

GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ECOO

CINDY TROMANS
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



What is your professional background, and what is your role at ECOO?

I qualified as an Optometrist in 1986 and then started to study for a PhD. My PhD was in ophthalmic ultrasound measurements, and I studied in both the Physics department and the Medical School at the University of Manchester. As I was studying part-time, I did locum work and worked at the Royal Eye Hospital and when I completed I took up a full time hospital optometrist post. I have worked as such since then and have been a Consultant Optometrist and Head of Optometry Services at Manchester for almost 30 years!

I also began to get involved in optical politics firstly at the AOP as the hospital optometrist council member and then I became a council member of the College of Optometrists which led to me being President 2010-12 and then I was the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

I got involved in ECOO when I was College president and attended my first meeting in Copenhagen in 2010. I am currently the Immediate Past President having served two terms of office.

What are the most important skills/personal attributes needed to do your job?

I think patience and tenacity would certainly be up there both in terms of my day job in the National Health Service (NHS) and also optical politics. It often takes time to see all the hard work you put in to come to fruition and you have to hang in there! I think it is also helpful to have good negotiating skills and be able to present your subject clearly to people who have different backgrounds.

What has taken you by surprise in your work with ECOO?

Well, it is not really a surprise, but I am impressed by the way that ECOO members behave as a community. So friendly and supportive and our meetings are really a pleasure to attend. I have made some good friends that I know I will always keep in touch with after my time at ECOO is done.

What is your biggest achievement at ECOO so far?

Can I have two? I think the 2020 edition of the Blue Book. This was a massive piece of work that went

above and beyond previous editions. Also, the transition of the Board of Management to the European Qualification Board and seeing the progression of the European Diploma over my Presidencies.

What is the best piece of professional advice you have received?

Very early on in my career my PhD supervisor advised me to try not to fall out with anyone I work with as you never know if your paths might cross again in the future. So true, optics is a small world!

Bonus question:

When you manage to escape from ECOO or your day job, how do you like to spend your time?

I am an outdoors person for sure. I own a horse and try to get out and about in the English Peak District as much as possible, either in the saddle or on foot. I am also a British Eventing fence judge, so I try to support local events and competitions by helping out as I am now far too old to be galloping around and jumping over things myself!