

# Australian College of Optometry

## Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (ACO-COT)

### *Improve Your Patient Care with the ACO-COT Certificate*

The need for optometrists to be trained to prescribe medicines for the treatment of ocular conditions is becoming more prominent. With optometry graduates now completing their studies with a therapeutics qualification, the expectation of becoming therapeutically qualified has increased.

The Australian College of Optometry's Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics was created to provide a quick and affordable solution to becoming therapeutically qualified for optometrists. The course provides flexible, self-paced online learning, allowing optometrists to successfully balance their work and home life, without the commitment of scheduled, face to face learning.

Recent ACO-COT graduate Anthony Savage from Kapiti Coast OPSM stated his professional standing in the community and approach to clinical practice has significantly improved after completing the course. Savage says, *"My clinical practice is much better now as I can help patients with the medicines available without a lengthy trip to a hospital over an hour away. Having many elderly patients, this has been a godsend."*

Anthony described the ACO certificate as *"convenient"* and *"flexible"* and ideal for working around professional and family life. He also described organising the clinical placement component of the course as *"easy"* and confirmed his New Zealand location did not affect his studies. *"The course worked very well for remote learning. Having qualified overseas I was a little apprehensive in the style of lecturing in Australasia, especially having an online format. Nevertheless, the lectures and clinical placements together with the academics presenting the course made it a worthwhile and enjoyable experience."*

Anthony highlighted the growing demand for prescribing medicines for ocular conditions as his motivation for enrolling in ACO-COT. *"I wanted to have the option to prescribe medicines easily and be equally as qualified as the new Australasian graduates,"* Savage said.

When asked if he would recommend the course to his peers Anthony answered with a resounding yes. *"Overall I have enjoyed the course. It was well run and highly organised. My practicing days are more interesting and challenging and ultimately saving patients the inconvenience of travelling further afield for secondary care."*

The ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics commences on 16 April 2018.

**For ACO-COT enquiries and registrations please contact the ACO Education Division:**

**Tel:** (03) 9349 7477

**Email:** [acocot@aco.org.au](mailto:acocot@aco.org.au)

**Web:** [www.aco.org.au/professional-development/ocular-therapeutics-course](http://www.aco.org.au/professional-development/ocular-therapeutics-course)