
Subject: ORB / Therapeutics
Date: Thursday, 3 March 2011 3:15:26 PM

Dear Board,

Firstly I need to comment on the poor quality of communication from the Board to the profession. There is a distinct lack of wordsmith skills evident in those documents, including the earlier debacle of timing of registration renewals. The “confusion” caused in the therapeutics proposal could have been largely avoided.

There has always been an evolving aspect to optometry, and no doubt that will continue. The teaching of therapeutics for undergraduate students and also for post graduates is just another part of that evolution, as it has been with contact lens education, behavioural optometry, nutritional, neuro-optometry and so on.

The time scale for introducing each of these as integrated into the expected public standard, as it has done so in the past, will also be an evolving issue with “gradfathering” being expected for those practitioners who are comfortable and capable with their own framework of qualifications and experience.

Therapeutics, whilst an important step for optometry, is after all just another option in optometric practice, not core to every practitioners daily mode of practice.

My answer to your proposal is that compulsion should not be forced upon existing practitioners as a requirement for continuing registration. New applicants from overseas should be expected to present with the same qualifications as graduates from Australia.

Sincerely,

Ian Sim
Optometrist