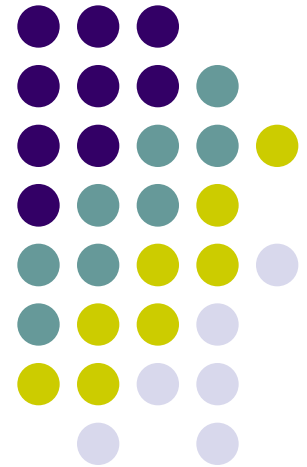
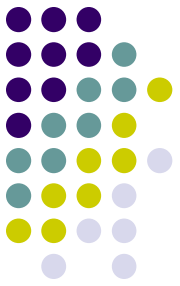


# How can Community Optometrists help you increase uptake in your DR screening programme?

Wendy Newsom  
Lead Optometrist Cambridgeshire  
DRSS

Peter Scanlon  
National Clinical Lead ENSPDR



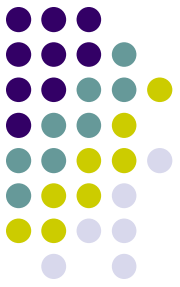


# The issues

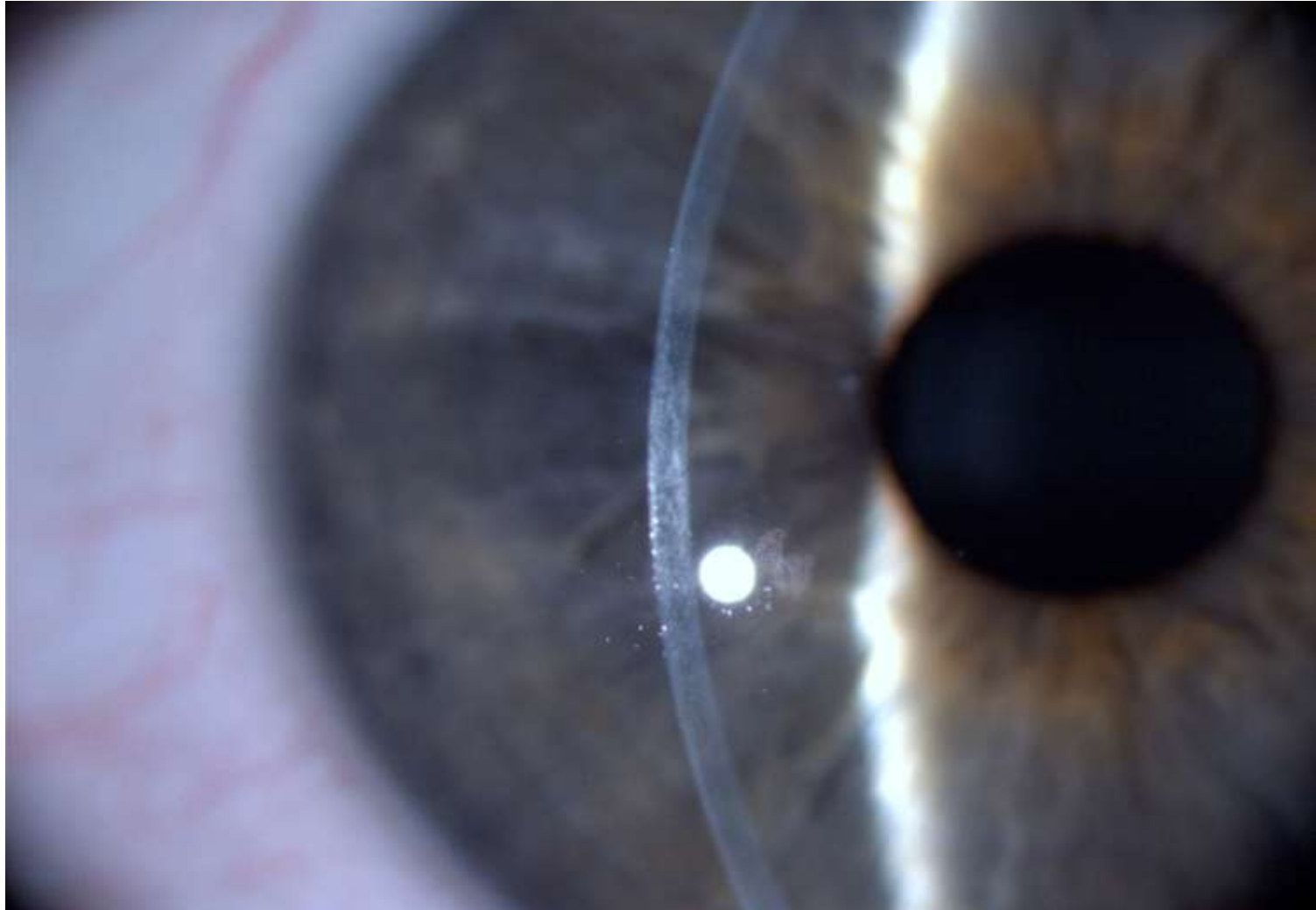
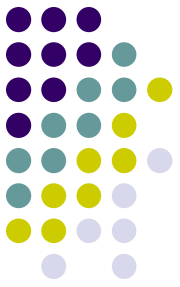
- The sight test vs DR screening
  - Both are important for the diabetic patient
- Team working between DR screening service and local Optometrists
  - Both must support each other
- Each should respect the role that the other plays
  - Communication



