

Sankara Academy conducts 'B+Lieve' in association with Bausch+Lomb

FIACLEs played a key role in B+Lieve, an integrated program on advanced contact lenses organized at Sankara College of Optometry in Bangalore, India in association with Bausch + Lomb with the aim of uplifting the skills of practising professionals. Nilesh Thite reports



More than 95 eye care practitioners (ECPs) attended the B+Lieve didactic lectures on specialty contact lenses and their relevance in today's practice.

The session started with **Aditya Goyal**, Principal – Sankara College, addressing the gathering on Sankara's motto and its vision for B+Lieve. He took them through the purpose of conducting B+Lieve and how the program planned to support practitioners to implement in their practices the skills they had learned during the event. Tamso Ma Jyotirgamaya (तमसो मा ज्योतिर् गमय) a Sanskrit word which means 'From darkness, lead me to light', describes the motto of [Sankara Academy of Vision](#).



Pramod Gopalan, Zonal Business Manager – Bausch + Lomb, shared the company's views on the collaboration with Sankara Academy of Vision to conduct the first comprehensive program of its kind at Bangalore, and the way forward for B+Lieve in the coming years. He also contributed his industry experience by sharing information on the current contact lens market and consumer behaviour.

B+Lieve took off with the scientific sessions after the official inauguration with lighting the lamp by the Director – Sankara Academy of Vision **Professor Ravi Kumar** and speakers.

The event offered delegates the opportunity to experience and learn about changing modern lifestyles and their impact on contact lenses. This also led them to understand that consumers are putting new demands on their current contact lenses. FIAACLE **Khemraj Nackwal** showcased the adaptations contact lenses are undergoing to meet the needs of this digital world.

FIAACLE **Nilesh Thite** presented on how this impact could be addressed with the latest materials and also took the delegates through the importance of silicone hydrogels in today's practice.

Although most of the advanced contact lens materials and lens care systems have made lens wear safer and simpler, complications can occur in some patients. How to effectively diagnose and treat these complications to best serve our patients was very well explained by optometrist **Preethie Singh Rekhi** in his lecture on 'Management of contact lens complications in private practise'.

Continued upgradation is one of the pillars of any practice, such practice upgradations with few lenses were made to look simple by lectures on multifocal contact lenses by FIAACLE Nilesh Thite, FIAACLE **Ajay Shinde** and Specialty lenses in Management of irregular corneas by FIAACLE **Lakshmi Shinde**. Optometrist **Namrata Hegde** provided a refresher on the basics of RGP fitting.



Delegates were thrilled with the insights provided by FIAACLE **Dr Rajeswari Mahadevan** on scleral lenses, and how these specialty lenses can be a boon to patients with ocular surface disease or irregular corneas. Live demonstrations were very much applauded. Fitting of RGP lenses and scleral lenses was shown using live video slit lamp (pictured left).

Bausch + Lomb took the opportunity to present the science behind the new generation silicone hydrogel lens Ultra and its application in the digital world.

FIAACLEs **Harish Kudiyruppu** and **Jayashree Sekar** gave interesting talks on Ultra and on 'Care and maintenance' respectively.

Overall, B+Lieve was a very successful, focused approach to gather interested practitioners under one roof. The feedback and insights received from ECPs during B+Lieve were invaluable and form the foundation for B+Lieve to develop and improve upon getting more and more contact lens advancements within the reach of many eye care practitioners.