

Optical Registration Board Elections 2020



Dear Colleagues,

I would like to ask for your support in the upcoming Optical Registration Board (ORB) elections where I am standing under the category “engaged in the practice of the profession”. I would like to tell you about my background and why I believe I am good candidate to help regulate our profession in the challenging times ahead.

I qualified with a BSc Optometry from DIT in 2008. Since that time, I have worked in a variety of practice types: small independent practices, large multiple practices and ophthalmology clinics. During my career, I have focussed on developing my clinical skills in order to provide better care to my patients. I have completed postgraduate qualifications including a MSc in Cataract & Refractive Surgery, a Postgraduate Diploma in Ocular Therapeutics and am currently completing my PhD in Refractive Error Epidemiology. The areas of optometric practice in which I have a specialist interest include ocular therapeutics, myopia control and complex contact lenses.

Since 2014 I have also worked as a lecturer in Optometry in Technological University Dublin (formerly DIT). I mainly teach in the areas of ocular disease, contact lenses and law & ethics. I am also a member of the Centre for Eye Research Ireland with my research mainly focussing on epidemiology, the results of which I have presented at international conferences such as the International Myopia Conference and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Conference. I am also active within our profession and present lectures and demonstrate clinical techniques at many CPD events and am a current Fellow of the Association of Optometrists Ireland. I previously was an examiner for the professional qualifying exams in the area of contact lenses.

I was honoured to be recruited to be the first optometry member of CORU’s Preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC). I have worked in that role since optometry first became regulated under CORU in 2015. This combined with my work on law and professional ethics has given me a good understanding of CORU’s role in protecting the public while allowing our profession to practise at the ‘top of our licence’ if we wish and provide the best possible service to our patients. I have also learned a lot about the proportionate regulation and how regulators can support individuals and professions to provide the best possible care and believe I am ready to apply this knowledge at a more strategic level as Registration Board member, if you will support me. I believe optometry is a profession which provides excellent care to its patients and is in a unique position to expand this to even more areas. We are all aware of the significant public waiting lists which have only gotten worse due to the ongoing pandemic. I would like to see optometry become more involved in the areas of shared care and therapeutics in order to alleviate long waiting lists, and to meet growing eye care needs which current non-evidence based professional boundaries prevent us from doing. We are also facing the challenges of practising in a post-COVID world where virulent respiratory diseases are likely to be a recurring risk impacting on everything we do and the economy. Clinicians have to have the professional flexibility to respond to patients’ individual needs in the most appropriate way in these times offering a wider range of services in a COVID safe way.

Should I be elected, I believe my experience across many different areas of optometry, the law, ethics and regulation will ensure I can provide broad optometric advice and balanced input to the Registration Board enabling our profession to move forward to the benefit of our patients and the public.

I hope you will support me and trust me with your first preference vote.

Kindest Regards,

Michael Moore