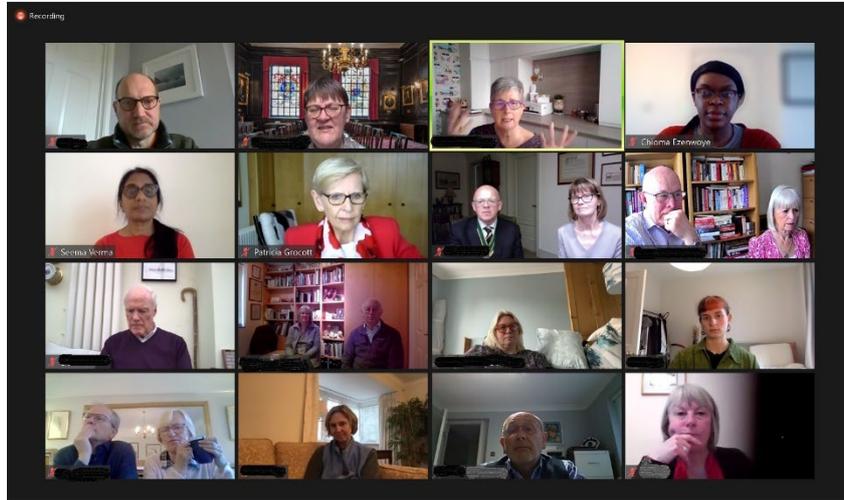


## April 2022 Eye-to-Eye Report: Behind the Screens in Hospital

This month's Eye-to-Eye saw us looking 'behind the screens' in a hospital setting & finding out a bit more about just what goes on and a sneaky peek into the things we don't see.



*A snap of the session's attendees before our speakers got started.*

Our three panellists shared what a 'typical' day might be for them if such a thing exists!

Our first panellist was Journeyman Chioma Ezenwoye, a Senior Orthoptist and previous WCSM Charity Bursary winner. Chioma, as you would expect, confirmed that when working in a hospital setting there really is no such thing as a 'typical' day! As an orthoptist, Chioma spends a significant amount of time working with children, in clinic, assisting Ophthalmology colleagues & also studying part-time for a Masters Degree in Health Policy.



Our next panellist was Liveryman Seema Verma, an extremely experienced Ophthalmologist based at Guys & St Thomas'. Seema described herself in her introduction as a 'general' ophthalmologist, however, with specialisms in cataract surgery, emergency eyecare & external eye disease, not to mention teaching & mentoring, she has many skills. She too, confirmed at the outset that what she loves most is the variety she sees, no two days are ever the same & her role in looking after her patients eye health goes beyond their eyes & she cares for the person as a whole.

Our final panellist was Hon. Freeman Trisha Grocott. Trisha very kindly stepped in at the 'eleventh hour' due to our billed panellist Jake Blackwell being caught up in the flight cancellations that have been reported daily in the news! We are extremely grateful to Trisha for sharing her life's work with us as a Professor of Nursing Technology Innovation – much of Trisha's research & work has centred on wound care & inherited skin disorders & alternatives to standard dressings & bandages to aid healing & comfort.



Each of our panellists shared real life examples of challenges they face every day, from communicating with children, their caregivers, training & educating colleagues, managing acute & complex presentations and, of course, giving 'bad news'. I think all attendees felt the same, after we heard from each speaker, that we heard about the over-riding commonality, despite their different respective roles was that each of them absolutely had their patients at the centre and heart of all that they do, they each recognised the importance of appropriate communication with each & every one of their patients; realising, of course, that one size does not fit all, and, so often it's not "what you do", it is, "how you do it".

For me, as the facilitator of the event, it is, without question, clear to see that each of the three panellists are totally dedicated to each of their respective roles, that they serve their patients to the best of their abilities and in doing so improved their lives, their confidence & self-esteem. I think it is also the case that each of our three panellists would advocate early intervention, monitoring & ongoing care, given either in hospital or by shared-care schemes with colleagues in optometric practice can enhance a patients journey & outcomes. In doing this our patients are treated with care, compassion & dignity, despite the huge pressures we have faced over the past two years, shortages within the NHS, the importance of inter-disciplinary working within a healthcare setting & beyond has never been more apposite.

As has become the custom, a lively Q & A session with questions posed to each of the panellists drew the session to a close.

We were grateful that both the Master & Mistress Spectacle Maker were able to join this session & of course extremely grateful to our three panellists: Chioma, Seema & Trisha for sharing such a fascinating insight into their daily lives. We really were treated to a bird's eye view '*behind the screens*'.

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The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers is the oldest optical professional body in the world. Founded in 1629, its mission is to support the prevention and treatment of vision impairment. Open to all optical and ophthalmological professionals, and those who support our aims, details of our activities and membership can be found at [www.spectaclemakers.com](http://www.spectaclemakers.com) and on Twitter @spectaclemakers.