



The European Academy
of Optometry and Optics

PRESS RELEASE

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EUROPEAN ACADEMY ANNOUNCES PROGRAMME FOR INAUGURAL MEETING

The European Academy of Optometry and Optics (the Academy) has announced the programme for its inaugural Research and Academic Symposium, to be held 16-17 May 2009, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The Symposium will bring together key stakeholders from across Europe to discuss and disseminate the latest research relating to optometry, optics and vision science. The Academy's Research and Academic Symposium has been incorporated into the European Council of Optometrists and Optics' (ECOO) Spring meeting, running from 14 – 17 May. ECOO members can register to attend both ECOO and Symposium meetings. Other delegates may register separately to attend the Symposium sessions.

The Symposium will feature two keynote lectures. Dr Robert Harper, Optometrist Consultant at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, England, will present *Glaucoma: Challenges and Opportunities for Optometry*. Glaucoma is a significant cause of visual morbidity throughout the world. Dr Harper will examine where there is scope for optometry to develop as a profession in relation to the identification, management and treatment of this condition. He will identify the research relating to optometric involvement in glaucoma pathways that is currently available and describe some of the areas requiring further research-based evidence. Dr Harper will go on to discuss the roles of specialist education, clinical governance and audit in relation to developing optometric involvement in glaucoma care pathways.

Josephine Mullin, Director of Education at the College of Optometrists, London, will present the Education keynote on developing a world class *Scheme for Registration of Optometrists*. Through the Scheme, UK optometry trainees are assessed in the workplace and in a final examination to ensure that they are competent to enter the General Optical Council Register and practise safely without supervision. It is essential that the assessments are robust and in line with good assessment practice. Jo will describe how the College has been developing the Scheme for Registration to ensure that those who complete it successfully have the clinical knowledge, skills and experience to practise independently.

There is an extensive programme of other presentations, including posters, over the two half days of the Symposium.

The Research and Academic Symposium will be an important event for optometrists, opticians, educationalists, vision scientists and researchers within Europe.

The Symposium will help participants to keep up to date with the latest research and new ideas and will provide a key channel to support participants in their work to disseminate and share research, information and best practice. Through the Symposium the Academy will provide a central forum through which peers can challenge established rhetoric, identify key issues for the field and work together to overcome challenges.

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

Notes for Editors:

1. The European Academy is a new organisation, an initiative of the European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO), building on the work of the former Association of European Universities and Schools of Optometry (AEUSCO). The Academy has the following Strategic Aims:
 - To develop scientific knowledge of optometry and optics
 - To advance and promote education into optometry and optics and related subjects
 - To advance and promote research into optometry and optics and related subjects
 - To promote for the public benefit the science and practice of optometry and optics
 - To promote for the public benefit the professional competence and conduct of Academy members
2. The Academy will be launched at a Gala Dinner, to be held Saturday 16 May at the Beau-Rivage Palace Hotel, Lausanne, Switzerland as part of the Academy/ECOO Spring meeting programme which runs 14 – 17 May. For more information go to www.ecoo.info.
3. To register for the Academy's Research and Academic Symposium please go to www.eaoo.info or www.ecoo.info
4. The Academy's secretariat services are provided by the College of Optometrists, London, England.
5. For more information about the Academy please go to www.eaoo.info or contact:

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