**Citation for**

**Mike Burdon**

**Honorary Fellow of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists**

**Presented by Andrew Jacks 9th September 2022**

Mr President, members of Council, diplomates, and guests I am delighted and privileged to present the citation for Mike Burdon as Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. Mike has had a massive impact improving ophthalmic services locally, nationally and internationally. He has achieved this through excellent inspired leadership, outstanding clinical skills, and selfless dedication to his patients and colleagues. Mike is a worthy recipient of this award in recognition for his tireless efforts to make the country and world a better place through his skills as an ophthalmic surgeon.

Mike qualified from St Thomas’ Hospital, University of London in 1985, he also attained a first class degree in neuro-anatomy. In his early career Mike was a physician attaining membership of the Royal College of Physicians in 1989. I think he is the only ophthalmic surgeon who had the skills to perform heart muscle biopsies on heart transplant patients. Fortunately Mike chose to change career to ophthalmology becoming a fellow of the royal college of ophthalmologists in 1993, in doing so he also won the Harcourt Medal.

Mike maintained his physicianly interests by specialising in neuro-ophthalmology, doing a fellowship with Mike Sanders at The National Hospital for Neurology and neurosurgery. Mike was appointed as a consultant at University Hospital Birmingham in 1997, to develop a service in neuro-ophthalmology. At this point Mike demonstrated the leadership skills that have led him to change ophthalmology. Mike started the neuro-ophthalmology service in Birmingham, which has a massive neurosciences unit. Since then the neuro-ophthalmology unit has grown to have 6 consultant neuro-ophthalmologists, has trained 25 fellows who have jobs all over the world and in most neuro-ophthalmology units in the country. Mike’s dedication to neuro-ophthalmology has been shown by being secretary of the British Isles Neuro-ophthalmology Club for 15 years. Mike has innovated in the management of idiopathic intra-cranial hypertension. He has mentored a PhD and an MD in IIH and has been the inspiration for research and development in IIH in Birmingham. Mike’s presence in neuro-ophthalmology has been immortalised by the excellent Neuro-ophthalmology Survival Guide text book.

Mike was clinical service lead for ophthalmology for 6 years at University Hospital Birmingham. During this time he enlarged the department by 5 consultant posts, and reduced the cataract waiting time from 1 year to a month. Mike’s clinical job has been split between Selly Oak Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham and The Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre. During this time Mike had inpatients at two of these units. As with all great clinicians Mike has enormous energy and started work at 0700 hrs and would leave at 1900 hrs, time required to run a clinic in one location and then perform a ward round in a second location. Mike has been a wonderful very supportive colleague, great surgeon and a fantastic diagnostician.

Mike’s dedication to training and teaching is legendary. Mike has been voted best trainer of the year by ophthalmic trainees and medical students. A reflection on his mastery of his subject and a great ability to communicate. In this vein Mike has been treasurer and then president of the Midlands Ophthalmological Society, and treasurer of the Oxford Ophthalmological Society. Mike has lectured all over the world in particular Australia, Sri Lanka, and various countries in Africa. Mike is a fantastic, informative and engaging lecturer.

Mike was born in Sierra Leone, coming to the UK aged 6 years. This connection with Africa resulted in Mike leading the formation of a Link with The Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Tanzania. Mike developed the bond between the RCOphth and the College of **Ophthalmology of Eastern Central and Southern Africa (COECSA). He has been an external examiner, lecturer (once delivering 8 lectures at one COESCA Congress) and has helped develop the ophthalmic research capacity in Africa.**

**Mike is a man of many facets. Mike is a family man married to Liz with whom he has three children. He is a good athlete, particularly with running and cycling. Mike has a love of motor sport, and has been the navigator in many vintage car races with his friend Paddy. This is a problem solving challenge all delivered whilst rattling around at high speed in a vintage car.** As a member of the Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association medical advisory panel 2000 - 2007 **Mike was involved with a legal case in international motor sport as the ophthalmic expert, in which international motor racing was made to recognize that one eyed drivers can race.**

In 2010 Mike was elected by his colleagues to represent the West Midlands region. Since then Mike has been a passionate advocate and strong leader for the Royal College. In 2014 he was elected as a Vice President and Chair of the Scientific Committee.

As a Vice President, he was concerned with the strategic direction of the RCOphth. In 2015 he joined the Governance Working Group and was a persuasive advocate for the changes which led to the creation of a Trustee Board.

In 2017 Mike became President. Mike ensured that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Chief Medical Officer and leaders in the NHS were persuaded of the need for change and that the profession will embrace change. He was engaged with the Outpatients Transformation Project that arises from the NHS Long -Term plan and in the Ophthalmic Common Clinical Competency Framework (OCCCF) designed to upskill non-medical professions and in every interaction, he encourages managers and colleagues to put patients at the centre.

Mike is a tireless advocate for the RCOphth National Ophthalmology Database and is one of the Chairs for NOD. Mike has chaired the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Cataract Guideline Development Committee, and now doing the same for diabetic retinopathy.

Mike has brought change and development for the better in every aspect of his career. His focus is on patient care, equality of access to care for all, excellence in training and improving clinical standards. Thanks to Mike’s limitless energy, great intellect, kindness and clinical skill the world is a better place. Mike has improved every aspect of medicine that he has been involved in. We are all very lucky to have worked with Mike.

Mr President I present to you Mike Burdon Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.