



**IACLE**

International Association  
of Contact Lens Educators

**IACLE  
MEMBERSHIP  
SURVEY**

**2018**

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# INTRODUCTION

IACLE last conducted a full membership survey in 2013. Five years on we have produced the fully revised and updated New IACLE Contact Lens Course, introduced resources such as monthly Research Updates and developed new programs including the annual IACLE Awards. We have also held two major international congresses and many national meetings.

Membership has increased but we remain committed to reaching out to even more educators and institutions, thereby influencing contact lens education worldwide.

Three hundred IACLE members in 47 countries took part in our 2018 Membership Survey to determine use of and attitudes to our resources, programs and events, to explore IACLE's impact on members and to test out potential future member benefits.

The results will help set IACLE's agenda for the next five years and guide us in developing new and innovative activities for our members. Our aim is to bring the benefits of IACLE membership to more contact lens educators and, ultimately, to enhance contact lens practice around the world.

## THE SURVEY

The online survey was divided into two sections, sent out separately by email in March 2018 to all 825 IACLE members (Educator and Associate, as of 1 March). The survey was conducted in English, and in Spanish and Korean for members in Latin America and Korea.

### SECTION A

**Collected data relating to members' use of and attitudes to IACLE resources, programs and events. This part of the survey was anonymous although respondents were asked to state their region and country**

### SECTION B

**Collected demographic information to determine the profile of IACLE members and identify potential new members worldwide**

A total of **300 members in 48 countries** took part in Section A of the survey, representing a response rate of 36%. The highest number of responses was from the Asia Pacific region (62%), followed by Europe/Africa – Middle East (22%) and Americas (16%). By country, members in China (28% of all responses), India (17%) and Korea (12%) returned the most replies. More than six in 10 respondents (62%) were in IACLE's Global Priority Countries.

A total of **189 members in 43 countries** completed Section B, a response rate of 23%. By region, the highest number of responses was again from Asia Pacific (54%), followed by Europe/Africa – Middle East (26%) and Americas (20%). Around half (51%) were from Global Priority Countries.

For all results reported, the base is the number of respondents answering individual questions. Some questions were directed at Educator or Associate Members, or only at Fellows of IACLE, where stated.

