



## Christopher Burke Biography Optical Registration Board Elections 2021

I am writing to ask for your support in the upcoming CORU elections for the Optical Registration Board. I am standing for election under the category 'engaged in the management of services provided by the profession'.

I qualified as an optometrist in 2018 from Dublin Institute of Technology. I live in Meath and began my career in Navan, but I am now based in Blanchardstown.

I am extremely proud of being an optometrist and of the contribution we all make as a profession towards ocular health, as well as the trust bestowed upon us by our patients to look after their ocular health and vision, and our excellent track record of public safety. However, we could do far more for our patients and the public, especially children, and I am standing for election to the Optical Registration Board to continue to press for this to meet our growing public health needs whilst maintaining patient safety.

I have seen what we can all do first-hand by being lead optometrist in a very busy practice in an area of high ocular need. Working with a large knowledgeable team has widened and broadened my experience across all aspects of the profession.

I started being active in the optometry community while at university, where I was the Irish representative for the British Contact Lens Association. I have also continued to research and in 2018 was awarded the Coopervision FORCE prize for Ireland and the UK for my work on demodex. I am currently progressing through the leadership and management learning pathways with future intentions of owning my own practice.

I have a particular interest in healthcare regulation, the promotion of eye health awareness, and furthering the education and training of optometrists. I have supported students during their pre-registration training, and I have been heavily involved in recruiting potential students to ensure the long-term future of our profession is secured.

I have a strong interest in shared care management between optometrists and ophthalmologists for glaucoma and cataract management. With your support, I would like to continue to make these opportunities available to all optometrists who wish to move their careers in this direction.

CORU's mission of protecting the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training, and competence resonate strongly with me. I believe our profession has been well regulated by CORU since our registration board changed and, with your vote, I would like to support CORU in helping our profession move forward and expand our opportunities and scope of practice to meet increasing eye health needs especially in these tough times of COVID-19.

I believe my training, experience, interests and passion for the profession equip me well to contribute to the work of the Optical Registration Board in ensuring that our profession is well regulated, and encouraged to develop further, putting patients first.

As a Board member, I would aim to be very accessible to ensure that future decision making is informed by the views of registrants from all optical backgrounds and experience. I would like to guarantee the voices of both newer and more experienced registrants are heard on the Optical Registration Board to ensure the continuing protection of the public.

I hope you will feel confident in my abilities and commitment and would be very grateful if you would consider giving me your vote in the upcoming election.

Christopher Burke