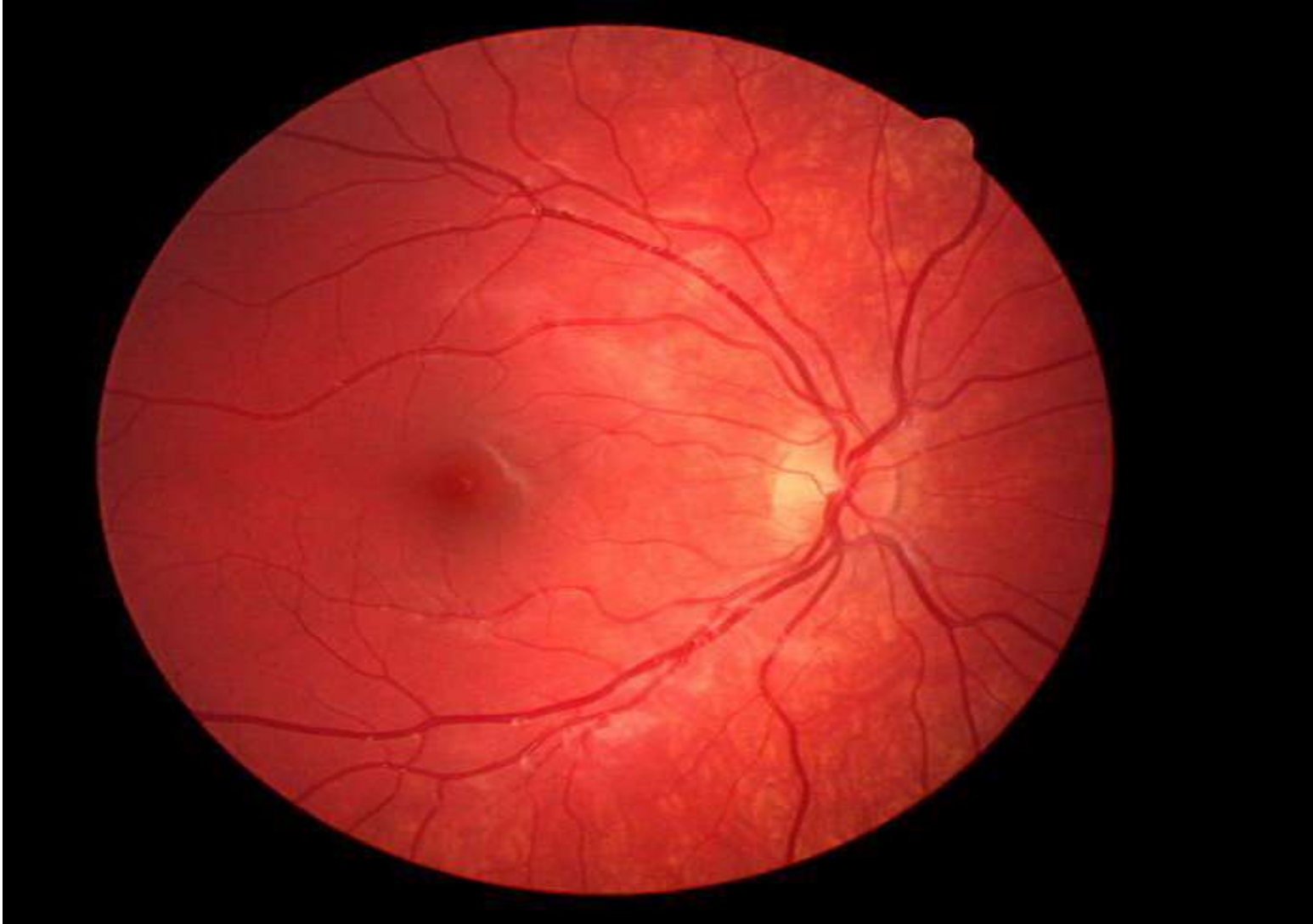
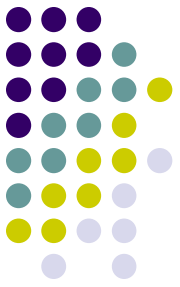
# Examination of the Eye