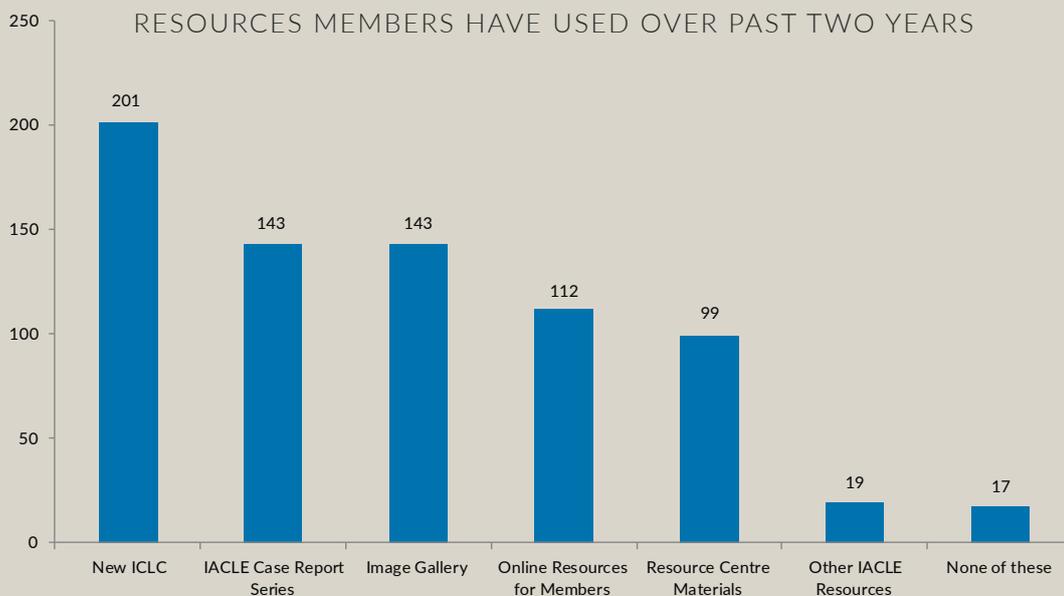
# SECTION A RESULTS

## IACLE RESOURCES

### USE OF IACLE RESOURCES

The New ICLC is the most widely used of IACLE Resources. Out of a given list of resources, the New ICLC scores highest with 67% of members responding reporting use in the past 2 years, followed by the IACLE Case Report Series and Image Gallery (both 48%). Online resources and Resource Centre materials are less likely to have been used, at 37% and 33% respectively.

Other IACLE resources are mostly the old ICLC materials (as specified by respondents). Note that the New ICLC was only available in English at the time of the survey. See further analysis under ICLC Versions.



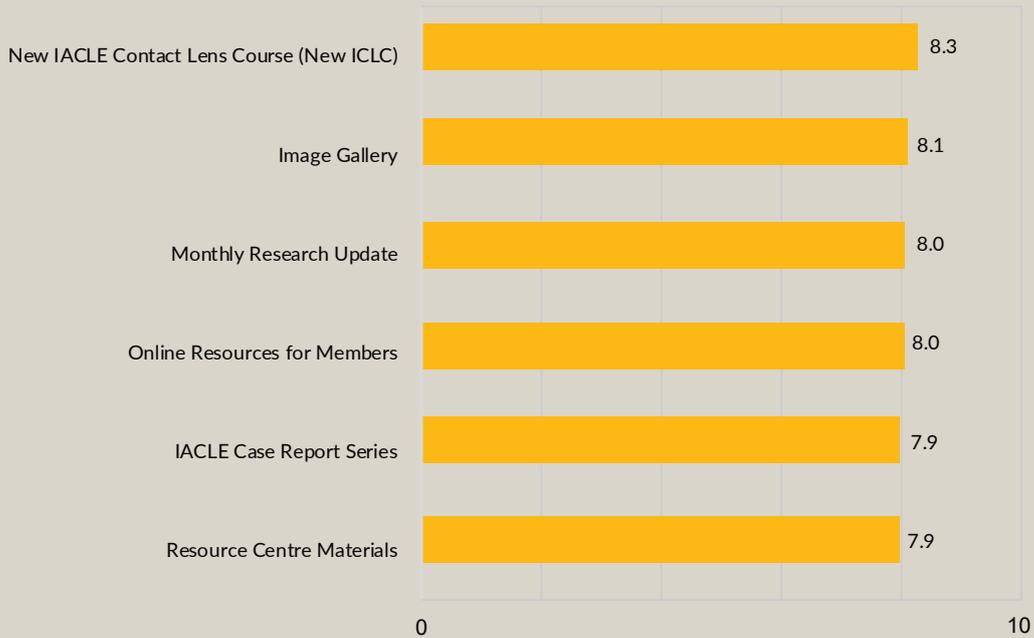
### SATISFACTION AND IMPORTANCE

Satisfaction with IACLE Resources was rated on a 1-10 scale where 1=not at all satisfied and 10=extremely satisfied. The New ICLC has the highest satisfaction rating, with an average of 8.3, followed by Image Gallery at 8.1. Around half of respondents (51%) rate the New ICLC in the top two boxes (9-10). However, other resources listed are also rated highly. The newly introduced Research Update has been well received by members with an average rating of 8.0.

Members were also asked to rate the importance of IACLE Resources to them in their job on a 1-10 scale where 1=not at all important and 10=extremely important. Again, the New ICLC scores highest with a rating, on average, of 8.3 followed by Case Reports and Image Gallery with a 7.9 average rating.

Satisfaction with resources and the importance of the resource to members' jobs are similar in terms of average ratings.

