Out of the Box Optics Optoversity Challenge 2023 in aid of Vision Care for Homeless People

Optoversity Challenge is an inter-University competition between Optometry students in the UK and ROI and is the 'brainchild' of the training providers, Out of the Box Optics who provide mentorship and educational support to optometry learners. It is a light-hearted, fun event which tests the students on various aspects of optometry and challenges them to raise funds in the lead up to the competition which are put towards the running of Vision Care for Homeless People's clinics. The annual event receives the backing of the optical community who come together to support the competition and put themselves in front of the future generation of optometrists by sponsoring the event or by donating prizes for the best students.

Can you help by us make Optoversity Challenge a success this year?
- **Donate a prize**
- **Sign up as a general sponsor**
- **Sign up to be 1 of 4 major sponsors**

To discuss any of the options listed (p2-4) please contact Alison Gordon, Community & Corporate Fundraiser, alison.gordon@vchp.org.uk (07999473748)

The Story so far..

Now in its seventh year, this charity event has become firmly established in the optical community calendar and has already helped raise over £25,000 for Vision Care for Homeless People whilst giving Optometry students an insight into the career possibilities the field has to offer. The competition was originally aimed at final year student and held at one of the optometry schools.

In 2021 because of the pandemic the competition moved online. This format allowed it to grow - with 80 students from 11 universities taking part, with participation from all year groups.

In 2022 we hosted the competition online once again but decided to bring the winning students together in person for a special awards event hosted at 100 % Optical, who funded student travel so they could attend. The students met with some of the companies who had put up prizes and sponsorship – plus experienced the atmosphere of the UK's largest optical event.

'I really enjoyed the competition; it was great fun and lovely to interact with other students from outside our college! It was an honour to represent TU Dublin and to fundraise for such a worthy cause. I'd highly recommend the challenge to other students, it's a great learning experience but also great fun! Even just having the opportunity to speak in front of a group of people is great experience and will hopefully stand to me throughout the rest of the semester as well as in my career!' Rachel Regan, Final yr. Dublin.

Plans for 2023

In 2023 we'll be picking the best bits of previous formats! The main competition will be hosted online on **Sunday 5ᵗʰ February 2023,** with students competing against others in their year group in a fun interactive quiz and games that test their knowledge of optometry.

For final years we want to offer an in-person opportunity as well. We'll be inviting the 4 highest scoring students from the competition on the 5ᵗʰ to join us at 100 % Optical on **Sunday 26ᵗʰ February 2023** to take part in a final. They will have their knowledge and skills tested in a further round which is designed to give them a taste of what they will be facing at the end of their degrees.
Each student will face a different challenging OSCE station (f.i on what is an OSCE – see appendix) which they will respond to in front of each other – plus friends and supporters from their universities and an audience of Pre -Registration students who will have attended an earlier workshop Out of the Box are running at 100 %.

How companies can get involved:

1. Donate a prize
The success of Optoversity Challenge rests very much on the generous support given by numerous companies in the optical community.

We are looking for companies to put up prizes for the competition again this year - to be awarded to the winning students in each year group and the overall winning team. The top three individual fundraisers will also be awarded prizes in recognition of their efforts and success.

Prizes donated in previous years have included pieces of optical equipment that the students need to support their studies, texts books, vouchers, glazed lenses, and sunglasses.

Competition Prize Giver
- All companies donating prizes will be named in press releases and featured in the social media promotions we will be posting in the run up to the event to encourage student sign up and fundraising.
- Logo included on prize giver page to be shown to students & named as one of competition Prize Givers
- The winners of the prizes will be encouraged to post a thank you on social media and tag the company who donated the prize.

2. General Competition Sponsor
We are also inviting companies who donate a prize to pledge to be a general competition sponsor by making a small donation to VCHP in support of the fundraising challenge (Suggested donation : £100). Companies can also donate without pledging a prize.

General Competition Sponsor - £100 (unlimited)
- Mentioned in list of supporters in press releases.
- Logo included on sponsorship page to be shown to students.

3. Major Competition Sponsor
We are inviting 4 optical companies to come forward as Major Competition Sponsors for the event this year and in return of a **£1000** sponsorship donation offering them the opportunity to put themselves in front of each year group, to showcase what they do.

