

IACLE plays prominent role as WCO focuses on eye health

IACLE enjoyed its highest profile yet at a global optometry conference as members, Fellows, staff and officers delivered as many as 50 presentations to delegates at the 2nd World Congress on Optometry in Hyderabad, India (11-14 September). Alison Ewbank reports



Professor Gullapalli N Rao (left) chairman of the L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad at the opening ceremony for the Congress, watched by outgoing president of the World Council of Optometry Dr Uduak Udom and CEO of the Indian Vision Institute, Vinod Daniel (right)

As an official supporter, IACLE played a key role in the 2nd World Congress of Optometry (WCO) held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (11-13 September). The three-day meeting followed on from the [2017 IACLE Congress on Contact Lens Education](#) that took place at the city's L V Prasad Eye Institute (9-10 September).



WCO was co-hosted by the [World Council of Optometry](#), [Asia Pacific Council of Optometry](#) and [India Vision Institute](#), and attracted 1,350 delegates to a programme of lectures, workshops and poster sessions on the theme 'Accessible, quality vision and eye health'. Alcon, CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Vision were gold sponsors of the WCO event, as well as industry partners for the IACLE Congress.

The overall emphasis for WCO was on public health, particularly children's vision, myopia and diabetes. Congress chair **Professor Kovin Naidoo** (pictured left), CEO of the Brien Holden Vision Institute, said the growing burden of visual impairment required the attention of the global optometric community. The theme for the congress was not merely a slogan but a call to action that the global profession needed to respond to, he said.

Educational initiatives

Incoming WCO president **Dr Scott Mundle** announced a major step forward for the Indian profession with the signing of a resolution on the regulation of optometry in India. He told delegates that optometrists were not all at the same standard of education, practice or regulation around the world. 'We need to make that happen,' he said.

Among other educational developments reported at the congress was the **OCULUS** program, a consortium of educators from optometry schools in Europe, the Middle East and beyond (Norway, UK, Spain, the Netherlands, Israel and India). Awarded around US\$1m in funding over three years under the Erasmus Plus scheme, OCULUS ([Optometry Curriculum for Lifelong Learning through Erasmus](#)) aims to develop worldwide harmonisation of education and scope of practice using the European Diploma in Optometry as a benchmark.



Among the sponsor presentations, **Ian Davies** (pictured, Johnson & Johnson Vision) examined the role of contact lenses in the development of optometry. Describing the range of materials available for teaching contact lenses to ensure that practitioners were fully competent, he commented: 'If you look at the outstanding IACLE Contact Lens Course ([New ICLC](#)), it's incredibly comprehensive and anyone who's a contact lens educator should go to that.'

In future, we were going to see a very different world for contact lenses, said Mr Davies. The patent literature showed electronics, tear sampling and drug delivery devices in prospect, as well as myopia control. 'Contact lenses will not just be a vision correction tool but part of the overall armoury of devices to deliver eye care,' he said.

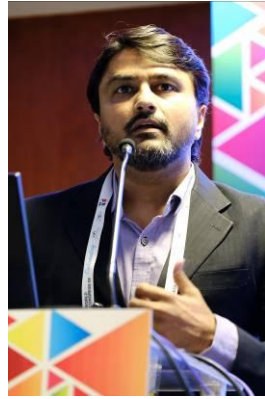
Myopia symposium

IACLE representatives delivered as many as 50 presentations at WCO, as well as reviewing abstracts and acting as session moderators. Topics ranged from training in optometry and primary care to complex specialist fitting techniques.



Among the highlights was a symposium on the 'looming crisis' of myopia. International speakers – including IACLE Vice President **Dr Luigina Sorbara** (pictured far right) – lined up to discuss the global increase in myopia prevalence and its economic impact, the consequences for eye health, mechanisms of myopia control and the optical, pharmacological and environmental interventions available.

Focusing on orthokeratology in particular, Dr Sorbara said that good candidates were those with <math><6.00D</math> of myopia, <math><1.75DC</math> of astigmatism and whose baseline corneal topography was normal. Studies showed no compromise to the corneal epithelium with ortho-K and a similar risk for microbial keratitis to overnight wear of soft lenses. But proper fitting procedures and lens hygiene were required. Dr Sorbara's second presentation looked at a range of options for optical intervention in myopia control.



Elsewhere on the program, IACLE's Global Education Manager **Dr Lakshmi Shinde** and Director of Educational Programs **Nilesh Thite** (pictured) were especially busy, delivering lectures and workshops.

President **Dr Shehzad Naroo**, Treasurer **Dr ETTY Bitton**, Secretary **Professor Janice Jurkus** and Asia Pacific Regional President **Dr Rajeswari Mahadevan** all represented the IACLE Executive Board. National Coordinators **Dr Haiying Wang** (China) and **Professor Kyounghee Park** (Korea) presented posters.

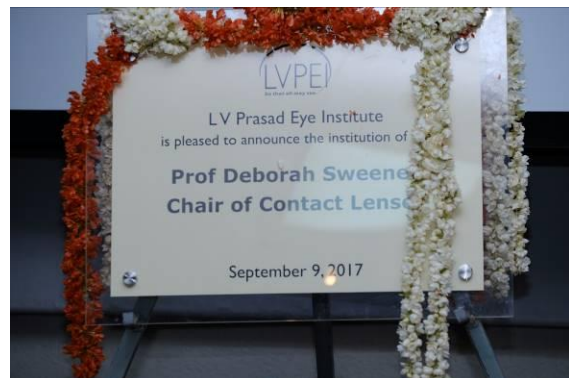
For a full list of IACLE's involvement in WCO click [here](#)

At the closing ceremony chair of the national organizing committee **Vinod Daniel** acknowledged the contribution IACLE had made to the success of WCO: 'Thank you to IACLE for having your conference alongside our conference – that really made our event even better, he said.

Past Presidents honored

During the World Congress, the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) honored the late **Professor Brien Holden**, founder and past president of IACLE, with the inauguration of the Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences. **Professor Desmond Fonn**, former Vice President of IACLE, presented a tribute to Professor Holden at the ceremony.

Professor Gullapalli N Rao described Professor Holden as a visionary leader and one of the most influential optometrists of his generation. 'We will continue to do the good work and take his legacy forward,' said Professor Rao. LVPEI also honored IACLE's Immediate Past President by instituting the **Professor Deborah Sweeney** Chair in Contact Lenses.



- The World Congress of Optometry will be held in 2019 and 2021 at venues to be confirmed