

Kathy Evans

Kathy Evans, before she retired in May 2023, gave our College over 26 years of exemplary service, firstly as our finance officer and then for the last 17+ years as its CEO. Without a doubt, she has led the College through many changes and always with the interests of patients and ophthalmologists as her top priority. Kathy has done so much for the College it cannot be fitted in 500 words. She ensured our College delivered its aims despite a small budget and a small pool of staff (compared to other Colleges).

During her tenure as CEO, our examinations became the sole examination recognised by the GMC. With the recent change to an online format, she has helped the College expand internationally, raising our profile beyond the UK.

Kathy has ensured the College has remained financially solvent despite ever expanding demands. She led the sale and move to our current premises successfully and within budget. In the years to come, Stephenson Way will only grow in value.

Without a doubt, Kathy has nurtured not just the College staff but has helped the many ophthalmologists who worked for the College in various roles. Her experience and “corporate” memory has been invaluable especially to newly elected Presidents, all of whom will support her case to become an honorary fellow. She has helped to shape and deliver on many of the strategic plans set by various Presidents, a constant presence but also always happy to be working in the background.

During Kathy’s time as CEO, the College has expanded its influence in the UK. She has ensured good working relations with other allied professionals, especially optometrists. She has negotiated many initiatives which has raised the profile of RCOphth with NHS England, HEE and their equivalents in the four nations.

Kathy has always been willing to put the needs of the College first- working many unpaid hours. This was exemplified during Covid when daily meetings to help support the membership were held virtually, many of them were out of hours.

Even towards the end of her career as our CEO, she was happy to help with the recruitment of our new CEO and continued to work towards a successful handover.

On top of this, Kathy is a fantastic human being. She is a kind and caring individual who is loved and respected by all who work in eye care sector.

Kathy Evans is truly worthy of being an honorary fellow because of her commitment and years of service for the College which has benefited the whole eye sector.