

## MEMBER BENEFITS

# Leave your worries behind with in-depth dedicated tutorials

Every year Hirji Associates tutor graduate optometry pre-registration students from community practices to prepare them for the College of Optometrists Final Assessment examination.

This tutoring, which is held in Birmingham and is endorsed by the Association of Optometrists, has been initiated in the past at the request of individual candidates, their supervisors or their employers.

Professor Nizar Hirji (pictured below) has been successfully training graduate optometrists for over 25 years. He established Hirji Associates in 1996, and is its principal consultant.

Amongst his other roles, Professor Hirji has been visiting professor at the University of Manchester, honorary visiting professor at City University's Department of Vision Science, and a senior visiting tutor at the Institute of Optometry, London.

He believes that revision for graduate optometrists for their Final Assessment must include a review of how to study effectively, so that they are able to make the most of any revision opportunities.

"Learning to Learn" therefore is a subject during these Final Assessment Revision tutorials at the outset.

What also makes these tutorials different and more effective is that they are

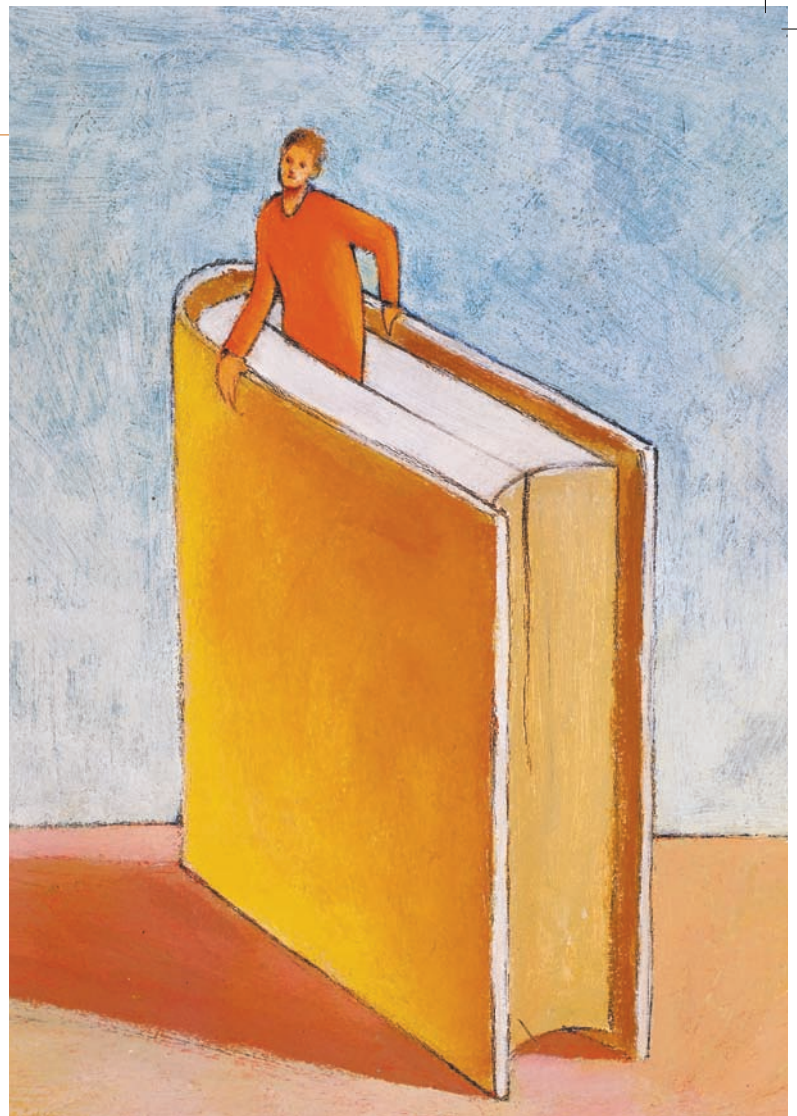
limited to small groups of students. This, Professor Hirji says, enables him and other tutors to dwell on weaker areas for individuals or the small group as a whole, and move more rapidly over issues that are well understood.

Hirji Associates currently organises and runs two revision tutorials every year - one in May/June and another in August to prepare for the June/July and the September Final Assessments. These courses are not didactic (ie lecture format for teaching).

They involve intensive revision using a "Grand Rounds" interactive approach with Professor Hirji and cover the curriculum for the following four Final Assessment subjects:

- Ocular Disease and Abnormalities
- Routine Exam
- Contact Lens Fitting & Contact Lens Aftercare
- Clinical Decision Making (Case scenarios)

The Grand Rounds approach throughout the three days means that the students are well prepared to apply the



SOAP-F structured technique to analyse and make correct decisions when it comes to the CDMs which has proved to be a challenging exam.

Video and animated case illustrations ensure that complex issues are well understood. To ensure that students get the most out of these sessions, these tutorials are limited to a maximum of 12 candidates per course. They involve intensive revision for the Final Assessment using Mock Assessment Questions.

Here are examples of what previous attendees have said about the revision tutorials:

*"... helped me become a strong candidate and a confident optometrist"*

*".....the tutorial I had before my retakes was very useful ... I passed my exams!"*

*"...the teaching style helped in organising and presenting thoughts in a logical and coherent manner - very valuable when under pressure in an exam situation"*

*"....concentrated my thoughts and directed my revision....."*

*"....instrumental in my successful pass ..."*

Places for the August tutorials to be held at the Education Resource Centre on August 11-13 2008, may be booked now by submitting the application form downloadable at [http://www.hirji.co.uk/pqe\\_success\\_pre\\_exam\\_tutorials.htm](http://www.hirji.co.uk/pqe_success_pre_exam_tutorials.htm), and once completed along with the fees to: Hirji Associates, 7 Milford Rd, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9RL.

- For more information, go to [www.hirji.co.uk](http://www.hirji.co.uk)