

November 2014

Debate and discussion at IACLE China's annual meeting

A debate on the relative merits of hydrogel and silicone hydrogel contact lenses and discussion of the challenges facing contact lens education were among the highlights of the IACLE China event



Members across China took part in IACLE China's annual Member's Meeting and Train-the-Trainer program held at Shanghai Institute of Health Science last month (30th and 31th October).

Contact lens educators were joined by industry members along with representatives from Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson. Among the institutions represented were Wenzhou Medical College, Beijing Tong Ren Hospital, Tianjin Professional University, Pan Zhi Hua College, Si Cuan University and Xia Men Medical College.

The meeting began with an introduction to the Shanghai Institute of Health Science by Professor Zheng Qi, Head of the Optometry Department. IACLE China National Coordinators Qu Xiao Mei (Shanghai) and Wang Haiying (Tianjin) then provided an update on IACLE's online resources.



Guest speaker Dr Lewis Williams, IACLE Director of Educational Development, described how best to utilize current IACLE resources on silicone hydrogel lenses, care products and soft contact lens optical quality and design.

Qu Xiao Mei gave a lecture on coloured lenses and FIACLE Xue Feng presented on orthokeratology fitting. Members then divided into two groups for a debate, one group supporting hydrogel lenses and the other silicone hydrogel lenses.



Wang Hai Ying extended the Web Lecture link to all members, so other members in China who did not attend the meeting could share the lectures at the same time.

The Train-the-Trainer workshops were based on group discussion of 'Challenges in contact lens education'. Members shared their contact lens teaching methodology in practice, especially on how to increase the confidence and skills of final-year students to recommend and prescribe contact lenses.

Delegates also discussed how the contact lens industry could be involved in education. Company representatives talked about their demand for talent and education, and how to meet that demand, then shared the latest information about their products and marketing.



Attendees were engaged, asking questions and sharing experiences. Everyone agreed it was a great learning experience, which enhanced their teaching of contact lenses.

IACLE wishes to thank the organisers, speakers and attendees for making this meeting a great success! A special thanks to Shanghai Institute of Health Science for the use of their facilities and specifically to Professor Zheng Qi for making the arrangements.