

# Re:View

Keeping excellence in your sights | June 2013 | Issue 14



Supporting Academic  
Learning event

Launch of  
new webinar initiative

# Some hellos ...and goodbyes



I hope those of you visiting Optrafair in April enjoyed the experience as much as I did. It was good to see the NEC really buzzing for all three days of the show. There was so much positivity coming from both exhibitors and visitors which augers well for the future.

Nowhere was this more in evidence than the ABDO College stand, where for me to try to talk to those staffing it proved difficult as they were constantly having to attend to 'proper punters'!

It has been proved consistently that a properly trained dispensing optician will improve any bottom line, so may I encourage employers out there to invest in the future by taking on trainee DOs and get them enrolled for the new ABDO College September intake.

In my first year as chairman of the Board of Trustees I have been saying hello and goodbye to various Board members. I would stress this is a natural progression and hopefully not a reflection of my leadership skills with nobody leaving because of any 'hair dryer treatment'! This article is no different as we say goodbye to Jennifer Brower and Colin Lee. Both have contributed significantly to the work of the Board with Colin having served four years as chairman. A massive and sincere thank you to both of them.

We welcome Kim Devlin and John Hardman as new Board members. Both are ABDO examiners and will bring new and exciting talents to the Board. Their appointments bring to three the number of former Godmersham students now serving as Trustees, perhaps we should open a book on when this becomes a full house.

As well as myself as chairman and Sir Anthony Garrett as secretary, the composition of the ABDO College Board of Trustees is now as follows:

Peter Black  
Kim Devlin  
Kevin Gutsell  
John Hardman  
Angela McNamee  
Matt Trusty  
Gaynor Williams

Enjoy this edition of *Re: View* and (if it ever happens) the summer!

**Huntly Taylor FBDO, Chairman,  
ABDO College Board of Trustees**

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## ABDO College busy at Optrafair 2013



Optrafair 2013 attracted 6,600 individual visitors and the ABDO College stand was busy throughout the three days of the exhibition.

As well as promoting its comprehensive range of courses, the College also took the opportunity to launch its new 2013/14 prospectus and the latest edition of *Ophthalmic lenses Availability*.

"Having a larger stand in a more prominent position within the exhibition hall, than in the past, was a considerable advantage. We received a lot of interest in what we do. If the interest shown in our courses at Optrafair converts into enrolments, then the future looks bright" said Joan Griffin, Operational Services office manager at ABDO College.

## 2013/14 prospectus



ABDO College specialises in distance and blended learning education for the optical profession. It is the only college in the UK devoted solely to the teaching of the theory and practical aspects of ophthalmic dispensing and its related specialist areas.

Offering a range of courses through access, foundation degree, diploma, degree, advanced and honours, ABDO College provides quality programmes leading to ABDO examinations and qualifications; thereby offering the opportunity to enhance knowledge and career progression and enabling development for optical practice staff at many levels.

The 2013/14 ABDO College prospectus can be used as a guide to plan your personal career pathway as it contains details of the full range of courses currently available from the College. To obtain a copy of the prospectus, please contact the Courses Team at ABDO College on 01227 733 901 or email [info@abdocollege.org.uk](mailto:info@abdocollege.org.uk).

# Positive response to the first Supporting Academic Learning event

The 'Supporting Academic Learning' event is one of five new projects currently being undertaken by the partnership of ABDO College and Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) funded by a grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The first one-day event took place in April at the NEC, Birmingham. It featured lectures and workshops designed for three specific groups, consisting of practice-based supervisors, personal distance learning tutors and practice support team visitors.

The speakers included Linda Ford, head of education and standards at the GOC, Lindsey Keefe, placement lead for the occupational therapy pathway at

CCCU, Alicia Thompson, ABDO's director of professional examinations and from ABDO College, head of operational services Michelle Derbyshire, lecturer Gillian Elstub and Principal Jo Underwood.

The event also featured presentations from two former ABDO College students, Marc Farmer and Anna Foden, who highlighted how they, their practice and patients have significantly benefitted

from their successful participation in the ABDO College/CCCU ophthalmic dispensing degree programme.

Delegates have subsequently provided constructive and useful feedback which will assist the College in planning future events; it is evident from the positive comments received that they found the event informative, enjoyable and well worthwhile.



Michelle Derbyshire





Anna Foden



Jo Underwood



Linda Ford



Gillian Elstub



Lindsey Keefe



Marc Farmer

# Ophthalmic Lenses Availability

## New 2013 edition now published

Optrafair 2013 saw the release of the new edition of the popular ABDO College publication *Ophthalmic Lenses Availability*. Edited by Phil & Pat Gilbert, this latest edition contains an increase in the number of lenses that are currently available in the UK and has grown by a further 45 pages. This growth not only comes from an additional number of freeform progressive lenses, but also a rise in

For those practitioners that are still clinging onto the old 2009 edition there are now over 630 new lens types listed, and, even if you purchased the 2012 edition there are now a further 260 new products. Not only are the new lens types listed, there are also a higher number of pages devoted to the very useful micro-engravings used increasingly by lens manufacturers. As new manufacturing

processes lead to more flexibility in design the need to identify product, not only by design, but by refractive index and often corridor length, is becoming more important in everyday practice.

