

## IACLE – a turning point in my career



**Professor Monica Chaudhry, the 2015 IACLE Asia Pacific Contact Lens Educator of the Year, describes her experiences of winning the award and how IACLE has helped in her work and career**

After receiving Bonnie Boshart's mail regarding my selection for this Award, it took me some time to prepare myself for an honor like this – especially to be recognized as a teacher, and for something that I love to do.

The journey was not mine alone and it belongs to all the people in IACLE who educated me.

Joining IACLE in 1994 was a turning point in my career from clinician to educator. The support of the IACLE resources helped me educate myself and attain FIACLE status. My passion as an educator strengthened and my involvement in teaching the contact lens course increased. The lectures, practicals and tutorials were now structured and based on IACLE modules. My teaching was getting better and I was getting popular among students. Not only this, my confidence and skills in contact lens fitting were getting better too.

Through the IACLE network, industry started recognizing me and as time advanced I became the key opinion leader and educator for major contact lens companies in the country. I could organize CMEs, seminars and practitioner training programs too. Education became my passion.

Then I was offered the opportunity to lead the Optometry school at Amity University, where I could include IACLE courses and modules as part of contact lens curriculum. I am grateful for the university's constant encouragement that helped me become the person I am today.

Participation in the BCLA Clinical Conference exposed me to global progress and will help me move towards my next step: involvement in research. I was privileged to interact with leaders in this field and gain the latest knowledge, which will also help in enhancing my clinical skills. Above all, without the support and generosity of CooperVision this would not have been possible. Thank you for your support.

Importantly, I am thankful to IACLE who saw in me an educator, even when I couldn't see it myself. I end with a thank you to my family, my students, my colleagues, patients and those who may never know the ways in which they have touched me.

This award is not mine – it is ours.