



Optometry Scotland Independent Representative Nominees 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Please take a moment to review the 6 candidates' personal statements before casting your vote. You can vote for a minimum of one person, up to a maximum of four people.

Please follow this link to the ballot: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/OSIRE22>

Alistair Duff



Dear Colleagues,

I would like to put myself forward for re-election as Independent rep on the Optometry Scotland board.

I have spent the last 20 years working within Optics in Ayrshire and I am currently a Director at Urquhart Opticians. We have 8 practices all located within Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway. My experience within Optics is from both a multiple and independent practices and I still test clinically 4 days per week giving me both a business and clinical background.

I would consider myself to be a strong advocate of the important role that all Optometrists play within primary care in Ayrshire and I have been involved in many programs over the years such as diabetic screening, post cataract checks, bridge to vision and low vision services provision. I currently hold the position of chair of the local Area Optical Professional Committee.

Optometry Scotland is a very important body for our profession and I take pride in being involved. In the last 4 years Optometry Scotland has taken steps forward by creating a better structure, engaging with Scot gov and securing increased funding packages. I see the future challenges as getting more practices/members involved and to promote what OS does for their members.

Over lockdown and the past few years I believe OS provided vital info to the practices who were struggling to keep up with the changes in legislation/ guidance and I was proud to be part of that information distribution whether that was to local groups or nationally on webcasts. We now need to change direction and show Scot gov that we have helped our communities in these difficult times and we should be paid accordingly for shared care schemes which will be part of the remobilisation of the NHS over the next few years.

Outside of work, I have a young family, Murray (6) and Fearnie (3). I also enjoy going to the football, swimming and cycling, having signed up to a 100 mile charity cycle in May.

I'd be very grateful for your support and to remain on the board of the Optometry Scotland.



Yours sincerely,

Alistair Duff, B.Sc. (Hons) MCOptom DipTP(IP)

Colette Dunsmore



I qualified in 1992 and immediately started work in a large multiple, and eventually began to Locum just two years later, giving me an experience in several different styles of practices. In 2006 I purchased an independent practice of my own and now work harder than ever before! As such I approached this committee, with the knowledge of having worked in multiple different styles of practices and having gained an understanding of how these practices work. I have loved my time in OS and felt I have stood up for our members during the time of the pandemic.

Throughout my life I have served as a member in many committees, as I enjoy the pride I get in giving back to the communities that I am a part of. I've served in the past as the President of a Nursery Committee, then moving on to be Chairperson of the school PTA, I have been Treasurer in The Eastwood Theatre User Group, and I have been President of The Minerva Club Glasgow. I decided when I partook in these groups that I wanted to give something back and get involved in any way I could, and that is exactly what I have tried to do. Speaking up for our members, bringing about change and moving things forward is something I am passionate about, and I fully believe that the only way for change to happen is to make it happen yourself. I am also a member of a PEER group in Lanarkshire, so regularly meet other Independent Optometrists, and get a chance to discuss issues with them, and have loved being able to bring issues they raise back to the OS Committee.

As an Independent practice owner, I would aim to stand up for the smaller man. I have witnessed changes made in the past, that don't necessarily help locums and independent businesses, who are smaller and need a lot more support. If I was part of the committee again, I would try help bring this balance back for the Independents, so that they also feel represented and supported by Optometry Scotland, as this is how I feel I would help bring more Independents to be part of the organisation. I am not afraid to speak out when it comes to my opinion, or the opinions of those that I am representing, while I still understand the politics of committee work and the need for compromise.

I hope to be considered for your committee again because I am determined to make the optics community better than before, and I hope you have felt I have served you well in the past few years I have been on the committee.



Ian Jarvis



I qualified in 1984 from Glasgow Caledonian University and have run my own independent practice in Dundee for over 30 years. I have been an Independent Prescriber from 2011 and recently completed the NESGAT qualification.

I have been a member of OS since it was first formed and have served as your representative for the independent sector on the executive of OS council for the last 4 years.

I was Chair and vice-Chair of the Scottish Committee of Optometrists, where I was on the executive that designed and ran the re-training of the profession in Scotland in 2006.

I have a passion for education and training the profession. I designed and ran the first NES funded courses at the Clinical Skills Centre, in Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. This was used as a template and has now been replicated in other centres across Scotland.

I am a strong advocate for development of the profession. The publication of the SIGN guidelines on Glaucoma provided an opportunity for the profession to move forward. The new NESAGT qualification, will allow community optometrists to manage safely discharged glaucoma patients. However, I am quite clear that these developments must be properly remunerated to maintain a viable profession and the new fees under negotiation by OS will deliver fees which do not rely on cross-subsidy by the sale of glasses and contact lenses.

During my role on the executive of OS, I have been involved in the formulation of the advanced anterior eye scheme. This will allow referral from non-IP to IP optometrists and will also finally remunerate IP optometrists with sustainable fees for their work.

I have also been on the working group which is liaising with GCU on the development of a new 5-year Masters degree including IP qualification. This is a large task which will require a lot of input from both sides to bring to fruition but is a once in a generation opportunity to advance the skills of future optometrists.

However, the continued expansion in numbers of IP Optometrists amongst the current profession is as important, as it makes the profession more capable of taking on new roles that have been developed for our profession.

