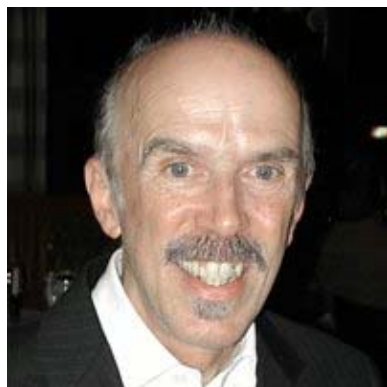




November 2009

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# Newsletter



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity.  
They seem more afraid of life than death!*

**Dear colleagues, dear friends!**

It was the American statesman James F. Byrnes (1879-1972) who used this quotation. Looking back at the recent autumn meeting, as well as to previous meetings of the European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO), I would say that the representatives of

ECOO's member organisations took important decisions and made the most of the opportunity to develop optometry and optics in Europe. I am grateful to them.

One of these important decisions concerns the new formula for the calculation of subscriptions for membership of ECOO. The basis of this new formula is the population and the GDP of every ECOO member country. The new formula, which was accepted by the members of ECOO's General Assembly, is much fairer than the previous basis of assessment for ECOO's annual subscriptions. It will make ECOO's financial foundations stronger in the medium and the long term.

Another important decision taken by ECOO's member countries is related to the development of the new European Academy of Optometry and Optics (EAOO).

The development of the EAOO is a milestone for optometry within Europe. The Academy will provide a much needed voice to help advance the profession, to develop our scientific knowledge base and to support and promote lifelong learning for optometrists and opticians across Europe.

With their decision to establish the European Academy, the representatives of ECOO's member organisations have demonstrated vision and energy. They have created a scientific organisation which will play an important role in advancing and promoting research and education into optometry and optics and related subjects.

ECOO as the professional body of optometry in Europe and the European Academy as the European educational body will, together, make optometry and optics even stronger.

Optometry is undergoing rapid changes everywhere in Europe. Legitimate research, associated with high-class clinical and academic education, defines the optometrist as the primary eye care provider in more and more countries in Europe. Most European countries have implemented the three-cycle system of the Bologna Declaration. Fifteen countries in Europe offer Bachelor programmes in optometry, and four of them Master programmes. But not all of these programmes are based on the syllabus of the ECOO European Diploma of Optometry, which in the meantime has become the gold standard of optometric education in Europe.

I believe that the status of optometry in 2009 is much better than it was five years ago. But we still have great differences from country to country. For that reason, European optometry needs ECOO as its professional body, in the same way as it needs the European Academy for education and research.

Let us fight together for better eye care and a uniform scope of practice in optometry and optics in Europe.

**Wolfgang Cagnolati**  
**President ECOO**



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# ECOO MEETS IN BUDAPEST

Meeting in Budapest in October, ECOO took important decisions to stabilise its finances and enhance its activities. It was agreed that, from 2010 onwards, the calculation of member organisations' subscriptions will be based solely on the gross domestic product and population of their country. However, there will be a transitional period of three years, before the new method comes fully into operation, when the minimum subscription will be €1750. It remains the case that ECOO's income and expenditure are determined by its General Assembly, according to an agreed business plan of activities and member organisations' ability to pay. While ECOO accepts sponsorship from optical companies – and is very grateful for their support – the consensus is that ECOO should seek as much financial independence as possible. The option of other organisations being invited to affiliate in return for a large subscription will be considered. (ECOO is also updating its 'constitution'. A formal vote on the changes will be taken next year.)

