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IACLE meeting breaks new ground in education in China

Educators from across China attended the Members' Meeting in Tianjin in June, as we reported in our July newsletter. Ophthalmologist Richard Wang adds his comments on the program content



It was a great experience attending the IACLE events in Tianjin. The meeting really demonstrated excellence in education from an NGO. We are happy to send all our professional affairs staff to these high-level seminars to keep the quality of our training and service at the highest standard. The lecturers were very erudite and passionate in their delivery and provided good examples of the right teaching methods in the Train-the-Trainer session.

We have never had access to a formal review of lens fitting procedures for silicone hydrogel lenses although these products have now been marketed in China for more than a decade. This can really help educators and industry to standardize procedures. Similarly for toric lens fitting, especially for over-refraction and cylinder calculation. This new concept will improve the level of teaching and the quality of fitting among eye care practitioners in China.

Thanks also for the new ICLC contact lens care module that clarifies the differences in lens care between traditional hydrogel and silicone hydrogel materials. Only IACLE, as an independent association, can guide us through this confusing topic and point us in the right direction. We can see that a lot of effort has been put into compiling these comprehensive PowerPoint presentations and we deeply appreciate the contributions from IACLE staff and associates.

The meeting was a good platform for industry to reach out to all optometry schools of different levels, to build relationships and facilitate collaboration on university projects. The facilities and environment at the Tianjin Vocational Institute are modern and comfortable, and we were all amazed by the new multimedia presentation facility and auditorium.

The social events are also a plus to allow members to get to know each other better outside the classroom and build a great IACLE family in mainland China. We are very pleased with the outcome of the meeting and will continue to support the session next year at country level alongside our global sponsorship.

Thank you to the coordinators, Tianjin Vocational Institute and especially IACLE for advocating prescribing the right lens at the right time for the right patients, and for helping to meet the huge unmet medical needs of the vision-defective population in China. You have also helped us as CooperVision China to fulfil our global promise: to improve the way people see each day.

Richard Wang MD MS FIACLE

Ophthalmologist, Vision Scientist, CooperVision Professional Affairs Manager China