

IACLE welcomes Bausch + Lomb as Bronze Sponsor

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE) will once again be supported by Bausch + Lomb, a division of Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc., as a sponsor at Bronze level.

Bausch + Lomb joins IACLE's sponsors – Platinum Sponsor Alcon, Silver Sponsors CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Vision, and Donor Sponsor Euclid Systems – who together help support the association's high-quality contact lens programs worldwide.

IACLE is the leading provider of educational and information resources essential to contact lens educators. It currently has 826 active members in 70 countries around the world. Of these, around half are in its Global Priority Countries (China, India, Korea, Taiwan, Mexico, Brazil and Russia). Europe and North America are also well represented. In the first half of 2017 alone, 86 new members joined IACLE, of whom 26 are from Global Priority Countries.

IACLE members teach at more than 570 academic institutions worldwide and reached an estimated 20,000 students in 2016. IACLE recently introduced the New IACLE Contact Lens Course (New ICLC), a 30-lecture course fully revised and updated by the world's leading authorities in contact lenses, to keep pace with developments in the contact lens field.

IACLE President Dr Shehzad Naroo who also serves as a Reader at Aston University, Birmingham, UK, welcomed Bausch + Lomb as a Bronze Sponsor: "We are delighted that Bausch + Lomb has become a sponsor of IACLE again. The company has a long history of support for IACLE that has recently been renewed. B+L is an important player in the contact lens industry at a global level. With the support of all our sponsors we hope to continue with the mission of IACLE to raise the standard of contact lens education and promote the safe use of contact lenses worldwide."

GfK data reveals daily disposable sales exceed monthlies

A press release issued by GfK, a trusted source of relevant market and consumer information, reveals that although point-of-sale data showed an increase in overall dollar growth in soft contacts, the number of new contact wearers has remained steady.

According to the release, for the first time in January 2017, monthly sales of daily contact lenses reached 38.1% of the market share in the U.S., exceeding monthly lenses for the first time.

GfK contributes this growth to new product launches in the daily lenses category. Despite the growth, the number of contact lens wearers is not increasing. New lens wearers accounted for 21% of all contact fittings, and total wearers decreased by 0.3% from 2015 to 2016.

Initial information provided by GfK's FITS panel, which tracks optometrist visits, has shown an increase in toric contact lenses in daily, monthly and weekly modalities. Additionally, GfK is planning to launch new toric products this year that may aid in patient retention, states the press note.

Microbial contamination risk in bogus contact lenses

When the Forensic Chemistry Center of the US Food & Drug Administration (US FDA) examined counterfeit lenses recently, they found that more than half of the quantity tested positive for microbial contamination.

The US FDA obtained around 300 decorative and non-corrective CLs that were without prescription. Upon examination of the same they found that 60% of the counterfeit lenses and 27% of the unapproved lenses were positive for microbial contamination. Their study results have been published in the *Journal of Forensic Science*.

As reported in the captioned journal, twenty-nine different brands of non-corrective contact lenses were examined out of which 48% showed at least one positive sample for microbial contamination.

The study team concluded, "acquiring contact lenses without a prescription is a considerable threat to consumer health and safety."