

Subject: Stakeholder response
Date: Friday, 18 February 2011 4:27:06 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to submit the following thoughts with regards to registration and therapeutics.

It is inequitable to expect ALL currently registered optometrists to be therapeutically qualified on the following grounds:

1. There are many like me who did the Post Grad Therapeutics course through SUNY in 1994 in anticipation of therapeutic registration who have missed the boat.
2. To expect people like myself at age 52 to repeat the sacrifice of time and money to go through another round of training is unrealistic.
3. There would be no significant advantage for patients in having ALL currently registered Optometrists Therapeutically qualified. There is good liasion between individual Optometrists and the patient's GP to allow for proper treatment of the patient. And of course referral to ophthalmology would continue either way.

However on a positive note I would like to commend the Board for bringing this up for discussion.

In my opinion there would be no reason why all NEW registrants should not be required to have therapeutic qualifications. This would ensure a natural shift over time to the whole profession being therapeutically endorsed.

Yours sincerely, Nilesh Patel
NILESH PATEL OPTOMETRIST