

## Indian educators focus on new teaching technology

**'Awesome'** was how delegates attending IACLE India's most recent event described their experience of the two-day meeting in Mumbai (24-25 October). Forty educators gathered at the Lotus College of Optometry for a program on new technology, as Nilesh Thite reports



Of the 40 participants in this meeting, 28 were IACLE Educator Members, five Associate Members and seven were from industry. The industry sponsors who participated in the meeting were Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Pvt Ltd.

### **Day 1:**

The meeting started with IACLE Global Education Manager **Lakshmi Shinde** and Director of Educational Programs **Nilesh Thite** welcoming members. Both presented on goals and outcomes to achieve and then presented an IACLE update on the [Third IACLE World Congress \(WC3\)](#) and [New ICLC](#) (IACLE Contact Lens Course). Members were informed about a new Case Report and were asked to provide feedback. It was emphasised that the meeting agenda was formulated with inputs from members themselves and from the follow-up of a previous Members' Meeting held in Hyderabad in 2014.

The next session was **Experience-sharing by educators who attended WC3**. The following members presented their views and experience:

- **Professor Prema Chande** – Blended learning and Sli-do
- **Professor Monica Chaudhry** – Nearpod
- **Runa Talukdar** – Future potential
- **Srikanth Dumpathi** – iPad Mini learning experiences
- **Premjit Bhakat** – Smart tools for efficient working

It was heartening to see how the WC3 attendees could apply what they learnt at the congress. Results of a pilot project on **Practical assessment** were then discussed by **Usman Memon, Pancham Kulkarni, Nirav Mehta** and **Chinmay Deshpande**. External educators were sent to three institutes to assess the practical skills of their students using standard assessment sheets. While students' performance was satisfactory in skills like lens application and removal, it was concluded that they need more supervised practical sessions on fit assessment, using standard fitting sheets.

The industry session was unique and very insightful. **Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care** presented on strategically relevant topics: the Indian contact lens market mix and opportunity, consumer insights, astigmatism and proactive recommendation by eye care practitioners. It was very useful for the educators to have this business perspective. Members were reminded about the industry seminars to be arranged at institutes.

The next session was on **Collaborating in multi-centre studies** presented by **Dr Rajeswari Mahadevan**. She alerted educators to the need for multi-centre studies and gave an overview of how they can be conducted. Members were requested to think about various areas of collaboration that all IACLE institutes could work on.

### **Day 2:**

Day 2 commenced with a presentation on **New areas of collaboration and research** by **Lakshmi Shinde** and **Nilesh Thite**. Three main areas for collaborative research were identified:

- RGP dispensing and practice survey
- Contact lens dropouts
- Normative data for Indian population (anterior segment)

Educators volunteered to take charge of different studies and work with a team of members.

A live web-based lecture by Dr Percy Lazon (Australia) on **Myopia control – where are we?** followed. Dr Lazon gave a very informative lecture on updates to myopia control. Next was a **Panel discussion on practice management**. This was split into 15-minutes' discussion of various topics, moderated by:

- **Kunal Shah** – How to generate referrals
- **Isha Dave** – Ethics in contact lens practice
- **Yeshwant Saoji** – Online sale of contact lenses
- **Shyam Sunder** – Follow-up examination

The meeting ended with positive feedback from delegates and the awarding of certificates. Johnson & Johnson distributed contact lens trial lenses to all resource centres so that students could use them and CCLRU grading scales to all the meeting attendees at the end of the meeting.

### **A selection of comments from delegates:**

*'Thanks to IACLE for hosting such a wonderful event. Look forward for many more.'*

*'It was indeed a great experience .....lots of learning...a positive outlook...new friends....looking forward to the next meet.'* *'Thank you IACLE and team.....It was awesome.'*