## SATISFACTION WITH IACLE RESOURCES (SCALE 1-10)



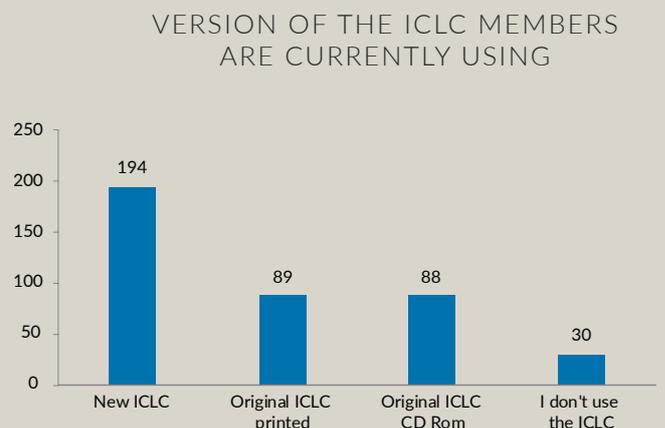
## METHODS OF USE

We provided a series of statements requesting members to select all those that reflect their use of IACLE resources overall. A majority of those responding use our resources to prepare lectures / workshops / tutorials and / or share them with their students.

Statement	% Total
I use IACLE resources to put together my lectures / workshops / tutorials	73%
I share IACLE resources with my students	60%
I share IACLE resources with my colleagues	41%
I use IACLE resources to provide continuing education to practitioners	40%
None of the above	3%

## ICLC VERSIONS

Members were surveyed on which version of the IACLE Contact Lens Course (ICLC) they are currently using. Nine in 10 are using the ICLC in some form. Nearly two-thirds (65%) are using the New ICLC, the latest and most up-to-date version in PowerPoint format. Note that translations of the New ICLC – in preparation in Spanish, Chinese, Korean and other languages – were not available when the survey was conducted.



## VALUE OF NEW ICLC

Members were asked to indicate their level of agreement with statements about the New ICLC on a 1-10 scale where 1=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree. The highest proportion of respondents, around four in 10 for each statement, rated their agreement from 6-8 out of 10.

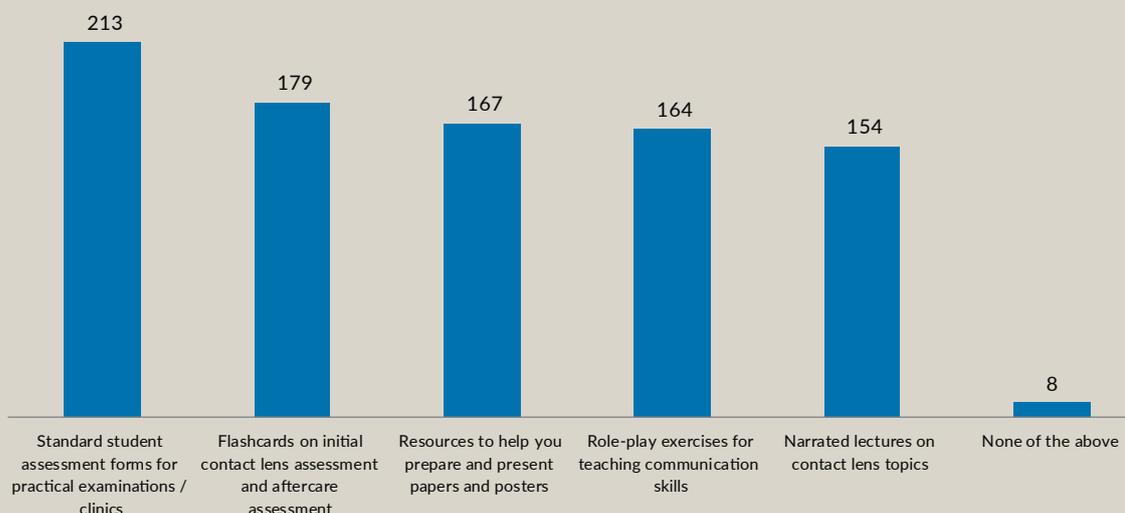
	Highest % Score	Scale Range Relating to Highest % Score
The New IACLE Contact Lens Course is the main resource used in my institution / organization to teach contact lenses	38%	6-8
I use the New IACLE Contact Lens Course as a textbook for my students	40%	6-8
My principal reason for being an IACLE member is to use the New IACLE Contact Lens Course	38%	6-8

