

JOPAL 2016 hosts special IACLE event

Thirty contact lens educators from Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UK were among those participating in the recent Jordanian- Palestinian (JOPAL) Optometry Conference in Amman. IACLE's first Fellow in Jordan, Dr May Bakkar, reports



Pictured at JOPAL 2016 (left to right) are Eman Alzghoul, Dr Yazan Ghammoh, Dr May Bakkar, Dr Shehzad Naroo, Dr Nezar Damati and Dr Mera Haddad

More than 300 academics, professionals, and students attended the 2nd Jordanian- Palestinian (JOPAL) Optometry Conference held at Le Meridian Hotel in Amman, Jordan (23-25 March). This event is organized in conjunction with the Jordanian Syndicate of Optometrists and Opticians, and under the patronage of his Excellency Prime Minister Dr Abdullah Al-Nssour.

On the third day of the conference, a special session was arranged to introduce the audience to IACLE. The session was coordinated by **Dr Yazan Gammoh**, Education Committee Representative of the World Council of Optometry (WCO), and IACLE representatives in Jordan **Dr May Bakkar** and **Dr Mera Haddad** (both are contact lens educators from [Jordan University of Science and Technology](#)).

The session was chaired by IACLE President **Dr Shehzad Naroo** who inaugurated the event with an opening word on the mission of IACLE and priority regions in the Middle East. Dr Naroo highlighted the importance of establishing a global network of contact lens educators. An update on IACLE, its strategic initiatives and educational programs was then presented jointly by Dr Bakkar and Dr Haddad.



The session elaborated on how IACLE members can benefit from access to a variety of educational resources including its interactive Case Reports, Web Lectures, and distance learning programs. The release of the New IACLE Contact Lens Course (ICLC) was also discussed and the range of contact lenses modules/aspects of the course was highlighted. Speakers also

encouraged institutions involved in contact lens teaching to run the Student Trial Exam (STE).

The case study of the development of the contact lens course curriculum at Jordan University of Science and Technology, in partnership with IACLE, was described as an example of the benefit of membership at institutional level. The session concluded with a discussion about the Fellowship Exam as a way to assess an educator's knowledge of contact lenses and identify areas of strength and weakness.

The IACLE session attracted more than 200 attendees, of them 30 contact lens educators from Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UK, and it received much interest and enthusiasm from the audience who interactively discussed with the panel how to join IACLE and the feasibility of Train-the-Trainer programs in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Attendees were encouraged to apply for IACLE membership (Educator or Associate), and were directed to the IACLE website and regional representatives to join.



At the end of the session, Dr Naroo handed Dr Bakkar (pictured) her FIACLE certificate and badge in recognition of excellence upon her successful outcome on the Fellowship Exam and for being the first fellow of IACLE in Jordan.