

IACLE Travel Award winner on top of the world!



Winner of the first IACLE Travel Award Kishor Sapkota, pictured with IACLE Vice President Dr Philip Morgan (left) and new BCLA President Andy Yorke (right), describes his experiences at IACLE Education Day and the British Contact Lens Association Clinical Conference

I joined the IACLE AGM and seminar on 5th June 2013 at the University of Manchester. I was one of 45 contact lens educators from about 30 countries participating in that program. It was really amazing to get to know each other and share contact lens education and practice systems with people from other parts of the world. It was my pleasure and great achievement to share some information about contact lens practice in Nepal at the meeting.

We toured the different sections of the university's optometry department with Philip. The management and set-up of the different sections showed how Philip and his team were focusing on research and learning activities in the department. The workshop on 'Assessment in Contact Lens Teaching' organized by Carole Maldonado-Codina and her team was very helpful for all of us involved in teaching. We shared the different methods of assessment used by IACLE members from different countries and compared these with the model used at Manchester. I was really impressed by software such as Blackboard and I am considering whether this would be useful in our context.

The BCLA conference is very good for anyone involved in contact lenses either in teaching, research or the industry. We could hear lectures from renowned scientists, academicians and practitioners from around the world, all in the same place. I gained great knowledge from Mark Willcox from Australia and Lyndon Jones from Canada, James Wolffsohn from the UK and Noel Brennan from the US, and many more. The clinical workshops were also very interesting and provided practical information about the latest technology in contact lenses.

We could also see the latest research in contact lens design, materials, care and maintenance from around the world in posters. The latest contact lenses, solutions and eye vitamins from almost all the contact lens companies were on show. Organisations such as IACLE and Optometry Giving Sight

taking part in the exhibition added a different aspect to the conference. I also very much enjoyed the Gala Dinner.

My participation in the BCLA conference was very fruitful. I will try my best to develop and strengthen contact lens education, practice and research in Nepal with the knowledge shared from this conference. I would like to thank IACLE and all the team, especially Philip, Niles and Bonnie, for this opportunity.

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PS The IACLE/BUCCLE dinner at the Red Hot Buffet was really amazing!