## FUTURE RESOURCES

We proposed a list of potential future resources for IACLE to provide, asking members to select all that applied. Many would welcome tools to help with assessing students for practicals (71%) or flashcards for students themselves to use during initial contact lens assessment and aftercare (60%).

Guidance for preparing and presenting papers and posters at meetings, role-play exercises and narrated lectures were requests that averaged 54% of responses.

### IACLE RESOURCES TO PROVIDE IN THE FUTURE

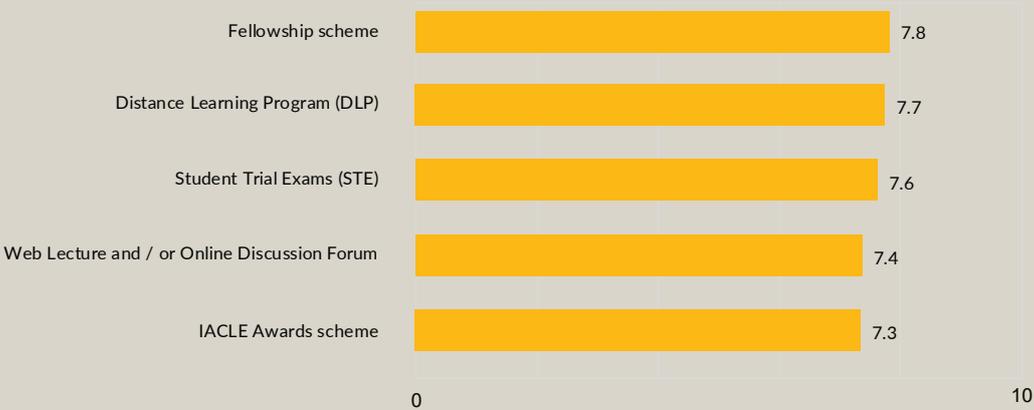


# IACLE PROGRAMS

## SATISFACTION AND IMPORTANCE

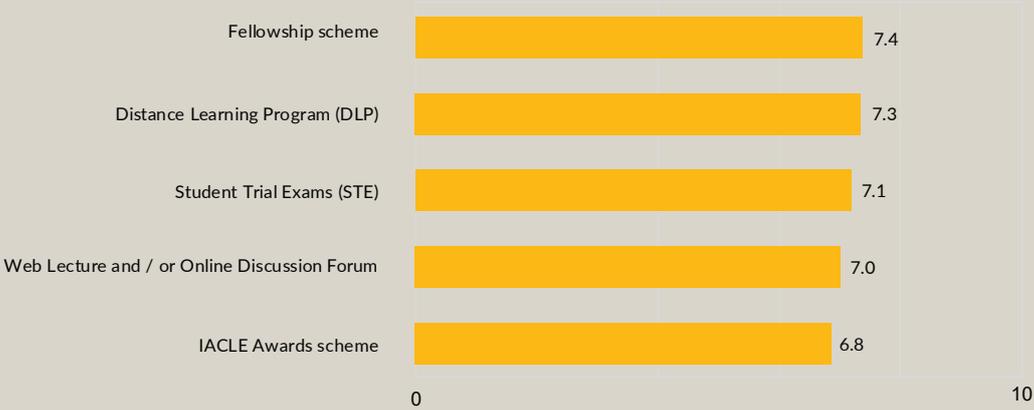
Satisfaction with IACLE Programs was rated on a 1-10 scale where 1=not at all satisfied and 10=extremely satisfied. Our Fellowship (FIACLE) scheme received the highest average rating, followed by the Distance Learning Program (DLP) and the Student Trial Exam (STE). More than four in 10 respondents (43%) rated the Fellowship scheme in the top two boxes (9-10).

