

IACLE members in the spotlight in three LA countries



In Buenos Aires (Argentina) IACLE members offered a Specialty Contact Lens Course (14-15 October). **Jose Luis Delgado** (Argentina) and **Sergio García** (Colombia) delivered a 14-hour course and workshop on 'Myopia control' and 'Scleral contact lenses'. Speakers were sponsored by Contamac (UK) and Keratos (Colombia), with invited lecturer **Dr Stephen Byrnes** (USA). Pictured (left to right) are: **Dr Steven Byrnes**, FIACLEs **Patricia Magnelli** (Argentina), **Sergio García** (Colombia) and IACLE member **Jose Luis Delgado**.

In Lima (Perú), IACLE members played a major role in the [I STEM San Fernando Academic Event](#) (18 October). IACLE members **Johnny Huayhua** (pictured right), **Javier Villanueva**, **Renzo Serrano** and **Gerardo Vásquez**, with Regional Coordinator **Guillermo Carrillo**, offered two hours of lectures for around 250 attendees. The wide range of topics included RGP fluorescein patterns, taking a clinical history and proactivity in contact lens fitting.



Also in Lima, IACLE members collaborated with final-year students from [IESTPOO](#) who organized a contact lens seminar for optometry students (21 October). FIACLEs **Robin Rodriguez**, **Rolando Rojas** and **Guillermo Carrillo** offered 4 hours of lectures to around 50 attendees. The seminar included a workshop session led by Robin Rodriguez (pictured left) and sponsored by VisionTech (equipment) and MOTSA (local contact lens laboratory).

And in Bogotá (Colombia) the 1st Seminar in Optometry and Symposium in Optometric Research, organized by the Optometry Program of [AreAndina](#) Bogotá, took place on 26 October. More than 300 attendees



enjoyed a program of 14 lectures, an optometric research symposium and poster session. Pictured (left) is FIAACLE **Dr Nelson Merchan** discussing with the author a poster on 'Assessment of academic stress among educators, students and administrative staff of the Optometry Program'.

Students from AreAndina Pereira join STE



Forty-eight students from the Optometry Program of AreAndina Pereira (Colombia) were due to sit the Student Trial Exam (STE) on 18 November. AreAndina's IACLE members **Ana María Agudelo** and FIAACLE **Orlando Neira** will oversee the group.

FEDOPTO and IACLE Americas to collaborate on FIAACLE program



During the La Salle Optometry Program anniversary, Americas Regional Coordinator **Guillermo Carrillo** held a meeting with FEDOPTO's President **Dr Johana Garzon** and Academic Director **Dr Nelson Merchan**. [FEDOPTO](#) is the most influential professional association in the Latin American region.

The discussion centered on academic cooperation between IACLE and FEDOPTO, and how to achieve improvements in academic continuing education. The FEDOPTO President would like to have more women as IACLE members in Colombia and to have more Colombian members sitting the next FIAACLE Exam.

Discussion with Dr Merchan covered the possibility of working through FEDOPTO to achieve the goal of 24 new Colombian FIAACLEs, and enrolling new members into the IACLE Distance Learning Program with the collaboration of current FIAACLEs. Promoting FIAACLE status renewal and leadership of FIAACLEs in the region was also discussed. Dr Merchan offered a potential collaboration with The Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care in Bogotá to use its facilities for Web Lectures and in-house lectures. We expect to have more regional industry sponsorship to extend this initiative to other priority countries.

Another discussion point was next year's FEDOPTO International Conference. IACLE will be in charge of the contact lens session with two different aspects: academic and educational. IACLE participation would include a Train-the-Trainer (TTT) program reinforcing educational aspects of compliance and promoting safe wear of contact lenses. Additionally, IACLE would encourage educational institutions across the region to participate through poster sessions, including the possibility of a reward for the best presented poster.