During a debate on the future of ECOO, it was recognised by the General Assembly in Budapest that the range of ECOO's activities has expanded substantially in recent years. The installation of an interactive website, the publication of the updated 'Blue Book' on the profession in twenty countries, the issuing of regular press releases and the publication of position papers on selected topics – all these activities are the signs of a growing ambition within ECOO to be seen as the leading authority on optometry and optics in Europe. As part of that ambition, ECOO is investigating the possibility of initiating a multinational study, led by a respected academic, on the delivery of primary eye care in Europe. It is also looking at the feasibility of expanding ECOO European Diploma of Optometry by creating, alongside the diploma, an ECOO European Certificate of Optics, a qualification which could be very attractive to a large number of members of the profession. At the same time, ECOO needs to promote a more harmonised description of the profession's scope of practice, a more harmonised use of professional titles and an agreed recognition of the exact professional dividing line between the optometrist and the optician.

## ECOO DIPLOMA

### European Diploma: re-organisation of the clinical practical examinations

It is proposed to reorganise the European Diploma practical examinations into a more formally structured station examination. It is hoped that this will start with Part B: Management of Vision Problems (Refraction, Binocular Vision and Contact lenses) at the March 2010 examinations.

The examination for these sections will be a series of fourteen short (5-10 minutes) stations, at which each candidate has to do a single task, for example, to perform retinoscopy, to do a motility test, to evaluate the fit of a contact lens etc. All candidates will be given exactly the same tasks to do; and their performance will be marked against previously agreed criteria. In this way, it is hoped to make the European Diploma practical examination more consistent and robust.

In the light of experience with Part B it is expected that a similar format of examination will be adopted in 2011 for Parts A: Optical Technology and Part C: Ocular Abnormality.

## ECOO TAKES POSITIONS

As visitors to its website can see, ECOO has published the first of a series of position papers on professional and scientific subjects. The first deals with ultra violet radiation (UVR) and examines the need for more education of the general public about the dangers of solar power to human sight and the means of protection against UVR. Two further position papers 'in the pipeline' include one on the contents of an optometric eye examination, and one on the visual requirements of drivers in the light of the European Union's directive on driving licences. The two papers will be published in the near future.

## Transitions Optical

Issue 4 of the Healthy Sight Institute newsletter link  
<http://en-emea.transitions.com/>

## BERLIN CELEBRATES CENTURY OF GERMAN OPTOMETRY

On 3 October the Beuth Hochschule für Technik Berlin (University of Applied Sciences) staged a seminar to celebrate a century of optometry in Germany. The event was supported by a number of well-known sponsors. To an international audience of over a hundred guests and participants, a range of well-known speakers (including ECOO's President, Wolfgang Cagnolati) gave presentations on the history of optometry in Germany, the state of optometric education today and the perspectives for the future. Great names from the past and present were recalled, including Hermann Pistor, Peter Abel and Heinz Diepes.

A persistent theme of many of the presentations was the European and international support given in the past to German optometry, particularly from the UK and USA. Now, on the basis of the Bologna movement, the European dimension to the teaching and practice of

German optometry is becoming stronger, as speakers such as Peter Moest, Roger Crelier, Andreas Berke and Thomas Nosch stressed in their presentations. The expanding scope of practice of German optometry and the efforts in the field of optometric research were described in detail by several speakers, while David Thomson and Paul Murphy from the UK presented the challenges to the profession in that country, in terms of clinical training and therapeutics. Two 'academies' presented their 'wares' to the seminar, the Fielmann Academy (housed in a castle!) described by Hans-Jürgen Grein, and the new European Academy of Optometry and Optics by its President, Feike Grit.



## Colorimetry in Clinical Vision Science and Education A TWO-DAY SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE on the 10th and 11th of March 2010 at the Royal Society, London

You are invited to attend a two-day conference and join researchers, vision practitioners and educationalists from around the world. The programme will include presentations from Professor Arnold Wilkins (designer of the Intuitive Colorimeter); Professor Chris Chase (Western University), Mike Webster (University of Nevada) Professor Stephen Dain (University of New South Wales) and Carl Hillier OD (FCOVD) San Diego.

