

# Optometry Newsletter



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Addysg a Gwella Iechyd  
Cymru (AaGIC)  
Health Education and  
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

February 2024

## EYES on HEIW; North Wales Conference

Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW) Optometry are holding their first conference for optometrists and dispensing opticians in North Wales on the 13 March 2024.

The event provides an opportunity for free Continued Professional Development (CPD) including peer review, case-based discussion, and a keynote lecture. We

are excited to confirm that our keynote speaker will be Catrin Bertalot, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board with a talk on using your Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) in medical retinal conditions.

We hope this will be an excellent opportunity to network for all optometrists and dispensing opticians.

### When

Wednesday, 13 March 2024

### Where

Oriel Hotel, Upper Denbigh Road, St Asaph, LL17 0LW

### How to book

Please log into your **Y Ty Dysgu account**, go to 'events' (apps) click on 'Llygaid ar AaGIC; Cynhadledd Optometreg Gogledd Cymru / **Eyes on HEIW; North Wales Optometry Conference**' event and click 'join event' (blue button)



## Fellowship 23/24

Please join us in welcoming our Fellow for 23/24, Cerys.

Cerys graduated from Cardiff School of Optometry in 2004 and qualified as an optometrist the following year.

She has been practising as a community optometrist for the past 18 years.

As part of her HEIW fellowship, she is undergoing leadership and management training with Wrexham University and Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management.

She is also working on a project entitled "Investigating Support Staff workforce in optometry, and the potential impact they have on MECC (Make Every Contact Count) provision, in line with the contract reform", which focuses on empowering and encouraging support staff to upskill their knowledge and confidence around Make Every Contact Count.

# HEIW Optometry Placement and Training Lead(s)

Please join us in welcoming back Eleanor and Kath. Eleanor Thomas and Kathryn Lowry returned to HEIW in December following their year as Clinical Leadership Fellows embarking on their new roles as Placement and Training leads. They have been tasked with developing HEIW Optometry's Advanced Training Practices to be able to offer quality placements for Optometrists who require clinical placements for higher qualifications. Eleanor and Kathryn have hit the ground running and are fully committed to providing the much-needed placement opportunities for our optometrists. We will keep you updated on their progress.