SATISFACTION WITH IACLE PROGRAMS (SCALE 1-10)



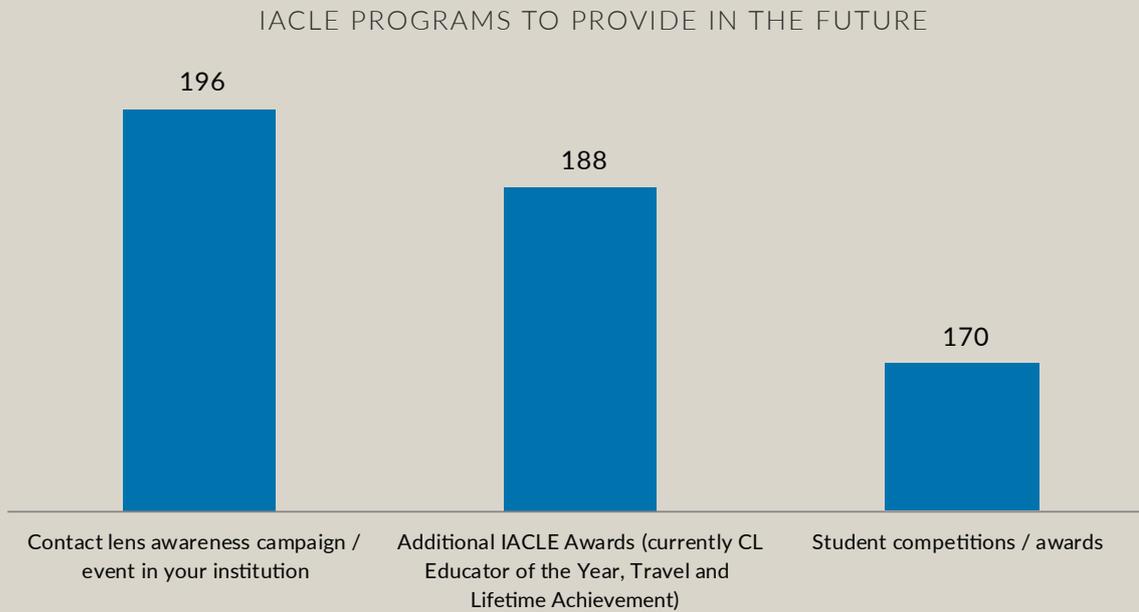
Members were also asked to rate the importance of IACLE Programs to them in their job on a 1-10 scale where 1=not at all important and 10=extremely important. Again, the Fellowship scheme and DLP scored highest. The IACLE Awards scheme (IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year, Travel and Lifetime Achievement Awards) – a mark of personal achievement which involves fewer members than other IACLE Programs – was rated only slightly lower for satisfaction and importance.

IMPORTANCE OF IACLE PROGRAMS IN JOB (SCALE 1-10)



## FUTURE PROGRAMS

We proposed a list of potential new programs for IACLE to provide in future and asked members to select all that applied. A contact lens awareness campaign / event in their institution tops the list, selected by 65%, followed by additional IACLE Awards (62%). Programs suggested by members included awards for students and for the highest mark in the STE.

