

WLOC Co-Chair report 2016

My second year as co-chair has been very fulfilling as the WLOC grows from strength to strength. We set the precedent for excellence in performance with the three enhanced schemes, PEARS, IOPRR and cataract pre-assessment. So much so, that together with the WEI, we won the New Cross award for the Best Audit for PEARS in 2015 and received some brilliant press coverage in the optical journals! But that's not all; the hard work for our PEARS audit was recognised once again, as we came runners up in the poster competition at the NOC 2015! A big achievement.

A recent audit carried out for the cataract scheme at the WEI has also shown very positive results in our referrals being converted into cataract operations.

As always there has been a great deal of work being carried out behind the scenes, by the committee officers and members; Peter and Jill have had their work cut out with the clinical governance work in trying to ensure that the three schemes are being utilised correctly and staying within the guidelines set by the CCG. I know this has been quite challenging at times. The performance charts created for each practice to evaluate their own performance, has been well received and have given a wealth of information.

Gurraj, our IT officer, has been instrumental with his social media skills. He has done a great job with our new website - that should be glued to everyone's desktops - so you can be kept up to date with the latest developments and information. He has put the WLOC out there on Twitter and is currently working on our Facebook page.

Jill, our treasurer, quietly works very hard to keep our finances under control, which has been particularly challenging this year. This is a massive task when you're holding down a full time job at the same time..

Peter, who always puts in unbelievable time and effort, has been particularly superb in securing some fantastic grants from the CCG to help with our future training programs.

This has meant that the "Ophthalmology Optometry team working together" initiative has been the best it has ever been. Our consultants at the WEI have been very forthcoming with their help during our training events and meetings. Mrs Gandhewar has been most kind and helpful in allowing our Optometrists to sit in during her clinics to gain invaluable experience. These clinics, although time consuming to arrange, have received great praise from the Optoms who have already participated. It is an ongoing program and we hope to allow all our Optoms to get this chance of experiencing hospital work. We are currently working with Mr Kam Balaggan, to bring about hands on training with real patients, videos and IT, in the vitreo-retinal field in order for us to feel more confident in recognising PVD and not miss that retinal break/tear. Later in the year we hope to do similar training sessions with Mr Chappiti for the IOPRR scheme and improve our competence levels with applanation tonometry, detecting glaucoma and improving our referrals into hospital.

We are unstoppable at the moment, as we continue talks with our CCG to bring about other enhanced schemes. We are very fortunate to have the support from the WEI, particularly Mr Bhatnagar, the clinical director and Ms Mel Riley, the directorate manager at the WEI as well as the consultants there.

All this is not possible without the regular support and input from all of you out there. We need you to keep in touch with us, encourage our silent / sleeping colleagues to come to our events, participate and let us know what you like/dislike about your LOC. It is crucial that more of you join and use the three current schemes as we cannot move forward with our ambitions if the current schemes are under-utilised. Using the schemes means better referrals, better outcomes for our patients and so more respect for our Optometry community.

Tell us the help and support you need from us, that's why we are here. Become active with the social media campaign, believe me - it's easy if I can do it! We are all doing a great job, let's all work together, make ourselves even better and put Wolverhampton on an even higher pedestal.