This publication is a must for any practice or optical laboratory. To order your copy call the ABDO College Bookshop on 01227 733904 or order online at [www.abdocollege.org.uk/bookshop](http://www.abdocollege.org.uk/bookshop).



both photochromic and polarising products. Growth can also be seen in products such as vocational lenses and new pre-presbyopia offerings.

Overall the number of lenses now available to the UK optical profession has grown by a further 20 per cent in comparison to 2012, but this represents a massive increase of 66 per cent over 2009 availability. The chart herewith shows just how new technology and new designs have made significant inroads into the choice that the profession now has to offer their patient base.

	White			Photochromic			Polarised		
F/F = Freeform	2009	2012	2013	2009	2012	2013	2009	2012	2013
S/V Plastic	96	109	119	83	63	75	25	27	30
S/V Glass	34	34	38	8	11	15			
F/F S/V	3	48	52	5	36	36	0	14	15
S/V Lifestyle	0	17	16	0	3	3			
F/F S/V Lifestyle	0	19	31	0	6	16	0	6	15
Bifocal Plastic	96	103	122	26	24	29	6	6	6
Bifocal Glass	33	27	31	16	16	17			
F/F Bifocal	0	3	1	0	4	3	0	2	0
Trifocal Plastic	14	15	16	2	1	4	1	1	1
Trifocal Glass	7	4	3	5	3	30			
Progressive Plastic	262	110	103	103	74	61	21	5	10
Progressive Glass	33	31	31	6	15	16			
F/F Prog Plastic	43	182	193	7	142	198	3	27	47
F/F Prog Glass	0	3	8	0	2	5			
Progressive Lifestyle	0	6	6	0	3	3			
F/F Prog Lifestyle	0	17	29	0	12	26	0	10	21
Degressive Plastic	19	24	20	0	4	3			
Degressive Glass	0	1	1						
F/F Degressive	0	9	18	0	3	6			
Prog Vocational	2	5	4						
F/F Prog Vocational	0	25	35	0	0	6			
Pre Presbyopia	0	8	8	0	3	3	0	3	3
F/F Pre Presbyopia	0	0	15	0	0	12	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>149</b>

Chart showing the movement of various lens types and materials over the last four years

## Launch of new webinar initiative

“We actively encourage anyone interested in the public health agenda to participate.”

The new webinar initiative is another one of the five new projects (also see the ‘Supporting Academic Learning event’ feature in this issue), funded by a grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), undertaken by the ABDO College and Canterbury Christ Church University partnership.

The first in a series of one-hour webinars, will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 20 June and will be presented by Professor Darren Shickle, Head of the Academic Unit of Public Health, Institute of Health Sciences at the University of Leeds.

The webinar will discuss the interface between the optical sector and public health agenda and present the findings of focus groups about public attitudes to testing. The contribution that dispensing opticians can make to the vision health of the nation will also be highlighted.

“We actively encourage anyone interested in the public health agenda to participate” said Michelle Derbyshire, Head of Operational Services at ABDO College.

For further details and to participate visit [www.abdocollege.org.uk](http://www.abdocollege.org.uk).



## Official ABDO College sponsors

The ABDO College Board of Trustees and staff would like to thank its official sponsors for their generous and continued support:

**BiB Ophthalmic Instruments**

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**Norville**

**Optinet Limited**

**Rodenstock (UK) Ltd**

**Signet Armorlite Europe**

**Transitions Optical**

**The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers**

**Younger Optics**

For further information on ABDO College sponsorship opportunities contact Michael R Potter FBDO on 01227 733 913 or email at [mpotter@abdo.org.uk](mailto:mpotter@abdo.org.uk).

A large, close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on their eyes. The person has light blue eyes and is holding a clear contact lens over their right eye with their right index finger. The background is a soft, out-of-focus skin tone.

## Let us further your career

ABDO College provides comprehensive education for dispensing opticians and is currently accepting applications for a range of different courses. Some of the reasons why you should make ABDO College your first choice to either start or further your career in optics are:

- An extensive range of courses to suit your individual needs
- Dedicated and experienced academic staff
- Friendly and supportive learning environment
- Consistently high theory and practical examination results
- Helpful course tutors
- Vibrant and positive attitude towards students
- Committed to the furtherance of dispensing optics
- Established by the profession for the profession
- A proven track record of success for over a decade

### Contact Lens Certificate

The Contact Lens Certificate course provides an ideal opportunity for opticians to further their career by specialising in contact lenses. The course leads to the ABDO Level 6 Certificate in Contact Lens Practice qualification.

#### Course features

- A one year course commencing in September 2013
- Two separate weeks block release at Godmersham
- Block release accommodation can be provided

#### Entry requirements

- ABDO Fellowship Diploma and GOC registration
- Qualified, registered optometrists and ophthalmologists are also eligible to enrol

Application deadline:

**August 2013**

For further information and application forms for these and other courses, or to request a copy of the 2013/14 ABDO College Prospectus, please contact the courses team at ABDO College on

**01227 733 920**

or email [info@abdocollege.org.uk](mailto:info@abdocollege.org.uk)

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