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Indian FIACLEs achieve another milestone

Director of Educational Programs Nilesch Thite reports on a new initiative that saw FIACLEs and IACLE members residing in India receive fellowship of the British Contact Lens Association



FIACLE Professor James Wolffsohn presented the FBCLA certificates. He is pictured (left) with (l-r) Prema Chande, Nilesch Thite and Yeshwant Saoji, and (right) with Jyothi Thomas

Masterclass Optometry, a unique educational initiative working to upgrade the optometry profession in India, is organized by FIACLE Yeshwant Saoji and FIACLE Nilesch Thite. Their first major event, Masterclass Knowledge Fest, was held from 2nd to 4th February in Pune. More than 350 eye care practitioners attended this conference which was supported by industry partners including Alcon, Bausch + Lomb and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care.

The highlight of the event was the presence of the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA). In a new initiative designed to strengthen and expand BCLA Fellowship internationally, BCLA members residing in India were able to apply for Fellowship and sit their *viva voce* examinations during the Masterclass Knowledge Fest.

FIACLE Professor James Wolffsohn, BCLA Academic Committee Chairman, interviewed 20 eligible candidates for fellowship. It was a moment of pride for Indian Optometry when all the candidates were deemed eligible and subsequently awarded Fellowship. Among the 20 new Indian fellows of the BCLA, 13 are FIACLEs and three are IACLE members.

FIACLEs who achieved FBCLA are: Gauri Patel, Jasmin Mehta, Jyothi Thomas, Khem Nackwal, Meena Kharat, Monica Choudhry, Prema Chande, Premjit Bhakat, Rajesh Kumar, Ruchi Shah, Sujay Dangi, Usman Memon and Yeshwant Saoji. IACLE members who achieved FBCLA are: Amod Gogate, Darshini Desai and Kunal Shah. Also awarded FBCLA were Balasaheb Mhaske, Kritika Singh, Mukesh Kumar and Ramesh Pillai.

Many FIACLEs contributed to the scientific agenda of the Knowledge Fest 2015: Lakshmi Shinde, Ajay Shinde, Rajesh Wadhwa, Monica Chaudhry, Rajeswari Mahadevan, Prasad Sawant, Prema Chande, Chinmay Deshpande and Manisha Ghai.