

Carol Walker opens the door to her world of trichology in the first of a series of columns in *SalonFocus*



Photograph by Stephen Graham

Walker's World

Welcome to my exciting, invigorating and ever-changing world of hair.

I hope to share my trichological world with you over the coming months through my regular column in *SalonFocus*.

I hope you will feel inspired to open your mind and ask any questions of a trichological nature.

Many of you will already be aware that trichology is the science of hair, scalp disorders and diseases.

The field of trichology is as vast and varied as the universe is wide.

Through this column, I hope I will stir up the same enthusiasm and passion among you that I have for my profession.

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As a qualified trichologist, you may be asked to work alongside the medical or legal professionals to help further cases.

Not all trichologists start their careers in the field of hairdressing or beauty.

Some doctors who wished to expand their knowledge of hair and scalp conditions and the impact it has on individuals are trichologists.

It makes more sense for a client who wishes to undergo a hair transplant to consult with a doctor who has trained in trichology through the Institute and who is registered

with the Royal College of Surgeons or equivalent awarding medical body where the hair transplant is going to be carried out.

My own route to trichology began in 1974 when I started my working life as an indentured apprentice hairdresser attending college and gaining my City & Guilds in Hairdressing & Wig Making.

Moving quickly on, I bought a wig manufacturing business, which I still run and own, and, because of this, I went on to teach within colleges and, at the same time, took Advanced Hairdressing City & Guild, Teachers 730, D32, D33 and D34.

The whole process of continuous learning means that I stretch my in-depth knowledge and understanding of all aspects of trichology and related areas.

This gives me more understanding of client's problems which can be related to every-day processes of perming or colouring and also takes me into the area of wig-making for chemotherapy patients and others.

I first found out about the Institute of Trichologists while I was helping a student with some research.

My world opened up and I have never looked back. When I qualified in 1990, I decided that I wanted to specialise in litigation. My main aim was to help the hairdressing industry.

The normal procedure in the early days was that a solicitor would instruct me to act for one party, invariably the client, because they were usually the one to bring about a claim against the salon.

These days I am instructed as a joint expert working for all parties at the same time as an independent person working for the courts.

Sometimes I might be instructed by the plaintiff, sometimes by the defendant but at other times I am appointed as a joint expert with agreed instructions from both sides.

I am expected to be objective and my overriding obligation is to the court in all cases, whoever instructs me.

There are still times today when I am asked to work as a single expert, mostly in criminal cases.

With running a clinic and seeing patients, being invited as a guest speaker, also interviews for radio, television and articles for both national and international press coverage, there is still a great need for continuous training.

This is often within the hairdressing industry, so that I am updated with all the manufacturers' new techniques, but also within all the other areas that I cover, especially on the legal side.

I am happy to answer questions of a trichological nature. Please address questions to me via NHF head office: sdeline@salonfocus.co.uk putting "Carol Walker" in the subject box.



A treat for trichological eyes