

## AOCLE annual workshop focuses on anterior segment

Optometric educators attending this year's AOCLE Workshop in Oklahoma learnt about topics as diverse as the latest developments in corneal crosslinking and the culture of the Cherokee Nation. IACLE board member Dr Etty Bitton reports



The annual AOCLE (Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators) Workshop was held from 9-12 June in Tulsa, Oklahoma (USA). Sixty educators from 25 North American schools (23 US plus two Canada) were in attendance including two educators from IACLE, namely **Orlando Neira** from Colombia and **Deepa Chandrasekaran** from the Vanderbilt Eye Institute. Two IACLE board members, **Gina Sorbara** (Waterloo) and **Etty Bitton** (Montreal) were also in attendance.



The purpose of the workshops is to foster communication between contact lens educators from different institutions to enhance networking opportunities and share teaching tools.

The 2016 AOCLE Workshop included a visit to the Northeastern State University of Oklahoma (NSUOK), College of Optometry in Tahlequah (Oklahoma) and the Hastings Hospital. Students attending NSUOK have a unique opportunity to

service patients from the Cherokee Nation, an American Indian Nation, with its own language and culture. Delegates of the workshop were exposed to the culture of the Cherokee throughout the program as well as learning some history of Tulsa.

The theme of the 2016 workshop was 'Anterior segment lasers and corneal cross linking'. This was quite fitting since Oklahoma was the first state to allow optometrists to use lasers (since 1988). Delegates had an opportunity to use on model eyes YAG lasers to perform iridectomies and SLT (Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty) procedures. Industry representatives updated the attendees on new developments in the contact lens marketplace.

Orlando Neira (pictured below left), who has recently joined the IACLE Executive Board as Assistant Treasurer, commented: 'Attending the AOCLE meeting has been an exciting opportunity to meet other board members, IACLE members such as Deepa, some of the AOCLE members, and also some industry members. Really, the most remarkable feature of the meeting was the outstanding kindness and sympathy of all of the attendees.'

He added: 'The lecturers and the workshops were faultless, and it's been a very good opportunity to grow in the professional and clinical area. It's been great!'



- For more information on AOCLE and its annual workshop visit [www.aocle.org](http://www.aocle.org)