

**5th International Optometry Congress USTA Bucaramanga – Colombia**



IACLE President **Dr Shehzad Naroo** delivered two lectures to 320 attendees – primarily young practitioners – at the 5th International Optometry Congress organized by the [USTA Optometry](#) program (11 March). Dr Naroo’s lectures were focused on presbyopia and specialty contact lens fitting. Additionally, FIACLEs **Martin Giraldo** (2015 IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year, Americas) and **Jorge Vargas** (2016 Americas IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year, Americas) gave lectures on ‘Nutritional perspectives on the ocular surface’ and ‘Limbal contact lenses: when do we use them?’ respectively.

**IACLE President visits clinic facilities at Universidad Santo Tomás – USTA**

All the IACLE members who attended to IACLE Educator Meeting and Train-the-Trainer program (12 March) had a tour of USTA’s clinic facilities. The clinic is well equipped and has enough contact lens educators in charge (ratio equipment: student is 1:5). IACLE members are primarily in charge of the contact lens course and clinics.



**Postgraduate students from Universidad Santo Tomas welcome IACLE President**



Taking advantage of Dr Naroo’s participation in the 5th International Optometry Congress, he was invited to give a lecture to the university’s Contact Lens and Anterior Segment Specialization course. This is a postgraduate course of 1½ years’ duration. Shehzad gave a lecture around research and publications, entitled ‘From research to clinics and *vice versa*’. The group of 20 students were very satisfied with and motivated by this lecture, as shown in this selfie of the enthusiastic participants!

## IACLE Educator Meeting and Train-the-Trainer program

IACLE Regional Coordinator **Guillermo Carrillo** opened the Educator Meeting with a presentation on the New IACLE Contact Lens Course (ICLC) and a quick overview of last year's activities in the region with the valuable support of IACLE members.



Dr Naroo's topic was 'How do they teach contact lenses in Europe?', focusing on blended learning and multimedia tools, such as video lectures through platforms like Moodle. He also emphasized ways of using IACLE resources, eg the IACLE Case Reports Series, for teaching or assessment purposes. IACLE now has 15 Case Reports translated into Spanish available.



Guillermo Carrillo developed the topic in parallel on contact lens education in Latin America, based on a survey of 38 IACLE members from 10 LA countries. Results show students' lack of contact lens practice before graduation, due to facilities, curriculum structure, a need for balanced content of theory vs practice. IACLE member from Perú **Rolando Rojas** presented a workshop based on the Nearpod app.

Martin Giraldo showed results from the first Contact Lens and Anterior Segment Specialization course and its impact on practitioners. USTA university has developed this three-semester course for improving practitioners' skills and critical thinking.

A discussion on how to improve contact lens education in LA produced a number of ideas for improvements and identified areas where IACLE and industry could help, including:

- Interinstitutional agreements to improve cooperation, with IACLE facilitating.
- Training members with new material eg the New ICLC and Case Reports Series.
- Modification of strategies and curriculums to address market issues. One idea was sales and marketing workshops for educators, sponsored by contact lens companies, or lectures from marketing experts, possibly via blended learning.
- Another issue is students' lack of clinical experience. Industry could assist through workshops to motivate students to feel more confident fitting contact lenses.

## Meeting with National Academic Director of FEDOPTO – Colombia



Guillermo Carrillo held a meeting with **Dr Johanna Garzon**, National Academic Director of [FEDOPTO](#) (12 March). She agreed that the IACLE Regional Office should participate actively in the next [FEDOPTO Congress](#). Together with IACLE Regional President **Sergio García** and LA board member **Orlando Neira**, we will discuss the topics for an IACLE Seminar at this congress. Previous ideas for topics were focused on compliance, problem-solving, astigmatism, presbyopia and hot topics. Promotion for FEDOPTO includes the IACLE Contact Lens Seminar as one of five reasons to attend to the congress, to be held in Quindío, Colombia (12-14 August).