

IACLE Awards recognise contact lens achievers

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators recently announced the winners of the 2015 IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards to recognise and reward achievement in contact lens education worldwide.

IACLE is dedicated to raising the standard of contact lens education and promoting the safe use of contact lenses worldwide. It is the leading provider of educational and information resources essential to contact lens educators.

The event sponsored by leading contact lens company Cooper Vision was supported by the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA), the UK's leading source of information that educates, interacts and promotes growth within the field of contact lenses and related areas. The awards were presented at a special IACLE Session at the BCLA's Clinical Conference & Exhibition held in Liverpool, UK, on Saturday, 30th May, 2015.

IACLE presented the prestigious awards to the three winners of the 2015 Contact Lens Educators of the Year, one from each of IACLE's three global regions as given below:

IACLE Asia Pacific Contact Lens Educator of the Year

This award was bestowed on Professor Monica Chaudhry, who has almost 25 years of academic and clinical experience, with several prestigious awards in her kitty. She is currently the Chairman of the Optometry Council of India.

IACLE Americas Contact Lens Educator of the Year

The winner of this title was Martín Giraldo, a qualified optometrist currently at La Salle University, Colombia, where he holds the post of Candidate Magister in Vision Science. He is also the Coordinator of the Specialization in Anterior Segment and Contact Lens at Santo Tomás University, Colombia.

IACLE Europe/Africa - Middle East Contact Lens Educator of the Year

The recipient of this title was Helmer Schweizer, a trained optometrist (Germany) specialising in contact lenses. He is presently the President of the industry body Euromcontact and Chairman of the European Contact Lens Forum.

In addition to the above awards, the IACLE Travel Award, a travel bursary for an IACLE Educator



Pictured (l-r) are IACLE Travel Award recipient Dumpati Srikanth, IACLE Americas Contact Lens Educator of the Year Martin Giraldo, IACLE Asia Pacific Contact Lens Educator of the Year Professor Monica Chaudhry, Vice President Global Professional & Clinical Affairs at CooperVision Dr Gary Orsborn, IACLE Europe / Africa - Middle East Contact Lens Educator of the Year Helmer Schweizer and IACLE President Dr Shehzad Naroo who chaired the session

Member who would not otherwise be able to attend the BCLA conference (offered for the first time in 2013) was given to Dumpati Srikanth from India, who completed his training at Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune in 2006. He is presently working as Faculty in the Bausch + Lomb School of Optometry, Hyderabad, India.

Dr. Shehzad Naroo, IACLE President, congratulated all of this year's awards winners on their success – "On behalf of IACLE and our sponsors we were very pleased to have a great number of highly respected nominees for the educator and travel awards, which made the judging even more difficult. This year was a little special for award winners as it offers the opportunity for them to attend the IACLE World Congress in Manchester as well as the BCLA in Liverpool."

Chaired by Dr. Naroo, the IACLE Session at BCLA took place at ACC, Liverpool. The awards' ceremony was preceded by four presentations from international speakers on topics such as Contact Lens use in sport: Practice and perception in Italy - Fabrizio Zeri; Online trade of eye care products - What do Indian consumers think? - Nilesh Thite; A comparison of myopia control perceptions between parents in UK and Hong Kong - Louis Dias; Contact lens product and care systems among wearers in India - Lakshmi Shinde.

The IACLE Educator Awards were sponsored by CooperVision and all these awards were supported by BCLA. The Educator Awards winners received a delegate package to attend the BCLA Clinical Conference courtesy of the BCLA, and a generous award towards the cost of travel and accommodation, thanks to the sponsorship from Cooper Vision. The IACLE Travel Award recipient received the same benefits, sponsored by IACLE and supported by BCLA.

World Congress on Contact Lens Education

The Third IACLE World Congress on Contact Lens Education was held at The University of Manchester from 24th to 28th