## Quality Improvement

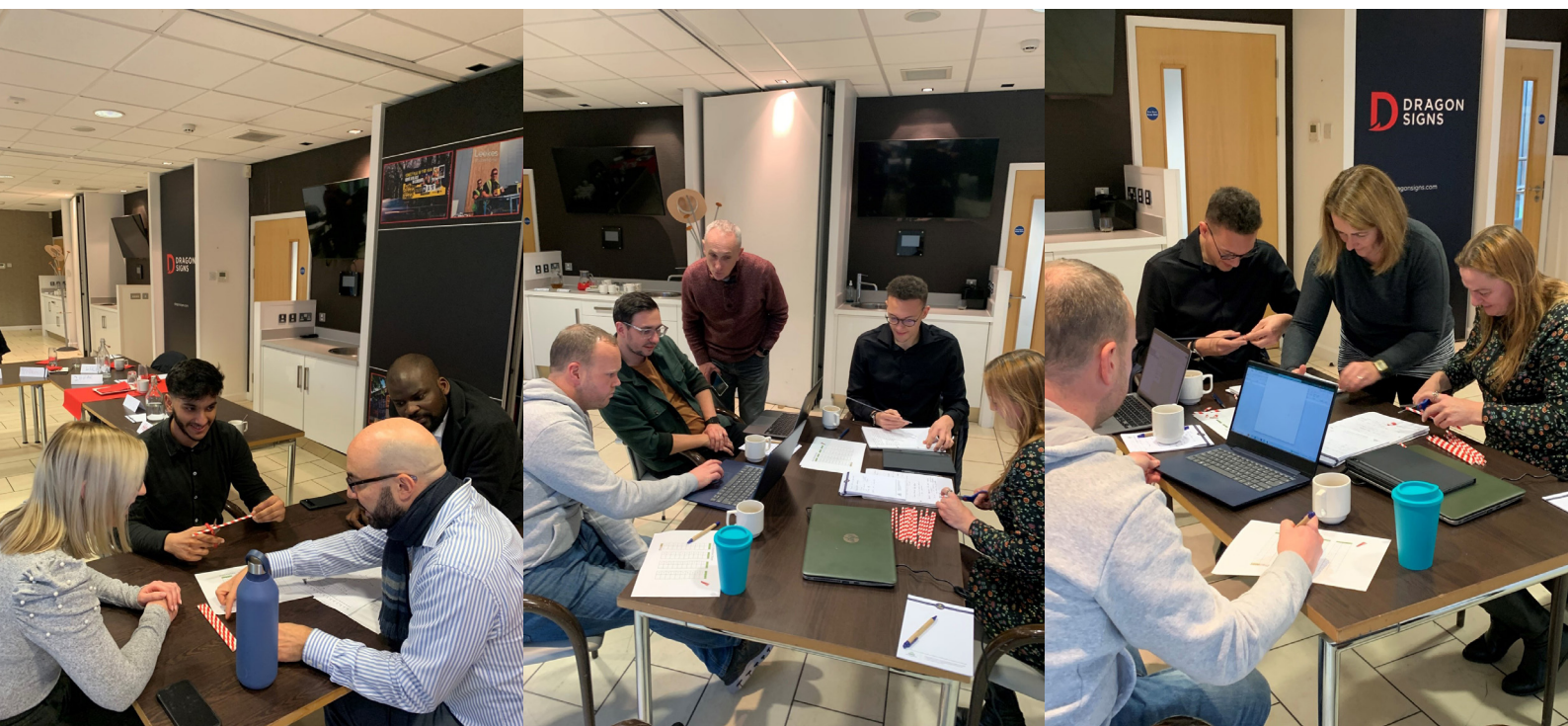
Congratulations to our first cohort of Optometry professionals upon completion of their silver Quality Improvement (QI) training! The engaging workshops were financially supported by HEIW and offered an opportunity to network with colleagues across Wales, whilst earning CPD points.

The QI training provided an opportunity to gain hands-on experience and understanding of the benefits that applying a QI approach to daily practice can create, how it can be used in collaboration with other professions, and its use in optometry practice. We look forward to supporting our QI champions to complete their optometry improvement projects and sharing them with you.

Feedback received:

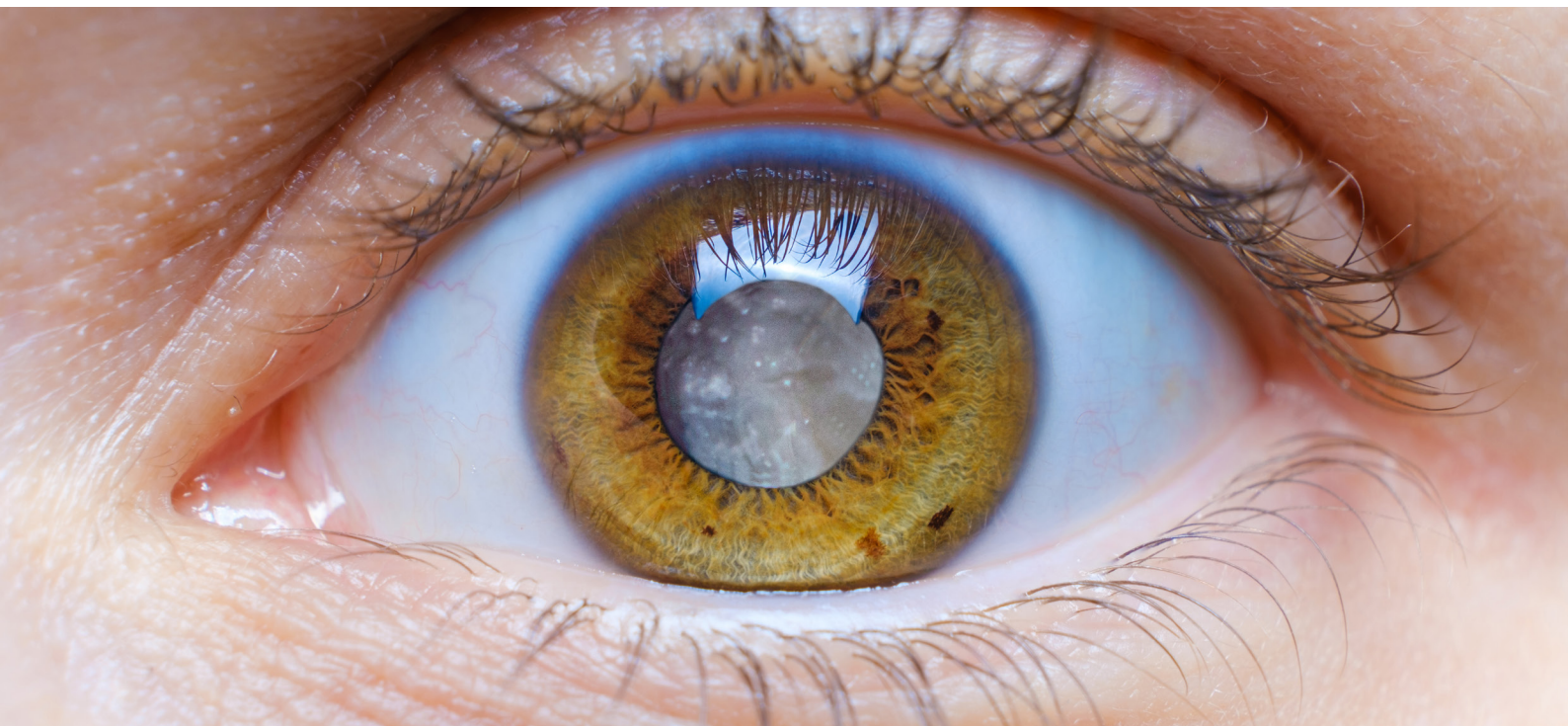
"...I would highly recommend this course to my colleagues as well as to people in different professions. It's changed the way I look at certain aspects of my work for the better."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the QI course. I have gained far more from it than I anticipated..."



# Y Ty Dysgu

There are two new CPD modules available on Y Ty Dysgu; Cataract Case Presentations and Glaucoma Case Presentations. They provide a step-by-step walkthrough of 4 patient cases as seen, assessed, and managed in primary care optometry practices in Wales. There is 1 CPD point available for each successful module submission on Y Ty Dysgu. You can find them on Y Ty Dysgu by clicking Apps, Courses, Discovery.



## Pre-Registration Optometrists!

### Calling all Pre-Reg's!

Don't forget to get in contact with us at [HEIW.Optometry@Wales.nhs.uk](mailto:HEIW.Optometry@Wales.nhs.uk) to find out about additional training requirements on completion of your final exams.

Please remember to update your status to the appropriate role on your Y Ty Dysgu profile to make sure you are receiving the appropriate updates.

Finally, good luck to all those about to start their higher qualifications in March 2024. These include those we have sponsored on Medical Retina higher certificate and Professional Certificate in Glaucoma.

[heiw.optometry@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:heiw.optometry@wales.nhs.uk)

Any queries or WGOS training and accreditation

[nwssp-primarycareservices@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:nwssp-primarycareservices@wales.nhs.uk)

WGOS clinical or WGOS management queries

[HEIW.OptometryLowVision@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:HEIW.OptometryLowVision@wales.nhs.uk)

Low Vision training and accreditation

[Low.vision@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Low.vision@wales.nhs.uk)

Low Vision Service Wales - clinical, management or service delivery queries