# External eye



# Internal eye



# Other investigations

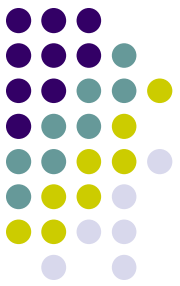


# What can a sight test detect?



- Cataract
- Glaucoma
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Age related macula degeneration
- Hypertension
- High Cholesterol
- Neurological disease
- And many other eye conditions.....

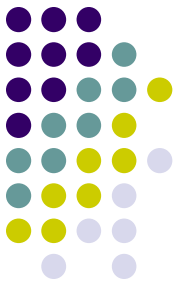




# DR Screening

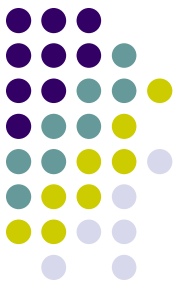
- Performed by a trained and accredited workforce
- Annual imaging
- Grading to national protocols
- Quality assurance/ performance standards
- Secondary and Arbitration grading to increase the specificity and sensitivity
- Central call and recall
- Failsafe of those referred and those who do not attend screening

# Why might the optometrist offer to 'screen' their patient for DR?



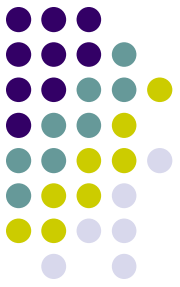
- Convenient as part of their sight test
- Very poor funding from the NHS sight test fee
- It gives them the edge over their competitors in the High Street
- They might believe they can do it better eg OCT
- They examine the peripheral retina
- They might believe they are better trained to detect DR
- They may not understand what is involved in national screening for DR
- They believe that the screening service is discouraging their patients from attending for a sight test
- They believe that local commissioners have 'treated them badly'
- The patient requests a 'private' screening because they do not want to attend their DR screening service

# How Can The DR Screening Service help?



- Meet with the LOC
- Present to them an outline of DR screening/ protocols and QA
- Most optometrists do not understand what is involved in a national screening service
- Invite an optometrist to come to your next full team meeting
- Make sure that patients attending for screening understand the importance of having a regular eye test as well as screening.
- Remind patients attending for screening that ‘other’ eye disease is unlikely to be detected by DR screening

# How Can Community Optometry Help The DR Screening Service?



- Ask every diabetic patient who attends for a sight test when they last attended for their DR screening test
- Encourage their patients to attend for screening as well as their regular sight test.
- Explain the difference between screening for DR and a eye examination during a sight test especially if imaging is performed at the sight test.

