

IACLE hails successful participation in World Congress of Optometry

It was standing room only when IACLE LA hosted a special seminar at the 1st World Congress of Optometry in Colombia last month. Americas Regional Coordinator Guillermo Carrillo reports



More than 3,000 delegates attended the 1st World Congress of Optometry, organized by the World Council of Optometry and FEDOPTO (La Federación Colombiana de Optómetras) in Medellín, Colombia (14-16 August).

The IACLE seminar on the opening day was a very successful event, offered free to contact lens practitioners. This was the first time in Latin America that IACLE had held such an event, with distinguished IACLE members giving lectures to practitioners.

The congress organizers assigned us a room with capacity for 60 attendees, but many more than this number were interested in attending and an enthusiastic group of 98 delegates crowded in to IACLE's session. Unfortunately, nearly as many more couldn't get in to the room and had to be turned away.

Delegates were first informed about the New IACLE Contact Lens Course (ICLC) to be available soon and the benefits of being an IACLE member. The academic program then featured lectures by **Dr Percy Lazon** (Australia) on the challenge of contact lens discomfort and **Orlando Neira** (Colombia) on presbyopic solutions with soft contact lenses. **Jorge Vargas** (Colombia) posed the question: is astigmatism still a problem with contact lenses? and **Nelson Merchan** (Colombia) discussed proactive contact lens recommendation. The session ended with a presentation by Americas Regional President **Sergio García** (Colombia) on contact lenses for irregular corneas and RGPs.

Positive feedback

Feedback on the session was very positive. Colombian optometrist **Julie Andrea López** commented: 'The IACLE seminar was excellent and it was good to have the opportunity to attend lectures from the best Latin American contact lens educators. Thanks to IACLE and to FEDOPTO for promoting these wonderful training opportunities.'

Katherine González Ramirez, an optometrist from Ecuador, added: ‘My experience of the IACLE seminar was very enriching. The speakers were high quality, very dynamic and had very interesting topics. The background of each of the professionals as educators made this seminar easy to understand for colleagues who are just starting out in contact lens practice. Thank you very much for such a memorable seminar.’

Technology in education

The second day of the congress included an IACLE Members’ Meeting and Deans and Optometry Programs Meeting, organized by the Asociación Latinoamericana de Optometría y Óptica (ALDOO).



The Members’ Meeting brought together 15 educators from eight institutions in Colombia, Argentina, Brasil, Perú and México.

The aim was to share experiences and knowledge on technological resources and learning-teaching strategies from the Third IACLE World Congress. Members also exchanged views on the 2016 strategic plan.

Following an update on IACLE activities, FIACLEs **Myriam Mayorga** (Colombia), **Jorge Vargas** (Colombia) and **Rolando Rojas** (Perú) delivered presentations on virtual education and educational tools Showbie and Nearpod. **Guillermo Carrillo** talked about blended learning. All these topics were covered at the IACLE congress.

Issues raised in the discussion session included the need to increase motivation among students and the number of patients they fitted before graduating. Facilities, support, budget and legal aspects varied around the region. Concentrate on the basics and use technology to train educators, was Dr Lazon’s recommendation.



The meeting of Deans and Directors was sponsored by ALDOO and CooperVision. The goal of this meeting was to consolidate plans based on information requested at the first such meeting, held in Trinidad & Tobago in October 2014.

IACLE offered resources and experience for the institutions represented, many of which had IACLE members.

- Click [here](#) for more news from the 1st World Congress of Optometry and to download presentations from the congress program.