

## Welsh Deputy Minister of Health thanked ophthalmologists for continued support in undergraduate education



Mr Vaughan Gething, the Welsh Deputy Minister of Health launched a DVD “Ophthalmology for Medical Students” produced by Mr Nikhil Kaushik, Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Wrexham Maelor Hospital, on Friday the 16 January 2015. The minister earlier addressed the ophthalmologists from across Wales who attended an event at the Welsh Assembly, held to affirm the Welsh Government’s commitment to improving outcomes in the Hospital Eye Service in Wales.

The minister expressed the hope that the educational DVD, will prove valuable for Medical Students, and thanked the ophthalmologists for their continued support in the field of undergraduate education as well as delivering high quality service in the face of ever increasing demands on the speciality.

Officials from the Welsh government and Carrie MacEwen, President attended the event.

## The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Study Tour to China, 2014

### 23 June to 7 July 2014 - Tour Leader: Christopher Liu

Nineteen delegates from the UK, Australia and New Zealand explored first-hand eye health services in China and the fascinating people and culture. Healthcare is mainly provided publicly. National insurances cover 90% of emergency and inpatient services. Primary care is practically non-existing. ‘Barefoot’ doctors remain in some rural areas but there are no GPs. Currently, most people attend overwhelmed hospitals directly. However, the healthcare reform announced in 2009 aims to shift care from hospitals to village clinics.

We observed world-class clinical and research facilities and state-of-the-art equipment in Fudan University Eye/ENT Hospital, Shanghai Ninth People’s Hospital, Beijing Tongren Eye Hospital, Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center and Hong Kong Eye Hospital. In a traditional Chinese medicine hospital, we witnessed acupuncture, tuina massage, moxibustion, vacuum cupping and herbal formulation preparations. Some delegates and hosts gave lectures. Highly interactive in-depth discussions followed with mutual learning.

We shared the work carried out by the College, the forthcoming new premises and the opportunity for highly distinguished international authorities in clinical and academic ophthalmology to apply for FRCOphth by Election.

We enjoyed the Great Wall, Summer Palace, Forbidden City, disappearing Hutongs in Beijing, Bund in Shanghai, traditional gardens in Suzhou, Terracotta Army, Hong Kong harbour, The Peak and picturesque Guelin. We were amazed by a light show by the choreographer of the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony and traditional Peking opera. Christopher Liu, the tour leader, drawing from his vast network of scholars, practitioners and friends around China had created an excellent programme with access to places and people we would have never otherwise been able to visit. His knowledge and expertise enhanced our understanding of the situations encountered.

We had the chance to see China in a meaningful way. Vivienne, his wife, helped with cultural, language and organisational issues and made the tour run more smoothly and always with a genuinely warm smile.

This study tour provided a satisfying educational experience. It allowed us to think creatively about the challenges we face at home and establish networks with local colleagues and fellow participants. The ability to discuss what we saw and heard with a group of like minds on the tour enriched the experience. We never had a quiet bus.

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