The conference will address the science that underlies the use of precision tinted lenses, now routinely prescribed in the UK to treat visual stress - a condition of light sensitivity that contributes to visual perceptual problems. Visual stress can impair reading and is present in various neurological disorders that affect the visual cortex of the brain, such as migraine, photosensitive epilepsy, autism, multiple sclerosis, head injury and stroke.

The Intuitive Colorimeter is used to aid selection of the precision tinted lenses and is in practice in hundreds of UK community optometrists, hospital vision clinics and universities throughout the UK, and many countries around the globe.

The British Minister of State for Children, Schools and Families, recently announced the release of funding for the training of 4000

specialist dyslexia teachers. He also announced that visual stress is to form part of the curriculum for the course.

We hope you will come to join our international contributors to hear about their work and to learn more about the use of colorimetry.

We look forward to seeing you in London in March 2010.



The Conference is organised under the banner of the recently inaugurated International Institute of Colorimetry. The Institute's board includes researchers, clinical vision practitioners, educationalists and individuals who work closely with those who benefit from coloured lenses.

**Booking information e-mail:**

[colorimetryconference@banks-sadler.co.uk](mailto:colorimetryconference@banks-sadler.co.uk)

[www.colorimetryconference.co.uk](http://www.colorimetryconference.co.uk)

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## European Academy 2010 Copenhagen

The European Academy 2010 Annual Conference is to be held in Copenhagen from 15-16 May 2010.

The Conference will follow the ECOO Spring Meeting and will comprise one and a half days of lectures, poster presentations, hands-on clinical workshops and roundtable discussion groups

The Academy Conference will bring together key stakeholders from across Europe to discuss education and research issues, and to disseminate the latest research relating to optometry, optics and vision sciences.

The Academy Conference will formally open at 2pm on Saturday 15 May. Details of the programme will be available in early November on the Academy website [www.eaoo.info](http://www.eaoo.info) where you will find more information.



## Call for Abstracts announced

The Academy is calling for Abstracts and Workshop Proposals for the academic and research sessions for the Conference.

Proposals are invited which may focus on core eye-health topics, or on the following specific themes for 2010:

- Education – ‘*revalidation for health: continued fitness to practice for eye-health professionals*’, will consider the issues and challenges relating to the developing requirements for revalidation and reaccreditation that face the Academy’s stakeholders as health-care professionals; and
- Research – ‘*paediatrics to geriatrics: research for all eye-ages*’, will focus on research in relation to paediatric and geriatric eye health.

For further information, please download the [Guidelines for Submissions and the Call for Abstracts](#) on the Academy website [www.eaoo.info](http://www.eaoo.info)



## ECOO Spring Meeting 2010

The ECOO Spring Meeting will be held in Copenhagen from 14-15 May 2010 and is being organised in conjunction with the European Academy 2010 conference.

The schedule will comprise a day of meetings at the Copenhagen Marriott Hotel on Friday 14 May and the Spring General Assembly, which will be held next door to the Marriott at the IDA Conference Centre, on Saturday 15 May. For further information on the Spring Meeting and the Conference, please visit the Academy website [www.eaoo.info](http://www.eaoo.info)



## Academy appoints its first Manager

Jane Kielb has been appointed as Academy Manager by the College of Optometrists, which hosts the Secretariat for the Academy. Jane was formerly Acting Academy Manager.

Jane will manage all the operations of the European Academy on a day to day basis including governance, membership development and the delivery of Academy events.

Dr Feike Grit, President of the European Academy said: “I am delighted to announce this key appointment. Jane will support the Academy’s Board in their work to create an organisation well placed to advance and promote research and education into optometry, optics and related subjects. Jane brings a wealth of experience to this critical role. We have ambitious plans for the development of the Academy and I look forward to working with Jane to advance this vital organisation.”

Jane has a strong track record in development, sponsorship and general management. She has recently re-located to the UK from Australia and has extensive experience of working for international organisations.

## European Academy adopts new Code of Conduct

The European Academy has adopted the new Code of Conduct recently developed by the European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO).

