



European Academy
of Optometry and Optics

PRESS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2011

ACADEMY APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT IN PRAGUE

Over 220 delegates from over 20 countries met at the European Academy's third conference in Prague from 6 - 8 May 2011 where the Academy held its elections and appointed a new President. The event incorporated the European Optometric Education Congress formerly held in Brno and focused around the themes of education, research and clinical practice.

Professor Roger Crelier (Fachhochschule, North Western Switzerland) took over from Dr Feike Grit (Netherlands) as President of the European Academy at the Annual Academy Dinner on Saturday 7 May. Commenting on his appointment Professor Crelier said:

"As President my role is to be the public face of the European Academy and I am looking forward to continuing to ensure that matters directly affecting the membership remain priority on the Academy's agenda. It is inspiring to see so many delegates here from so many different backgrounds, and particularly so many students, the future of our profession. We are here with a common goal - to further advance eye care across Europe. This weekend's conference has provided us with valuable learning and networking opportunities and I hope delegates will leave the event enthused and motivated by the Academy's work."

Dr Paul Murphy (Cardiff University, UK) was elected unopposed as President-elect. Both will serve a term of two years. Dr Murphy said:

"I have been committed to the Academy since its foundation in 2009 and I am absolutely delighted to have been elected President-elect. This is a very exciting opportunity to play a key part in shaping an organisation that has a pivotal role in advancing and promoting education and research into optometry and optics in Europe.

At Academy elections held at the event, Academy members voted for Professor Holger Dietze (Beuth Hochschule für Technik, Berlin, Germany) who was appointed a Trustee of the Academy in category three - individual educationalist. To fill the vacancy created by Dr Murphy's election to President-elect, the Board unanimously agreed to co-opt Dr Ellen Svarverud (Buskerud University College, Norway). Ellen will fill the role for a year, as Trustee in category one - representative of a European Education Institution that is itself a member of the Academy. The role will be re-elected in 2012.

Dates for the Academy's next annual conference will be announced later this year.

-Ends-

For further information or to request photography from this meeting please contact Ellen Colquhoun, Head of Marketing and Communications at the College of Optometrists on + 44 (0) 20 7766 4342 or email Ellen.colquhoun@college-optometrists.org

Notes for Editors:

1. The secretariat for the European Academy is provided by the College of Optometrists, London, United Kingdom. For more information about the European Academy please go to www.eaoo.info or contact:

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2. Professor Crelier qualified in 1980 as an Optician and in 1985 as a dipl. Augenoptiker at the Schweizerische Höhere Fachschule für Augenoptik (SHFA). He completed a Master of Science in Clinical Optometry at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (SALUS University). In 1988, following a period in optometric practice, Professor Crelier began to lecture at the SHFA, becoming Dean between 2003 and 2007. In 2007, when the SHFA merged with the University of Applied Science of Northern Switzerland, he became Director of the University's Institute of Optometry. In 2008 he was appointed to professorship. Professor Crelier has held various positions in optometry including member of the executive committee of the International Association of Binocular Full Correction, Convenor of the Binocular Vision section of the Board of Examiners of ECOO and Chair of the Education Committee.
3. Dr Paul Murphy has worked in optometry for over 20 years, graduating from Cardiff University in 1998. He has worked in private practice and in hospital optometry at Newcastle General Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. Dr Murphy completed his PhD at Glasgow Caledonian University in 1996. He has been involved in optometry training since 1997, firstly at Glasgow Caledonian and from 2001 at Cardiff University, where he is Director of Teaching. Dr Murphy publishes regularly in scientific journals on contact lenses, cornea and tear film. He has collaborative links with fellow researchers in the UK, Germany, USA, Japan and New Zealand. Paul is a Member of the UK's College of Optometrists, a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, a Member of the International Society of Contact Lens Researchers and a Fellow of the British Contact Lens Association.