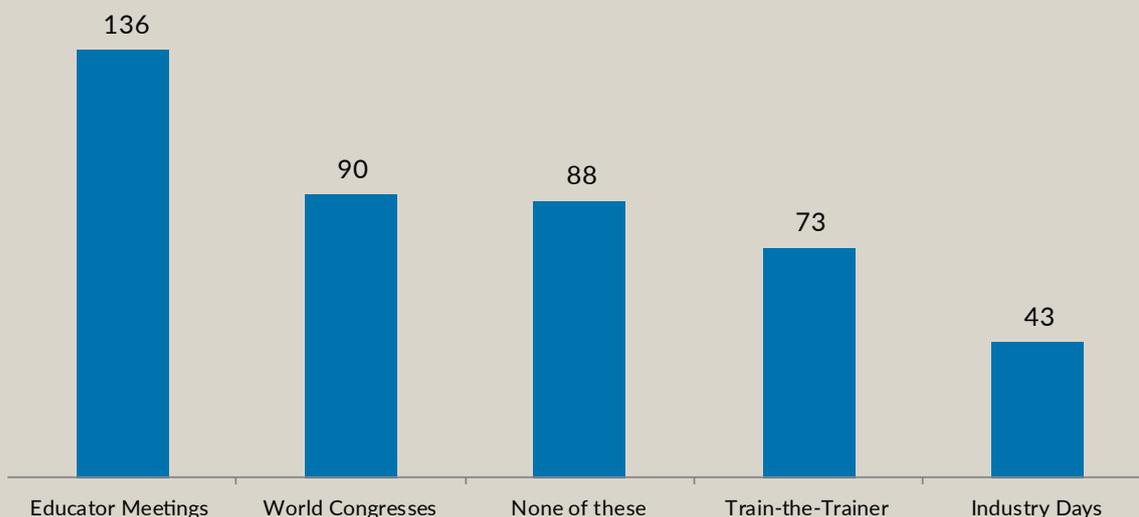


## IACLE EVENTS

### PARTICIPATION IN IACLE EVENTS

Educator members were questioned about all IACLE Events they had recently attended. More than two-thirds of respondents (69%) had attended either Educator Meetings or Train-the-Trainer Programs in the past 2-3 years. Nearly one in three responding (30%) had attended a World Congress, but a similar proportion had not recently attended any of the IACLE events listed. Note that we also provide virtual meeting platforms, such as Web Lectures and Discussion Forums, especially in Latin America, China and India.

IACLE EVENTS MEMBERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OVER THE PAST 2-3 YEARS

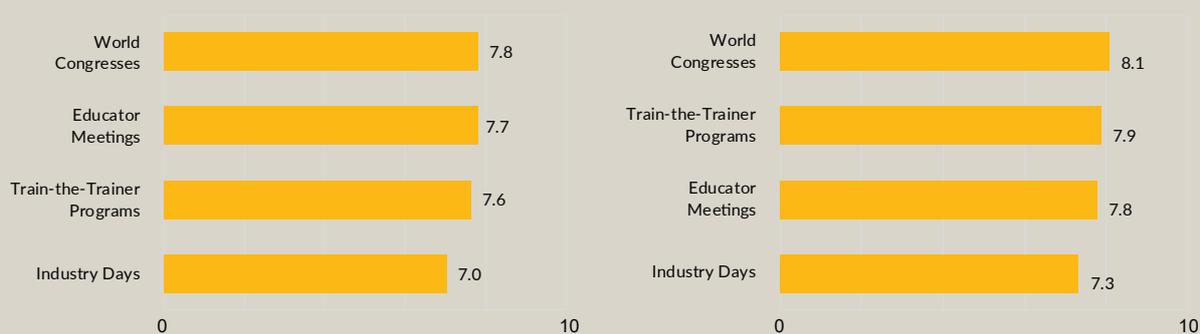


## SATISFACTION AND IMPORTANCE

Level of satisfaction with and importance of IACLE Events was rated on a 1-10 scale where 1=not at all satisfied/important and 10=extremely satisfied/important.

Satisfaction rates are highest with World Congresses, along with Educator Meetings and Train-the-Trainer Programs. World Congresses are considered the most important IACLE Events, followed by Train-the-Trainer Programs and Educator Meetings. Industry Days are rated slightly lower for both satisfaction and importance. World Congresses have a very high proportion of importance ratings in the top two boxes (9-10), at 57%.