The Code lays down ethical principles relating to the conduct of professionals in the profession of optometry and optics, and sets out obligations and behavioural duties for those professionals.

It is focused on four key principles: prioritising patient care; being honest and trustworthy at all times; behaving in a professional manner and maintaining registration with the competent authority in your country.

The Code is in line with the Academy’s Objects and was adopted to provide guidance to Academy members.

The Code is available on the Academy website and a copy has been emailed to all Academy members.

## Become a Founder Member of the European Academy

All individual and organisational members who join the Academy before 31 December 2009 will be acknowledged formally as Founder Members.

This status recognises those members who have supported the development of the Academy during its critical launch period throughout 2009.

Founder Members will be acknowledged in perpetuity by the Academy and will be entitled to use the Founder Member logo on their own publications and websites.

For more information and terms and conditions on founder membership, please visit [www.eaoo.info](http://www.eaoo.info)

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## Newsletter

The newsletter will be sent to members by e-mail or fax and we want to make sure it is received by every member:

Are your details up to date?

Telephone or email Charlotte at:  
+44 (0)20 7202 8169

[charlotteverity@aop.org.uk](mailto:charlotteverity@aop.org.uk)

## PROFESSOR DR PETER MOEST RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM ZVA; THOMAS TRUCKENBROD ELECTED PRESIDENT



On the occasion of the recent meeting of the regional representatives (Obermeistertagung) of the German Zentralverband der Augenoptiker (ZVA) in Freiburg on October 10th, Professor Peter Moest of the University of Applied Sciences (the Beuth Hochschule für Technik) in Berlin received the prestigious Leon Hauck Award for engagement in optometric education. The Leon Hauck Award is awarded annually by the ZVA for outstanding contributions in the field of education.

At the same meeting, the ZVA elected Thomas Truckenbrod as its new President, to succeed the outgoing Thomas Nosch. Both 'Thomasases' are known to ECOO, Thomas Nosch having served as Treasurer and Thomas Truckenbrod being one of the three delegates from Germany.

### IN MEMORIAM

## JULIO CASTAÑÉ APARICIO, EX-VICE DEAN OF SPANISH COLLEGE

Last September 17th, in Barcelona, his hometown, Julio Castañé died after a long working life and no less intense political dedication to the Colegio at regional, national and international levels.

He was a tireless political supporter of Optometry in every circumstance of his life.

I met with him several years representing the Colegio in ECOO, with, among others, José Luis Collado and José M<sup>a</sup> Castivia. Julio always had, as well as the moderation of what he says, a strength of conviction that never makes him take a step backwards if an advantage in Optometry and Ophthalmic Optics was in play, as well as if he sensed a backward step in the concept of Optometry as an independent, ruled and regulated health profession.

Also we were together in the Board of Government of the Colegio Nacional de Ópticos-Optometristas, being him the Vice Dean which I had the honour of replacing, that was another forum where we all learned from him the necessary conjunction between individual ideas and the necessary unity of all Regional Colleges for legislatively improving the profession of Optician-Optometrist and for defending it from the attacks of various areas and groups. His "stubbornness", together with his clearness of thoughts and his calmed way of explain them, made everybody and in every place showed him all their respect as man and politician.

He will be always in our minds in the defence or promotion of the profession he devoted his life to.



**Juan Carlos Martínez Moral**  
Dean-President

## ZVA AND SPECTARIS PUBLISH COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

The Zentralverband der Augenoptiker (ZVA) and the optical industry organisation in Germany (Spectaris) have published a comprehensive guide on the sector in Germany, Europe and the USA. Running to 135 pages, the guide gives not only an overview of the profession, as it is currently practised, but also a description of the changes among consumers. Finally it relates the changing structure of the sector and growing needs of consumers for eye care and eye wear to an extension of the profession's scope of practice.

The guide is available in German from either [www.zva.de](http://www.zva.de) or [www.spectaris.de](http://www.spectaris.de)