Major Competition Sponsor – £1000 (1 of 4)

- Named in press releases as one of 4 Major Competition Sponsor.
- Logo included on sponsorship page to be shown to students & named as one of 4 Competition Sponsor
- Invited to take part in the competition to interact directly with students in the following ways:

The online competitions on the 5th February:
Each year will each be taking part in an online quiz, including optometric and non-optometric questions. At intervals during their year group session each of the 4 sponsors will be invited to give a brief introduction about their company & the services they offer. This can either be in person, joining the online event, or by means off a short promotional video clip (1-2 minutes long). We then revert to the quiz...and the next round of questions will focus on the presentation given by the sponsor. (This gives students the impetus to pay attention to the presentations).

The third year final on the 27th February:
Each sponsor will be invited to design their own OSCE station for the final at 100 % Optical (see description of the format above in 'Plans for 2023' – plus example in appendix below). The theme of the station can be decided by the sponsor to reflect their area of expertise and the content co-created with the Out of the Box Optics Team.

We will invite a representative from the company to facilitate their OSCE on the day (we can provide an assessor if preferred). Once all the students have taken part, we then collectively give the participants a "model answer" for each of the stations. This also gives the Sponsor a chance to speak to the 3rd years about the products/services they offer – plus the assembled audience of supporters and pre-registration students.

Appendix

1. What is an OSCE?
An **OSCE** is an 'Objective, Structured Clinical Examination' and is the standard method of assessment in both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Final year optometry students face a series of OSCEs as part of their final degree assessment. They will also be assessed in this way at the end of the pre-registration year, which they complete after graduating, before becoming qualified. OSCE's are scenario based, focusing on a range of competencies covered in their learning, and test the students in their communication skills, clinical decision making and knowledge of referrals as well as optical understanding.

2. Example of OSCE scenario
Here is an example that TopCon supplied previously:

STATION 8

Candidate Instructions

You will be shown two images in turn.
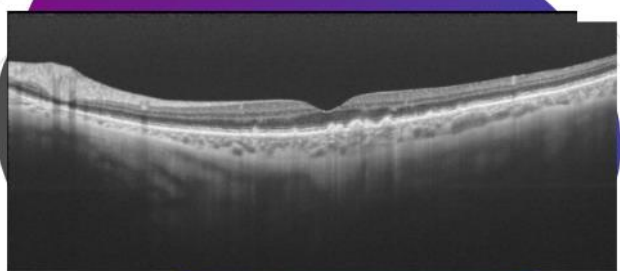
Answer your assessor's questions.

You have five minutes for this station

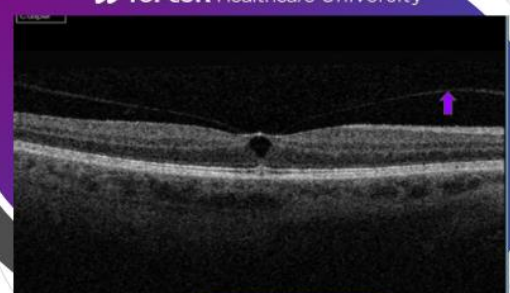**Case Study**
TOPCON Healthcare University

- Female, 65
- VA 6/9
- Reports no change since last test but noticed closing eye when reading

Q1) What type of scan is this?   Q2) Which eye is this?   Q3) What remarkable features do we see

Q4) What ocular pathology do these features indicate?

Case Study
TOPCON Healthcare University

- Female, 61
- VA 6/9
- 'Vision isn't as good but still ok' Past 4/52
- No other symptoms.

Q5) What is the likely diagnosis?   Q6) What is the purple arrow pointing to?

3. About Out of the Box Optics - Out of the Box Optics provide mentorship and educational support to optometry learners. Since 2016 their OSCE Masterclasses have helped over 600 pre-Regs tackle their final exams enroute to becoming Qualified. They founded Optoversity Challenge in 2018 to introduce their company to optometry students and because of their strong beliefs in providing eyecare for all chose VCHP as the charity partner.

4. About Vision Care for Homeless People – Vision Care for Homeless People (VCHP) is a small charity which provides eye care services free of charge to homeless and vulnerable people. Homeless people suffer a higher level of eye problems than the general population. They find high street opticians difficult to access and are prone to losing or breaking their glasses. VCHP runs clinics based in homeless services in 7 cities across the UK. Only one third of those VCHP helps are eligible for NHS funding so the charity makes up the difference by using skilled volunteers, through gifts in kind and with charity fundraising.

Vision Care for Homeless People – Charity Number 1118076
c/o Crisis Skylight, 66 Commercial St, London, E1 6LT
T: 020 3286 4186 E: info@vchp.org.uk W: www.vchp.org.uk

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