### SATISFACTION WITH IACLE EVENTS (SCALE 1-10)    IMPORTANCE OF IACLE EVENTS (SCALE 1-10)



## FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Asked how IACLE could improve its events in future, members make more than 100 suggestions, including:

- More Educator Meetings, Train-the-Trainer Programs and World Congresses, and focus on increasing these in regions / countries where meetings do not take place (especially Middle East and Africa)
- Offer more travel bursaries to members to attend IACLE events and global meetings
- Increase information on pending events
- More discussion on recent developments and research in contact lenses – more practice-oriented topics such as myopia control
- Provide more on new teaching methods, new products and developments in contact lens design
- More high-level specialty contact lens support



## PLANNING FOR FUTURE EVENTS

We asked our members which of the following major international conferences they would expect to attend in the next 2-3 years in order to help plan future IACLE events. The BCLA Clinical Conference, AAO Annual Meeting and World Congress of Optometry are the most likely events to be attended by respondents. Only a small minority (2%) do not expect to attend any of the major events listed.

	% Total
British Contact Lens Association Clinical Conference	45%
American Academy of Optometry Annual Meeting	42%
World Congress of Optometry	41%
Asia Cornea and Contact Lens Conference	32%
Asia Pacific Council of Optometry Meeting	27%
FEDOPTO Congress	10%
Global Specialty Lens Symposium	2%
None of these	2%

Other meetings and conferences members expect to attend are the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), Nederlands Contactlens Congres (NCC), European Academy of Optometry and Optics (EAOO), Scleral Lens Education Society (SLS) and Optometrists Association of France (AOF).



## TOPICS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

We presented members with suggestions for topics that could be covered at future IACLE meetings. There is a spread of interest in these topics, the most popular being how to use technology in teaching and how to teach specific topics.

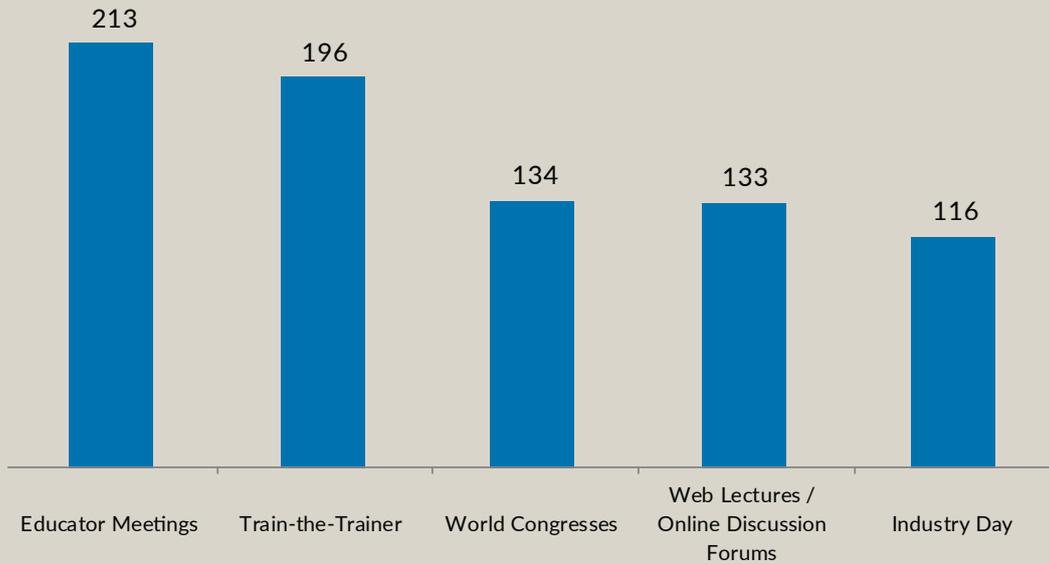
	% Total
How to use technology in your teaching	52%
How to teach specific topics (such as torics, presbyopia, slit lamp use)	48%
How to conduct student assessments and what to evaluate	42%
How to critically appraise the literature to use in evidence-based teaching	42%
How to get started in research	41%
How to write a scientific paper	40%
How to teach communication skills to students	38%
How to prepare and submit an abstract for a conference	35%
How to communicate with your students	30%

Other topics requested by our members are how to teach RGP contact lens fitting and specialty contact lenses, including group discussions and demonstrations.

