

European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists

ECVO Executive Committee

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Date: 14 November 2020

In loving memory of Gil Ben-Shlomo, ECVO Diplomat

Hello, I am Heidi Featherstone, the current president of the ECVO and I wish to honour Gil on behalf of our college.

We welcomed Gil to ECVO in 2014. It was obvious from the start that Gil was keen to contribute to college life and be a very active member – his steady and warm presence and big smile at ECVO meetings was immediate and consistent. He joined the Communication Committee in 2015, and then the Planning Committee in 2017. Gil was the Chair of the Planning Committee at the time of his death - and it was in that context that I had emailed him just the day before he passed away.

I also knew Gil in the context of his role of co-editor for the 6th edition of Gelatt. He was always so patient with Christine and I with respect to chapter deadlines, corrections etc. We were always so grateful for that!

Three things have struck me since Gil passed away so suddenly.

Firstly, the immediate and overwhelming outpouring of shock, disbelief, love and respect from the ophthalmology community from all four corners of the world. I had just finished consulting and had a patient under GA for phaco when I read the message from Ron on my 'phone – I will never forget that moment and can only imagine what his family, friends and colleagues are going through.

Secondly, a particular comment on email from a colleague about Gil's patience and kindness with all the animals he met - how he would always give them time to come to him on their terms. Patient as a co-editor, patient as a veterinary ophthalmologist. I know I could do well to remember that on busy consulting days...

And finally, I was struck by the message from Anna to the ophthalmology community – in this difficult year of 2020 and these difficult times, to try to look after ourselves and our health. To remember to leave time for self-care.

Rest in peace Gil – ECVO has lost a dear and talented colleague.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Featherstone', is written over a thin horizontal line.

Heidi Featherstone
President, ECVO