

Susan Cooper, OD '77

Dr. Susan Cooper, originally from.....graduated with her Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of Waterloo School of Optometry & Vision Science in 1977. She immediately started her own practice in Bramalea, Ontario which has grown to a four doctor office of all UW graduates. She is pleased to now be seeing third generation patients but after 40 years of practice has plans to retire this coming August 2017.

Susan's practice has won the top Platinum Reader's Choice Award for Brampton for the past 3 years and regularly hosts University of Waterloo students for their Primary Care Externships. At the School, she took part in conducting optometry admissions interviews for a few years.

While running a successful practice, Dr. Cooper has also participated in many optometric endeavours. This began early in her career as a Member of the Founding Board in 1978 of the Vision Institute of Canada, whose vision was to create "sophisticated vision care services not available in standard optometrists' practices to underserved groups within the community as well as offer education programs for professionals, public information services and clinical research into vision and vision care delivery."

The following year, Dr. Cooper became actively involved with the Ontario Association of Optometrist (OAO). In 1980 she was Chair of the OAO conference over the years has served on numerous practice management and continuing education committees. In 1982, she planned and was MC for dinner honouring Drs. Bobier, Fisher and Lyle. In 2006, Susan received the H. JAMES COBEAN, OD MEMORIAL AWARD in recognition of her contributions to the profession.

Susan's service to the profession expanded from here as she became involved with the College of Optometrists of Ontario, serving as a Council Member from 1984 to 1987 and again from 1994 to 2003, participating on the Quality Assurance Committee who were instrumental in the development of the College's first peer review program. Over the years she also sat on Registration, Ethics, Complaints, Discipline, Finance and Human Resources Committees. From 1998-2003, Dr. Cooper was on the College's Executive Committee and during that time served as Treasurer and became the first woman president of the College of Optometrists of Ontario from 1999-2001.

Dr. Cooper then returned to the University of Waterloo to become Director of the International Optometric Bridging Program 2004-2012. She was instrumental in the design, development and implementation of the first national program, providing foreign trained professionals with the education they needed to sit the licensing exams to practice optometry in Canada.

In 2008, Dr. Cooper joined the World Council of Optometry as the Canadian Association of Optometrists regional representative. Since that time she has served as Chair of the Fellowship Committee, Chair of the Legislation, Regulation and Standards Committee, President-Elect and President from 2013-2015. Susan then went on to serve as Immediate Past President and Interim Executive Director. She remains actively involved and is currently a member of the Governance Review Committee and also World Congress of Optometry Organizing Committee.

Internationally, Susan is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO). She is current co-chair of the International Candidacy Task Force and has been invited to sit on the newly formed President's Council to direct future Academy initiatives.

Her optometric endeavours also involve giving back to help improve vision care world-wide. She is a Member of the Global Executive Committee of Optometry Giving Sight and is a Member of the Canadian Our Children's Vision organization.

In 2013 Dr. Cooper was the recipient of a Woman of Achievement Award - Health Sciences and Technology from the Brampton-Caledon Zonta Club. She enjoys time with family including her husband, their four boys and their two grandsons.