

Subject: re:Therapeutics  
Date: Tuesday, 15 February 2011 2:46:50 PM

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Dear Mr. Waldron

Firstly, I thank you for giving us opportunity to air our views on the issue of mandatory undertaking of therapeutics qualification for registration.

I totally *disagree* with the proposal the board is putting forward with regards this undertaking. I do support that there should be a choice between those who want to continue their core practice of optometry with therapeutics, and those that understandably do not. I am personally in the latter category. I think adopting a mandatory therapeutics position has the potential to be centrally divisive to the profession, albeit only being a peripheral issue - this is an illogical and an ideological position. Just like we have optometrists who are currently practicing and do not hold any formal contact lens qualifications and choose to practice and are permitted to practice Optometry we can have Optometrists who are not therapeutically qualified and continue to practice successfully.

I feel the issue of therapeutics has consumed our profession to an excessive amount, a lot of resources are spent on getting the legislation and all that is associated with legalizing it; I feel the resources could be better spent on better programs for public awareness of importance of regular eye health etc. please don't take me wrong it fantastic that our profession is evolving and moving forward, but if I wanted to become a doctor and prescribe I would have done Medicine.

I can not and will not spend \$12000 to get the piece of paper which says I can prescribe antibiotic or any other allowable drugs to the couple of patients I see every 3 months who may need a prescription. Let me do the maths: \$28 x 2 patients x 4 (per year)=\$224, that is it will take me 53 years to recoup my investment.

I can not see a financial logic to this exercise, moreover, I have not taken into consideration the time taken out of my business to attend lectures and to study.

Again, I thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our view on the above issue, but I *do not support* the proposal in making the therapeutics qualification a mandatory.

Kind regards

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