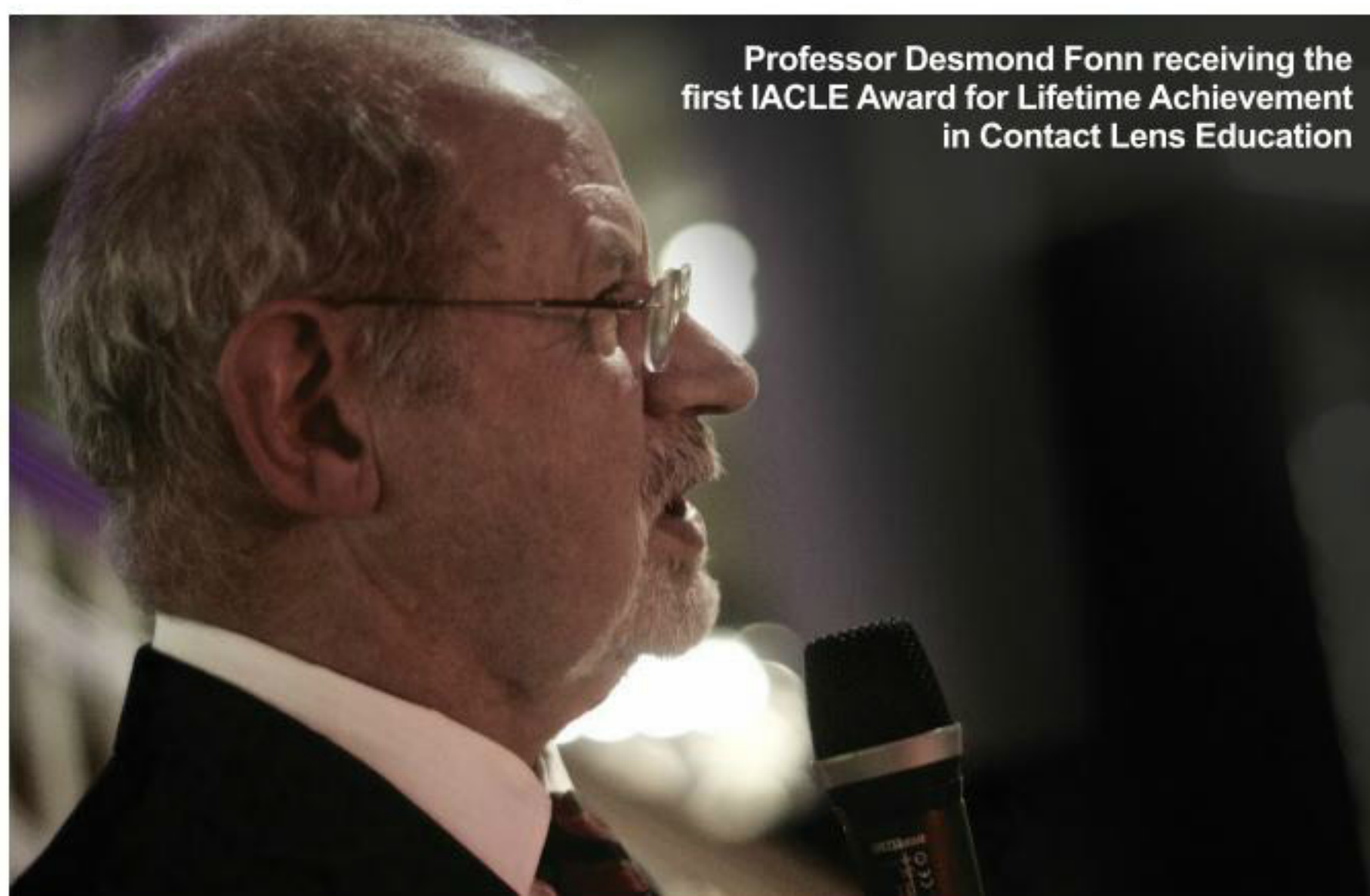


Dutch educator Dr Eef van der Worp participating in the Third IACLE World Congress from his home in Amsterdam, The Netherlands via a live online broadcast from Manchester, UK

May to coincide with the BCLA conference. The Congress was attended by more than 100 contact lens educators and industry representatives. Delegates gained hands-on experience of innovations in teaching, such as learning delivery systems, the use of iPads in the classroom and for creating ePub content, and augmented and virtual reality technologies. IACLE members around the world also took part via a live online broadcast.

A major highlight of the Congress was the presentation of the first-ever IACLE Award for Lifetime Achievement in Contact Lens Education. Professor Desmond Fonn received this award at a dinner held at Manchester Museum on Wednesday 27th May to mark the Third IACLE World Congress.

"IACLE has been very dear to me," said Professor Fonn, acknowledging the contribution of the association's co-founders and the support of industry since its inception. "I've made incredible friends around the world who have spent thousands of hours working for IACLE. The result is that IACLE has been so instrumental in driving contact lens education."



Professor Desmond Fonn receiving the first IACLE Award for Lifetime Achievement in Contact Lens Education