I have been a Scottish council member for the College of Optometrists and sat on the research committee, which awards funding to future research projects in Optometry. From this I can see the importance of evidence based research and how this strengthens the case for future development in our discussions with Government.



The publication of the inter-professional expert working group review of primary care Optometry by OS provides clear and robust evidence to the Scottish Government about the enhanced roles that we can provide. I see the next few years as crucial in terms of developing our profession and OS will have a key role in this process.

The profession has been through an unprecedented upheaval through the COVID crisis, but thanks to the work of OS, the effects have been mitigated. Through weekly executive meetings we organised the average payments, supply of PPE through the NHS supply chain and ensured optometrists were on the same priority listing for vaccinations as our other health care colleagues.

I have always been a strong advocate for the clinical advancement of the profession, with fees which do not require cross subsidy from our retail activities. The recent current uplift of fees and more importantly a regular review process negotiated by OS will be a step in the right direction.

I have valued being able to contribute to the work of OS over the last few years on the council and I would continue to work hard to maintain and develop what we have in Scotland.

Ian Jarvis

BSc MCOptom , DipTp(IP) , LTA Dip Post. grad cert HEd.

Jonathan Jennet



I joined Optometry Scotland once I bought my independent practice. I was a locum previously. I have seen what good essential work OS does, especially during the pandemic with support for optometrists and in discussions with government etc. I want to be part of something that furthers the profession of Optometry in Scotland. This is a constantly changing landscape. I feel it's important to stand up for what we do and our ability to play an increasingly crucial part in Primary Care. I'm very passionate and protective of our profession and the excellent practitioners that practice it. I feel every practice in Scotland should have OS membership as their number one priority, due to the real term benefits it exacts on us all.

About me:

I graduated from UUC, completed my Pre-Reg in Specsavers, Berkshire and qualified in 2003. I moved to Edinburgh to work for Specsavers soon after and then took up a position as Managing Optometrist in a city centre Independent Opticians. We were acquired by a multiple so I started working as a locum in 2005, in practices all around Scotland and Northern England. These included multiples, supermarkets opticians but predominantly Independent Optometrists. I also tested eyes



in prison, corporate eye care and did domiciliary sight tests through my own company. I completed my Professional Certificate in Glaucoma with UUC in 2017 and my Professional Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care in 2018. I plan to do IP, Prof Cert in Medical Retina and CL's in the near future. I been a member of the Lothian Area Optical Committee for the last 5 years and represent Optical on the NHS Area Clinical Forum in Lothian. I always wanted to open or buy an independent practice and did so in 2018, just outside Edinburgh in Currie. We went from a one day a week practice to 5 days very quickly after the first lockdown. We are continuing to grow and are getting close to capacity.

Arthur McHugh

I would like to be considered for Independent representative post within Optometry Scotland.

For 33 years I have owned four independent practices. I have been a qualified Independent prescriber since 2012 and am a newly qualified NESGAT. Previously, I helped set up the Masters in Ophthalmology with Edinburgh University.

At the IP conferences I have taken workshops and lectured. Pre Covid, I supervised clinics at Caledonian University for foreign students looking to register in the UK. I have trained Optometrists new to Lanarkshire in our LENS1 scheme, carrying out evening sessions to allow them to use the drugs in their practices.

Over the years I have encouraged all of my optometrists to get involved with the IP qualification. I believe we have many areas where our profession, with support can enhance the community Care to patients and relieve pressure on the NHS services. I would like to see my experience Being used to help our profession to grow further within the community.

Kind Regards

Arthur McHugh BSc MCOptom, DipTp(IP)
Managing Director
McHugh, Madden & Shaw Ltd

Richard Spruce





I have been qualified as an optometrist for almost 18 years and I am a partner in an independent company with practices in Forth Valley and the Scottish Borders. As an independent optometrist I understand the stresses and strains of working for yourself, being responsible not only for the care of your patients but also ensuring that the practices run well, that staff are recruited and trained, that you are providing a wide range of frames and lenses for patients as well as marketing your practices in a very competitive environment.

I have been one of the independent reps for Optometry Scotland for the last 8 years. During this time, I have enjoyed attending the Optometry Scotland meetings and seeing how things work; observing the development of new regulations, expanding the scope of our day to day practice and shaping optometry for the future. During the early days of the pandemic OS had weekly meetings where we discussed the massive changes required to deal with a very fluid situation - it really showed just how important an organisation like OS is. I felt privileged to be part of it and contribute in my own way with views of the independent optometrist.

I feel one of the most important factors involved in growing the scope of our practice is remuneration. The 3% rise last year was a good first step and it shows that the work OS does is very important, however, there is much more to be done to ensure that we are adequately rewarded for the hard work that we do every day in practice.

Like it or not, we need to pay the bills. We independents are probably more aware of the cost of running practices than some of our colleagues in the multiple sector. We need to provide spectacles and contact lenses to our patients to pay wages, maintain practices, invest in equipment and generally keep the lights on. If we are providing services to patients that will not provide a dispensing opportunity it must be funded to such an extent that we don't lose out financially.

If I am re-elected as your independent representative, I will continue to voice these views at Optometry Scotland and hopefully help steer the profession to a properly funded environment where we don't have to choose between paying the bills and caring for our patients.

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