# Experience working with Community Optometry in Gloucestershire

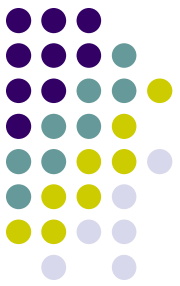


- We worked closely with the LOC when the mobile screening service was set up
- We have continued with close collaboration if there are any issues for the screening service or for the local optometry practices

# Oxford – mixed method – mobile plus optometry



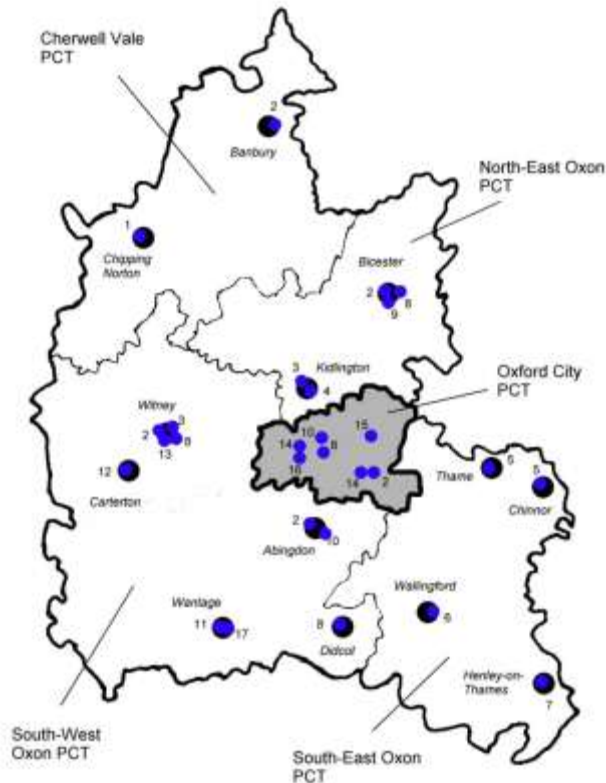
- Mobile unit visiting Practices in:
- Charlbury, Byfield, Bloxham, Cropredy, Sibford Gower, Deddington, Brackley, Bampton, Henley, Sonning Common, Henley, Nettlebed, Benson, Wantage, Faringdon, Wantage, Faringdon, Grove, Wantage, Watlington/Chalgrove, Ascott under Wychwood, Burford



# Optometry Practice Selection Criteria (by the PCT's)

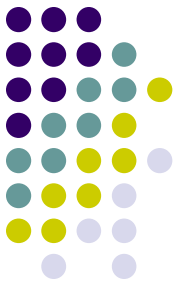
- Willing to purchase a suitable digital camera
- Number of appointments offered
- Geographical coverage
- Number of appointments delivered under current scheme
- Additionally where more than one provider met all criteria, an additional criteria of commissioning services from a range of providers was applied.
- Later – wheelchair access became important

# ODESS linked to 16 Optometry practices



Locations:  
Abingdon, Banbury,  
Carterton, Chipping  
Norton, Didcot,  
Kidlington, Oxford  
City, Wallingford,  
Witney, Woodstock





## Discussion points

- Non-optometry programmes need good relationships with LOC's who are generally very supportive
- If Optometrists in programmes – who holds the contracts with the optometrists?
- If Optometrists in programmes – are they offering a good range of appointment times?
- Is it expensive to involve Optometrists?