

IACLE begins new era with first AGM in Europe

IACLE members from around the world gathered in the city of Manchester, UK in June for an enjoyable programme of education, business and social events



PhD student Ithar Beshtawi (centre) shows delegates around the facilities at Manchester



Christine Astin, Jan Jurkus and Halina Manczak (left to right) at the IACLE/BUCCLE dinner

This year, for the first time, IACLE's annual general meeting was held in the UK to coincide with the British Contact Lens Association's Clinical Conference (6th to 9th June), the world's largest annual meeting dedicated to contact lenses.

A total of 45 delegates attended the AGM and Education Day at the University of Manchester, and toured the optometry department. The British Universities Committee of Contact Lens Educators (BUCCLE) held its own meeting bringing together members from most of the UK's nine optometry departments and three dispensing colleges.

IACLE Vice President Dr Philip Morgan, director of Eurolens Research at Manchester, chaired the AGM and Director of Educational Programs Niles Thite presented an update on recent activities. Kishor Sapkota, recipient of the first IACLE Travel Award, delivered a presentation on contact lens practice in Nepal.

Educators described two very different perspectives on assessment in contact lens teaching. Senior lecturer Dr Carole Maldonado-Codina outlined the syllabus for optometry students at Manchester, where the Blackboard virtual learning environment was used for communication, course materials, assessment, marking and feedback. Multiple-choice assessment was commonly used, combined with written exams, course work, practical sessions and a logbook of clinical experience.

At London's City & Islington College, explained Ian Forrest, all theory and practical examinations in contact lenses were externally set and moderated. Students attended part-time while working in practice and the Certificate in Contact Lens Practice was awarded by the Association of British Dispensing Opticians. The syllabus was very detailed and assessment was by traditional methods.

Break-out sessions then discussed assessment methods used by delegates in their own institutions and compared these with the Manchester and City & Islington models. Education Day ended with a combined IACLE/BUCCLE dinner in the city centre.

IACLE at BCLA

Communicating with patients and improving the comfort of contact lenses were key themes on the BCLA's scientific programme. Daily disposable options with novel material properties and new multifocal designs were among the latest contact lenses introduced at the meeting.

IACLE members and FIACLEs played a prominent role in the speaker programme, poster sessions and company presentations. EAME Regional President Judith Morris delivered the BCLA Medal address, 'Two steps forward, one step back!' She reviewed clinical, political and educational developments in contact lenses over her career and put these into context for this decade and beyond.

Researchers Maria Navascues-Cornago, Carole Maldonado-Codina and Philip Morgan took the top prize in the poster competition for 'Sensitivity of the marginal and tarsal conjunctiva in non-contact lens wearers' and winner of the photographic competition was FIACLE Fabrizio Zeri for his image of 'Hyperferritinemia cataract'.

At the Gala Dinner, Niles Thite and IACLE members Robert Kocembo and Dr Catharine Chisholm were awarded BCLA Fellowship. Catharine ended her year of office as BCLA President at the meeting and FIACLE Nick Rumney took over as the BCLA's conference programme coordinator, starting from next year's event in Birmingham, UK (6th to 9th June 2014).



Left: Judith Morris (left) receives the BCLA Medal from Dr Catharine Chisholm



Right: Niles Thite adds FBCLA to his FIACLE



IACLE joined the largest ever BCLA exhibition, taking its own booth for the first time. IACLE Director of Operations Bonnie Boshart is pictured with Philip Morgan.

All IACLE's sponsor companies were represented at the conference. This year's BCLA Patron Sponsors were Alcon, CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, and Platinum Sponsor was Bausch + Lomb. The 55 exhibitors this year also included Abbott Medical Optics.

Visit the BCLA website [here](#) for more news and images from the conference.