

## **Postgraduate course shows successful cooperation across continents**

Educators and students from India and Africa came together as IACLE's Director of Educational Programs, Nilesh Thite, Associate Professor at the Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Optometry in Pune, delivered a course on advanced contact lenses to postgraduate optometry students at the University of Gondar in Ethiopia.

The university has started a postgraduate program in optometry under its college of medicine and health science. Two students, Haile and Alemayehu, had met Nilesh in Sydney during the Australia Leadership Award Fellowship (ALAF) in summer 2012. The interaction during the fellowship program led to a stronger long-term relationship and the invitation to assist in completing the course.



Innovative teaching methods and a wide syllabus proved an interesting combination for all involved. 'Recommending contact lens examination' was presented by students – one being a patient and the other an eye care practitioner – followed by a debate on 'Spectacles versus contact lens use'. An interactive lecture on preliminary examination and soft contact lens fitting and a case report-based discussion using the online internet connection also proved popular with students.

A lecture on soft toric contact lenses and fitting procedures led to a hands-on session where each student had the opportunity to assess lens fit and axis misalignment. Coverage of presbyopia correction with multifocal contact lenses included a patient demonstration. All students performed well in a practical assessment. This was followed by a one-hour lecture on 'Symptoms and signs of contact lens wear' and a presentation on aftercare examination involving role play by students. Contact lens complications and IACLE's interactive case reports were discussed.

A seminar presentation for all optometry and ophthalmology staff, optometry students and ophthalmology residents covered contact lens properties, therapeutic uses and global trends. Postgraduate students then presented a seminar on aftercare visit, hypoxia, infiltrative conditions and miscellaneous complications with valuable comments and discussion. Lectures on silicone hydrogel lenses and keratoconus management, from basic to advanced options completed an interesting and program.



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