

# INSIGHT

THE EYES AND EARS OF THE OPHTHALMIC WORLD – SINCE 1975

OCTOBER 2014

Rose Byrne

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## 03 Luxottica's CEO quits; conflict with founder

The chief executive of Italy's Luxottica Group, Mr Andrea Guerra, 49, has quit his position after a falling out with the company's founder, Mr Leonardo Del Vecchio, 79.

## 06 No changes without evidence: minister

There will be no amendments to budget health measures unless there is evidence of negative effects, federal health minister Peter Dutton has told OA.

## 08 Drug company has interest conflict: MP

Ophthalmologist Dr Andrew Laming, MP, on 2 September claimed in parliament a drug company has a conflict of interest in regard to two AMD drugs.

All the ophthalmic news that matters!

# Website helps ophthalmology trainees prepare for exams

The [OphthoQuestions.com](http://OphthoQuestions.com) subscription-based website helps ophthalmic trainees prepare for standardised examinations and learn high-yield clinical information.

The online-study tool uses an interactive, question-and-answer format that simulates an actual examination.

Ophthoquestions uses feedback from subscribers to constantly revise and optimise didactic materials.

With more than 2,100 new subscribers added just in the past year, the site has been steadily gaining worldwide recognition as the go-to online resource for studying and preparing for ophthalmology examinations.

Fees are \$US169.99 for six months and \$199.99 for 12 months and can be paid direct online.

There are glowing testimonials on the OphthoQuestions website

All of the questions are made by recently-board-certified ophthalmologists or trainees who are very familiar with the test.

One of the reasons behind the creation of the website was the feeling that a lot of question books and banks had old and unreliable material made by individuals who passed the examination 20-30

years ago. A lot of questions were either too esoteric or too easy.

All of the questions in the test bank are on highly-testable material. No one exactly knows what questions will appear on the examination.

Due to the comprehensive nature of the website, it is inevitable that some of the material covered may also be found elsewhere. Questions are continually added or removed based on the website's advisory panel's recommendations and feedback from users.

## Simulates exam

The test engine simulates the real examination with its timer and testing format. That offers a large advantage over print questions because it prepares trainees for what the test will really be like.

The website has a huge pool of questions for a stand-alone study aid or as a supplement to other preparatory materials.

Unlike textbooks or some websites mired in bureaucracy, the testing engine and question bank are constantly improving. Feedback is taken seriously and recommendations are implemented in a timely manner.

Test results are never shared with any third-party entity, such

as training staff, other trainees or prospective employers.

OphthoQuestions can provides users with an historical performance of how they are doing compared to other trainees or practising ophthalmologists, so that they know what topics to improve upon.

The website was developed by two ophthalmologists in the United States – Drs Gnus Stern and Sidney Chang, who were studying for their Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program (OKAP) examination during residency and felt that the review books they were using were outdated.

Seeking a more contemporary knowledge base, they struggled to create their own multiple-choice questions and really saw a need.

They went on to fellowships and private practice, but never forgot their vision for something better.

Eventually, they began working on a website to help trainees study and their joint creation was OphthoQuestions, using an interactive question-and-answer format that helps subscribers prepare for all manner of examinations.

It is easy to navigate and gives instant feedback with detailed explanations about the correct

answers, with illustrations where necessary.

Users can select the number of questions they would like to answer in each session. They can also see how their results rank against other users, so they know how their scores compare.

Dr Stern is now in private practice in Houston, specialising in cataract, and Dr Chang in Hawaii, specialising in glaucoma as well as general ophthalmology.

The material is constantly updated by both of them as well as by contributors from many areas who help them to keep it current in their field of expertise.

In addition, users have the option of posting comments about particular questions if they disagree with an answer or see any type of problem. Those e-mails are then sent to the contributors with a back-end link that takes them directly to the question in the database. The information is verified and corrected if necessary.

"Review books can't do that," Dr Stern said.

All previous test results and cumulative performance are stored for users, even if they do not have an active subscription, so they can resume access to them later. ■

## 'There's nothing like ODMA2015' is theme for Brisbane exhibition

'There's nothing like ODMA2015' is the theme for next year's exhibition and seminar in Brisbane, following the success of the 2013 event.

A change to the keynote speaker is that Professor Charles McGhee, of Auckland University, has been replaced by Professor Minas Coroneo, of the

University of New South Wales, after Professor McGhee advised ODMA he was unable to participate in the event.

There will be no catalogue for

the ODMA2015 exhibition and no golf day, however the gala dinner on the Saturday evening will be held again due to the success of the dinner in 2013. ■

## mEYE World Photographic Competition – Call for entries

The Macular Disease Foundation Australia is calling for entries into the fourth annual mEYE World Photographic Competition and is asking all

Australians to submit a photograph that captures the theme: 'a sight worth saving'.

This year's competition boasts a high-profile judging

panel including media identity and patron of the Macular Disease Foundation Australia Ita Buttrose, iconic Australian artist Ken Done, internationally-

recognised photographer Rex Dupain and one of Australia's longest serving news photographers, Alan Pryke. ■