

## Educators meet in St Louis for annual AOCLE workshop

The resurgence of interest in scleral contact lens fitting made the theme for this year's Annual Workshop of the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators especially timely. IACLE representatives Premjit Bhakat and Dr Lina María Rodríguez Cely report on their experiences



**Lina and Premjit with IACLE Vice President Dr Luigina Sorbara (center) at the AOCLE workshop**

Thanks to support from IACLE and AOCLE, **Dr Lina María Rodríguez Cely** from the Federación Colombiana de Optómetras, Colombia and **Premjit Bhakat** from the Department of Optometry, at Manipal University, India represented IACLE at the AOCLE Annual Workshop, which took place at the University of Missouri – St Louis (UMSL) from 1-4 June.

The workshop participants attended classes taught by scleral contact lens authorities **Dr Christine Sindt** and **Dr Jason Jedlicka**, went on a tour of the new UMSL Patient Care Center, and were shown recent scleral imaging technologies and molding techniques. Attendees were also able to experience some of the local St Louis attractions and restaurants. 'This was both IACLE members' first AOCLE meeting and visit to the United States, and I believe we made a good impression,' said AOCLE Chair **Dr Susan Kovacich**.

'Attending the AOCLE 2017 workshop at St Louis hosted by UMSL College of Optometry was a professionally rewarding experience,' reports Premjit. 'This year's theme, 'Scleral lenses – the good, the bad and the technology' was covered extensively, which allowed us to learn about state-of-the-art practise and recent developments in scleral contact lenses.'

He added: 'It was a great moment to meet eminent academicians, researchers and experienced clinicians under a single platform. We were also fortunate to meet various industry partners involved in manufacturing and distributing specialty contact lenses across the globe. We were privileged to learn about the education system and OD program at UMSL during the campus tour.'

‘We had some great fun-filled moments and recreational activities conducted by the ACOLE organizers. The beautiful city tour, delicious American food and warm people will always remain with me as a very special memory. A very special thanks to IACLE and AOCLE for this prodigious opportunity,’ said Premjit.

Lina added: ‘It was a great personal and professional experience, which allowed me to meet colleagues whom I admire a lot for their work and contribution to education in contact lenses. I learned about the diversity of professional practise in the US. It was also very interesting to find out there are new concepts in the technological development of scleral lenses, a field that in Colombia is growing fast.’



**Premjit and Lina pictured with AOCLE delegates (left) and with Past Chair Dr Ed Bennett (right)**

- For more information on AOCLE and its Annual Workshop visit [www.aocle.org](http://www.aocle.org)