

# Citation for the award of Honorary Fellowship of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists

**Professor Carrie MacEwen, presented by Mohit Gupta**

Mr. President, members of the council, diplomates and guests it gives me immense pleasure to give a citation for Prof Carrie MacEwen - a world-renowned Ophthalmologist who has dedicated her life to Ophthalmology as a Clinician, teacher, researcher and role model.

Carrie qualified as a doctor from Dundee University in 1981 followed by FRCS from Edinburgh and FRCOphth from the College of Ophthalmologists in 1988. She also got her MD from Dundee university in 1994. Carrie has always been interested in sports and sports medicine and got her fellowship from the faculty of sports and exercise medicine. She has represented the RCOphth on the Intercollegiate Board of Sport and Exercise Medicine (IABSEM) since its inception – this developed into the Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine (FSEM).

After completing her training Carrie was appointed as a consultant Ophthalmologist in Dundee Hospital in 1991 working very long hours. One of her colleagues commented that Carrie has always had more hours in a day than all her colleagues. Following her fellowship in Ocular motility with John Lee at Moorfield's eye hospital she developed a tertiary level paediatric and adult strabismus surgery service including thyroid eye disease and neuro ophthalmology and a Botox service in Tayside receiving referrals from all of Scotland. She retired in 2017 only to return as a locum consultant in the same department.

During her work in Dundee she was a head of department for 14 years and was appointed as a professor of Ophthalmology for Dundee university in 2007. In addition, she has been an Associate Dean for the East of Scotland deanery since 2007 to date along with being the Ophthalmology specialty advisor to the CMO and the Scottish government for the same period.

Carrie has always been a very enthusiastic clinician and has derived satisfaction from looking after her routine and complex patients in a tertiary care setting. She has been well liked by her patients who have valued her input in their care. Her dedication to her patients is illustrated by the fact that it is believed when she used to do domiciliary visits for her patients and she was waiting for the dilating drops to work she would help her patients with their laundry, folding clothes and clearing out their fridges.

In addition to being clinical, Carrie has also been a keen researcher and has over 150 publications in peer reviewed journals. She also is the author of 4 textbooks, which includes one on sports vision, and has contributed chapters to multiple other medical textbooks. As a member of the British Congenital cataract interest group and British Childhood visual impairment interest group, she has also had other significant publications. She has presented over 350 papers at regional, national and international meetings.

This has been achieved as an NHS consultant – not a university appointment. These have covered various aspects of adult and paediatric eye-care –

- strabismus,
- Congenital nasolacrimal duct obstruction
- Sport injuries including epidemiology
- Diabetic eye disease
- Glaucoma and thyroid eye disease

Carrie has won multiple awards during her professional life, which include the Bayer Judges award for the best UK wide thyroid team and best ophthalmology team for Ninewells hospital. Others include the Ian Fraser trophy, Alcon award for best poster at SOC, Foulds trophy, to name a few. Carrie is named on the 'The Ophthalmologist' power list of top 100 ophthalmologists in 2019 under the Mentor category.

Carrie has delivered many named lectures which include The Sir Norman McAlister Gregg lecture 2003 in Australia, The Sir Adrian Cadbury lecture Birmingham 2015 and the fifth Roger Trimble memorial lecture. She has also been awarded the Gregg Medal for contribution to medical science.

Carrie served as president of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists from 2014-2017 and I had the privilege of working with her. As the president, in addition to leading on core College business of curriculum, training, examinations, scientific and academic progress and professional guidelines and standards, she led from the front to help develop the RCOphth strategy based on information derived from the first membership survey and widespread feedback. The new governance structure has improved and safeguarded the College through the development of a Trustee Board and more open membership involvement. She conceived, set up and chaired The Way Forward – a College sponsored project to identify and share best practice within ophthalmology across the UK, Worked with Monitor on the 'Improving NHS productivity in Elective Care' report.

In addition, she conceived, chaired and developed the framework for the Ophthalmology common competency framework for training and educating Non medical health care professionals undertaking expanded roles in Ophthalmology. Other achievements as a president include the BOSU study for patients coming to harm because of delayed hospital appointments, development of the Ophthalmology 3 step plan and working with the Scottish government as clinical lead for the National ophthalmology work stream - what good looks like.

Her work on improving Ophthalmology services has continued after her term ended as president. A vast proportion of our diplomates in this room will have met Carrie in her role as Clinical co-lead for ophthalmology for Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) when she visited a vast proportion of departments in the country to help reduce variation and help improve efficiency and quality of care. As Chair of the Elective Care Transformation Board she facilitated implementation of High Impact Intervention (HII) by NHSE in all Trusts in England to protect patients from delayed follow up appointments. She is also a Member of NHS England Right Care Clinical Advisory Group. As Lead of the Scottish Ophthalmology Workstream she has helped look at and deliver best models of eye care. This has now progressed to National Eye care work steam. In Northern Ireland she is playing the role of a Critical friend in the development of Cataract Assessment and Surgical Centres Project.

In 2017 Carrie was elected as Chair of Academy of Medical Royal colleges. Her specific priorities were NHS workforce which included Medical training initiative -MTI that we are familiar with and Improving junior doctor working lives. In addition, use of technology including artificial intelligence

in the NHS, education and training and optimum use of resources in the NHS via the Choosing wisely campaign and not to forget the role of Brexit on the NHS. She was also the cochair of the NHSE Genomics clinical leads group looking at embedding genomics in the NHS. Several other documents were developed during her time at the Academy which include

- Reflective Practice for both trainees and trainers carried out in association with the GMC, Medical Schools Council (MSC) and the post-graduate medical Deans (COPMeD)
- Reflective Practice Toolkit – in association with COPMeD

We are all familiar as clinicians with the Baba Garba case and Carrie has been instrumental in doing a lot of work on reflection when things go wrong.

Other achievements for Carrie include being Master Oxford Ophthalmology Congress 2017-2018, Trustee of Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Trustee of Moorfields Eye Charity (MEC), Member of Council – University of Exeter, and Member of NHS Assembly.

Despite having a busy professional life Carrie has always felt that her family has been the most important thing. Her lovely family includes her husband Stuart (cardiologist) and her children Lauren (lawyer), Heather (junior doctor) and Cameron (Strategy consultant). Sports has also always been a very important part of her life which is evidenced by her research in sports medicine.

She was and is well respected by her colleagues- when I asked her colleagues for anecdotes about her, I was told there were none as she was always 'Perfect.' I think this one world summarises Carrie as a person.

On the day when our new diplomates are celebrating their achievement with their guests there would be very few things more inspirational than listening about Carrie MacEwen who is a living example of what a doctor can achieve in their personal and professional life. Caring for her patients, and their relatives, her family, students and supporting her colleagues has always been at the forefront of Carrie's priorities in addition to being fair and inclusive for all. She has improved quality of delivery of Ophthalmology services both in the UK and across the world.

As a recognition of her achievements Carrie has already been awarded honorary fellowships by other organisations. These include Honorary Fellow of Faculty of Sports Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, British and Irish Orthoptic Society, College of Optometrists and Royal College of GP's.

Mr. President: Can I present to you Carrie MacEwen - Honorary fellow of the Royal college of Ophthalmologists.