

IACLE contributes expertise to Kolkata conference

The Kolkata Optometry Conference 2016 provided an opportunity for experienced IACLE fellows and members to share their tips on how to become a successful contact lens practitioner. IACLE Director of Educational Programs Nilesh Thite reports



Pictured (left to right) at the Kolkata event are FIACLEs and members Paula Mehta, Jayanta Bhattacharjee, IACLE Global Education Manager Lakshmi Shinde, Yeshwant Saoji, Nilesh Thite, Monica Chaudhry, Parna Bhattacharjee and Runa Muzumdar

The optometry fraternity from all over India assembled together for the biggest Optometry Conference ever held in Kolkata, along with an optical trade fair at the Science City Auditorium & Milan Mela ground (16 and 17 April). The Kolkata Optometry Conference was jointly organised by West Bengal Association for Optometrists and Graduate Optometrists Association, Kolkata.

About 650 delegates attended including optometry professionals from all over India and neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal. Optometry students from various colleges in India also took part. The conference was designed with scientific sessions, workshops, and poster and model competitions. Separate sessions were held for students and included a free paper session.

The contact lens session was enriched by the presence of the FIACLEs and IACLE members, some of whom have been actively involved in contact lens teaching and practice for more than 20 years. **Amod Gogate, Yeshwant Saoji, Lakshmi Shinde, Professor Monica Chaudhry, Nilesh Thite and Jayanta Bhattacharjee** emphasised different aspects of contact lens education and practice that was very helpful for the future graduates in optometry who are interested in contact lenses. They discussed the benefits and barriers to contact lens practice and shared tips on how to become a successful contact lens practitioner.

FIACLE Nilesh Thite, along with team from Bausch + Lomb conducted the Optometry & Contact Lens Quiz Competition between four optometry colleges namely, [Vidyasagar College of Optometry & Vision Science](#) & [NSHM Knowledge Campus](#), Kolkata; [Ridley College](#), Assam and [Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital](#), Siliguri which was thoroughly enjoyed by the students, professionals and faculties. The FIACLEs also supported the event by judging the posters and models made by optometry students and professionals from all over India.

The Industry were represented by Rajesh Kumar from Alcon, Amod Gogate from Johnson & Johnson Pvt Ltd, and Khemraj Nackwal and Indranil Ghosh from Bausch + Lomb.

Contact Lens workshops were conducted by Atanu Samanta, Aloe Gupta, Jyoti Dave Singh and Rajesh Kumar. There were more than 80 delegates per workshop.

The conference would not have been successful without the generous support of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Pvt Ltd, Alcon, Bausch + Lomb and other sponsors.