignacio has been practicing optometry, contactology and primary eye care in his family company for more than 15 years. He undertook a Bachelor and Masters degree in Science at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (USA)., Ignacio is involved in the political activities of the Spanish Council of Optometry and was elected representative of the Council to the European meetings of ECOO and later to the European Academy. He has taught optometry for six years at the University San Pablo CEU in Madrid. Parallel to his professional career in optometry, Costa has been involved in politics, and elected Councilor in the City Government of his hometown for six consecutive four-year terms. Furthermore, Costa gained a degree in General Business Direction at the IESE Business School (University of Navarra) and a Marketing degree at the Business and Marketing School (ESIC). He is also involved in the works of the National Health Care Commission of the Popular Party in Spain

6 The secretariat for the European Academy is provided by the College of Optometrists, London, United Kingdom.

7 For more information about the Academy, including its new Education Committee please go to [www.eaoo.info/about us](http://www.eaoo.info/about-us) or contact Jane Kielb, Academy Manager:

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