

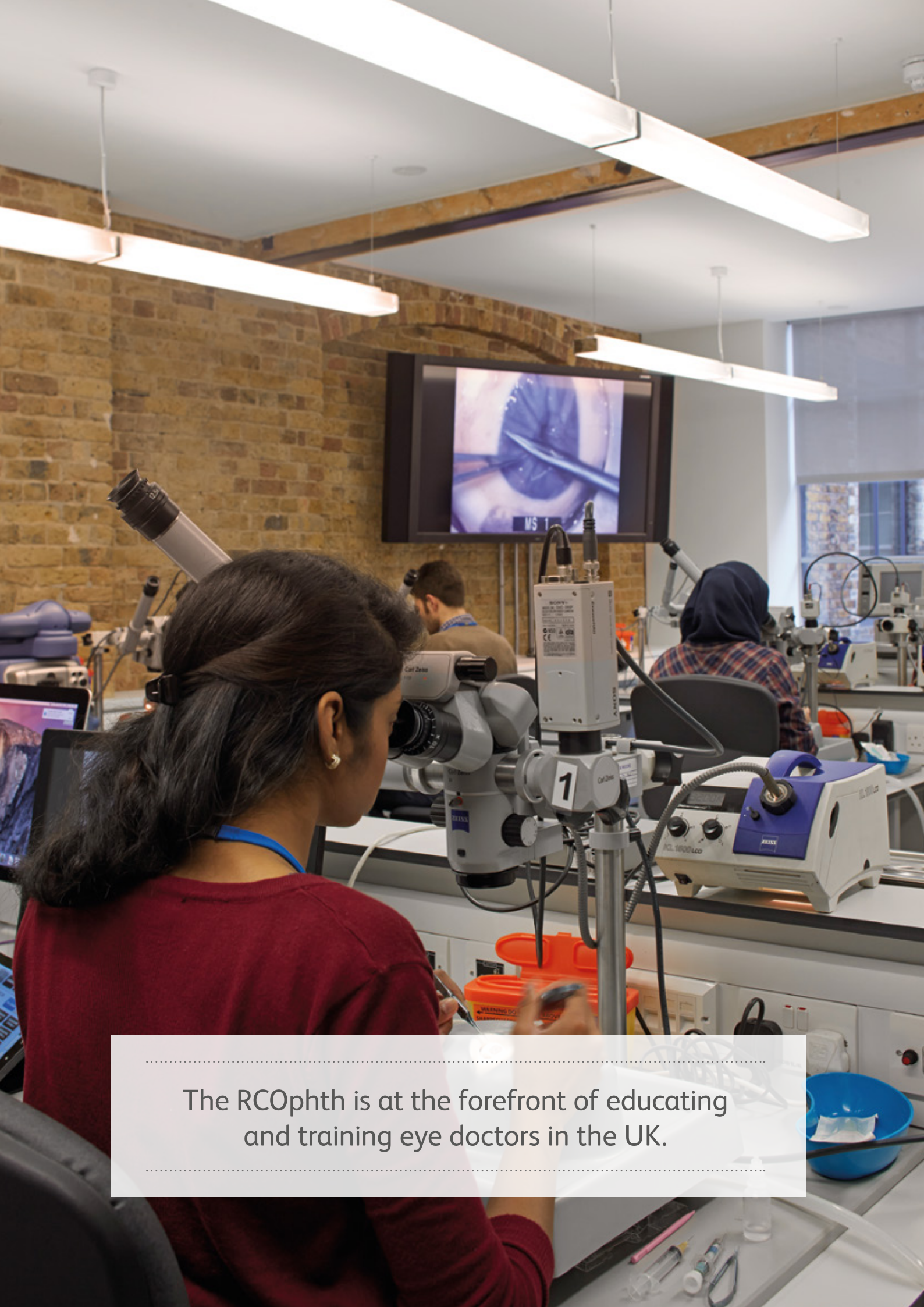
*The* ROYAL COLLEGE *of*  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

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# Funding Prospectus



January 2021



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The RCOphth is at the forefront of educating  
and training eye doctors in the UK.

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## Introduction

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The Royal College of Ophthalmologists is the professional body for eye doctors, funded primarily by the subscription fees of its 3,600 members.

We believe that everyone should have access to high quality eye care. We champion excellence in the practice of ophthalmology through standards in training, education and assessment of ophthalmologists; supporting the promotion of research and innovation throughout the ophthalmic community.

We are reaching out to the commercial and charitable sectors to discuss ways in which you can help The Royal College of Ophthalmologists achieve its ambitious aims to improve its high quality education and training in order to improve patient outcomes.

We support all ophthalmologists at every stage of their career. The RCOphth is at the forefront of educating and training eye doctors in the UK; we design the curriculum and are the only UK examining body recognised by the General Medical Council. We promote ground-breaking research and disseminate knowledge through a highly respected seminar programme, an annual scientific congress and our scientific journal EYE.

