

I am an Optometrist who Graduated from Aston University in 2012 and Qualified in March 2014.

Since I first qualified, I have continued working hard to develop my experience and knowledge. I have always strived to progress, in order to ensure I am able to continue contributing to the profession and community in the most relevant way to what are rapidly changing and evolving times. In the last 10 years since qualification, I proudly believe I have kept as true as possible to this aspiration.

I quickly gained city and guild accreditation to join the SLB Diabetic eye screening programme in the area, and thereafter WOPEC accreditation in MECS/GRR1/GRR2/Cataracts.

I got married and welcomed my beautiful baby girl into the world!

I spent the first few years in employment in community at Specsavers Great Yarmouth, then as a full time Locum working at practices all over Norfolk and Suffolk, and eventually back in employment with Newmedica in Glaucoma monitoring services for the NNUH.

In 2017 I joined Specsavers Great Yarmouth as an Optometrist Director and joined as partner in Specsavers Great Yarmouth Audiology. A year later I helped open our sister Specsavers store in Gorleston. I am proud to say the 2 practices have become pillars in the local community offering a wide range of Optometry services.

I also thoroughly enjoy Pre Reg Optometrist supervision and find it extremely rewarding. I consider it a very special privilege to be able to guide the future of our profession through these hard working young colleagues. I have successfully trained 6 students so far in to becoming Optometrists, and hope to continue training many more.

I have continued my work at Newmedica and progressed into now providing Cataract pre/post op services and am also YAG laser capsulotomy trained, having performed an estimated 300 procedures so far, and counting.

In 2020 I was delighted to be elected into the Norfolk and Waveney LOC, specifically to give representation to the Great Yarmouth and Waveney area. I believe I have diligently fulfilled my role and commitments as a committee member, and have found it thoroughly engaging and enjoyable throughout.

If re-elected, I hope to continue to serve my local Optometry community by contributing whatever I can to help our profession strive ever higher. It has always been my single most important goal to ensure the progression and elevation of our Optometry profession both in the eyes of our local community as well as our Professional peers in Primary and Secondary care. In doing so, I hope we are able to realise our full potential as Optometrists, and continue to improve on the ever so important care we provide to our community.

I feel that nothing has highlighted the importance of our role in the community more than the COVID pandemic, and since then, the delivery of the CUES service. It has catapulted Optometry in the eyes of the commissioning bodies and I believe, has led to marked progress. We need to really keep this momentum going as a LOC and I would be honoured to continue being part of that team.

I humbly request your kind consideration for Election to the LOC committee.

Sincerely,

Ali Ganiwalla.