



# INVITATION

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH OPTOMETRISTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By now you may have heard the exciting news that Optometry South Australia has amalgamated with Optometry Victoria to establish Optometry Victoria/South Australia from 01 July 2019. Over the past ten years, members in South Australia have welcomed your support of our organisation and our profession and we would love for our collaboration to continue in our new guise.

Our (now combined) OVSA CPD and ECO Committees, and our secretariat team, have now had the chance to review what has been working well in both states. We are keen to continue to collaborate with local ophthalmologists in both Victoria and South Australia, but in a “new and improved” way which encompasses lessons learned and ensures that members and our ophthalmology colleagues have the same opportunities across both states.

With this in mind, we are delighted to offer you the following opportunities to engage with our members here in South Australia (or further afield) and to utilise one or more of these options to promote what you can do for their patients, and to educate our members on the latest clinical research and practice relevant to your area of expertise.

### Early Career Optometrists

#### □ Education Grant

Our younger members are often keen to undertake a professional development short course or attend an optometry conference interstate or overseas, but are worried about the cost. A Victorian ophthalmologist has sponsored an annual grant of up to \$1,500 for the last two years specifically for this purpose and we now offer the same opportunity to one or more of our ophthalmology colleagues here in South Australia.

ECO's can apply for funds to support a range of professional development activities run by recognised institutions and the grant can support one or more applicants in any given year. CPD examples include:

- participation in professional development short courses or specialist certificates e.g. myopia management, advanced contact lens practice, paediatrics, anterior eye disease and dry eye, acquired brain injury, sports vision;
- Clinical workshops e.g. foreign body removal, glaucoma assessment techniques such as gonioscopy and OCT interpretation, mini-scleral and orthokeratology contact lenses;
- attendance at national or international optometry conferences; or
- further study including Masters, PhD or research studies, or post-graduate certificates or courses which may be within or outside the practitioners current scope of practice.

#### □ CPD events

Our ECO Committee hosts regular evening CPD events in Adelaide during the year for small (workshops) to medium groups (interactive lectures) and is always looking for ophthalmologists who are keen to share their expertise and passion. The schedule is based on identified clinical need, so please understand if we ask to postpone your suggested event to make way for a topic for greater priority. Any evidence you can provide (e.g. quality of referrals) to support your suggested topic is always welcome.

#### □ Facebook page

Our OVSA Committee manages its own FB page and welcomes news to share from our ophthalmology colleagues. They are keen to hear clinical pearls and research updates relevant to optometry practice and collaborative patient care. *(Note - news will be shared at the discretion of the committee.)*

### All optometrists in South Australia

#### □ CPD events

Our OVSA CPD Committee hosts regular CPD events in SA during the year and is always looking for ophthalmologists who are keen to share their expertise and passion. Events vary in size and format and may have clinical themes depending on identified clinical need.

**SA Blue Sky Congress** – 2 day clinical conference hosted in Adelaide in alternate years. 200-250 delegates. 50% from South Australia. *Next date: November 2020.*

Blue Sky Congress presents “**A Day in May**” – 1 day clinical conference hosted in Adelaide in alternate years. 100 SA optometrists. *Next date: May 2021.*

Blue Sky Congress presents “**A Day in November**”- 1 day clinical conference hosted in Adelaide in alternate years. 100 SA optometrists. *Next date: November 2019 (booked)*

**Evening CPD events** – 2-3 hour local events focussing on one topic and 1-2 speakers. Interactive 15-40 local optometrists depending on topic and format. 3-5 per year.

**OVSA Regional Series** – 2 hour interactive lecture over dinner in regional areas. Small group only. Next date: November 2019 in Port Lincoln (booked)

**O=MEGA** – 3 day clinical education programme hosted by OVSA in unison with Australia’s largest trade show hosted by ODMA. 1000 delegates from around Australia and overseas. Melbourne. *Next scheduled: August 2021.*

#### □ OVSA FB page

OVSA welcomes news from our ophthalmology colleagues to share with our followers. We are keen to hear clinical pearls and research updates relevant to optometry practice and collaborative patient care. *(Note - news will be shared at the discretion of the ECVSA.)*

#### □ OVSA Ophthalmology Directory - SA

This remains our SA members' most-loved resource and is the ideal opportunity for you to make their referrals to your practice easy and accurate. Currently listing 63 local ophthalmologists alphabetically, by consulting location(s) and sub-specialty(ies) and includes referral and contact details and consulting days.

□ **Promotion of your research trials and projects**

OVSA continues to offer our support in informing our members (via E-Wink) of any of your current trials and details of any collaboration or support you are seeking.

□ **OVSA Ophthalmology Directory - SA**

Many of our members are seeking the opportunity to work in an ophthalmology practice to support the achievement of shorter waiting lists via a more collaborative approach to patient care and triage. OVSA continues to advertise any opportunities you may have to our members.

### **How to get involved**

We would love to hear your ideas for topics and events that you are keen to collaborate on or be involved in.

In the first instance, please contact:

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