We are pivotal to the success of ophthalmology in the UK: we run the national cataract audit and are planning to set up the national AMD audit. We work with organisations across the ophthalmic sector to improve eye care and to increase the skills of allied professionals.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we demonstrated leadership by providing evidence-based and prompt guidance to members, healthcare providers and to commissioners and regulators of ophthalmic services. We have the expertise and collaborative relationships across the ophthalmic sector to be agile in response to unexpected events, able to develop and support the implementation of new clinical practice and technology.

**Kathy Evans**  
Chief Executive



# The need in context

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There are almost two million people in the UK living with sight loss, and an ageing population and growing incidence of key causes of sight loss such as diabetes and obesity make it highly likely that this number will increase significantly in the future. By 2035 around 23% of the UK population will be 65 or over and 3.5m people will be 85 or over and there will be a paramount need for well-trained eye doctors.

In the UK, the leading categories of sight loss are uncorrected refractive error, age-related macular degeneration, cataract, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. Globally, cataract is the single most important cause of blindness and cataract surgery the most cost-effective health-care intervention. Blindness due to cataracts ranges from 5% in Western Europe and other affluent countries to over 50% in poorer and less developed countries.

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists responds to these needs and supports the prevention of sight loss in the UK and internationally by investing in its training and education facilities as well as encouraging ophthalmic research into blinding conditions.

Ophthalmologists trained by the College undertake professional practice in the UK as well as working with international charities, so that those in less developed countries can also benefit.

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*“We are an international leader in the fight to reduce preventable blindness as exemplified by our close links with the College of Ophthalmology of Eastern Central and Southern Africa.”*

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# The RCOphth's priorities

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## Education and Training



### **Annual RCOphth Educational Programme**

The RCOphth delivers a programme of educational events to inform, support, up-skill and up-date ophthalmologists at all stages in their career, improving leadership, mentoring and the ability to train the next generation. Our programme includes clinical topics, practical courses for generic skills and wet-lab courses for surgical skills. We would like to increase the scope and number of these events and include the ability to deliver integrated events across multiple sites simultaneously. Increasingly, participation of non-medical ophthalmic practitioners is encouraged.



### **The Tele-learning Project**

To develop online educational resources, teaching, courses and webinars, to reach members across the UK and internationally. An RCOphth Learning Management System (LMS) would integrate these into Programmes of Learning and enable learners to create personalised educational pathways. This interactive platform would dynamically link participants with events and each other, supporting ongoing communication, feedback and evolution.



### **The Skills Centre**

We have devoted a floor of our building in London to the Skills Centre. We would like to further develop the courses and facilities offered to trainees and to members established in their careers. Specific support is sought for the “Introduction to Phacoemulsification” course, compulsory for all trainees starting ophthalmology.

## Scientific



### **The Annual Congress**

We run the largest conference for ophthalmologists in the UK and we have a track record of delivering an impressive programme. We would like to explore further opportunities of working with industry and other partners to maximise its impact.



### **The AMD National Audit**

Building on the success of the Cataract National Audit Database (NOD), we hope to launch an audit to collect data on Age Related Macular Degeneration, a disease which accounts for approximately a third of the total economic cost of visual impairment in the UK.



### **Clinical guideline development**

Our exemplary guidelines take time, resources and subject-matter expertise to develop and they play an integral part in influencing the delivery and commissioning of ophthalmic services. Many more are needed and the need will increase as new therapies become available.

## Unrestricted



### **Increase unrestricted income**

We would like to be more responsive to changing circumstances and additional funds would increase our ability to initiate projects to support the sustainability of ophthalmology services and the workforce.





# The RCOphth approach to fundraising

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We are asking organisations to support funding of RCOphth activities, either the specific projects listed or to increase the unrestricted funds to be used with Trustee Board approval.

We comply with all relevant legislation including money laundering rules, the Fundraising Code of Practice, the Bribery Act and Charity Commission guidance.

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## **We consider potential donations and sponsorships individually and assess them against three principles, they must:**

- Support our aims and objectives
  - Reflect our purpose and values
  - Not compromise our independent status
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## **We are open to discussions with donors and sponsors on the following development opportunities:**

- Support for RCOphth seminars
- Delivery of a RCOphth course regionally or internationally: the RCOphth to provide materials and training the trainers course and certificate of attendance
- Support for a particular sub-specialty or area of educational work
- Creation of educational bursaries for advanced surgical training
- Creation of educational bursaries for Masters' or higher qualifications for ophthalmologists or multi-disciplinary team members
- Development of our Skills Centre to support innovations in surgical training, equipment and devices
- Involvement in regional events or College roadshows
- Sponsor costs of securing overseas speakers at events eg travel costs

## **We can discuss offering:**

- Advertising courses on the RCOphth website or member communications
- Exhibition space at seminars
- Free places on courses
- Use of our Lecture Theatre and Skills Centre
- Briefings from the RCOphth President and senior leadership team

## Contact

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For further information please contact:

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