## TYPES OF EVENT

Members were surveyed on which IACLE events they would like us to provide or provide more of in future in their country / region. Educator Meetings and Train-the-Trainer Programs are the top two types of event requested, selected by 71% and 65% respectively. There is also support for World Congresses and Web Lectures (both at 45%) and for Industry Days (39%).

TYPES OF IACLE EVENTS TO PROVIDE / INCREASE



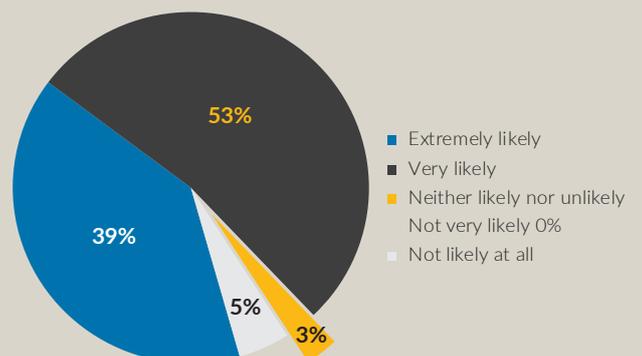
## IACLE MEMBERSHIP

### VALUE FOR MONEY AND RECOMMENDATION

Members were asked about the value for money of their membership and whether they would recommend joining IACLE to their peers / colleagues. More than two-thirds of respondents (69%) rate IACLE membership as either extremely good or very good value for money, and most (92%) say they are either extremely likely or very likely to recommend IACLE membership to other contact lens educators.

VALUE FOR MONEY OF IACLE MEMBERSHIP

LIKELY TO RECOMMEND IACLE MEMBERSHIP



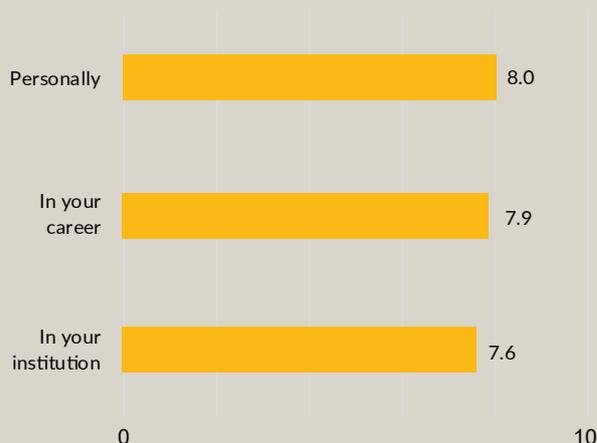
## DIFFERENCE MEMBERSHIP MAKES

Members rated the difference IACLE membership has made on a 1-10 scale where 1=no difference and 10=a great difference. On average, respondents rate the difference at eight out of 10 at a personal level, with a similar result for their career.

Comments provided by members on the differences membership has made to them, include:

- I'm able to teach my students using evidence-based research techniques. I can update students regularly on what's new in the field of contact lens education, and I'm confident that I'm giving students information from a trusted resource
- It's made me more confident in teaching contact lenses as I trust the information provided in the ICLC
- IACLE is the backbone of contact lens education
- I have much better knowledge about contact lens education in other countries. I've also met a lot of international colleagues which has broadened my horizons on contact lens fitting and education
- Heightened my recognition in my institute
- Provides an opportunity to see what is being done elsewhere and to gauge our own program accordingly
- Recognition and respect
- The knowledge provided by IACLE in its different dimensions and educational strategies differs and stands out qualitatively in relation to other institutions, giving better working conditions and greater professional visibility to the educator

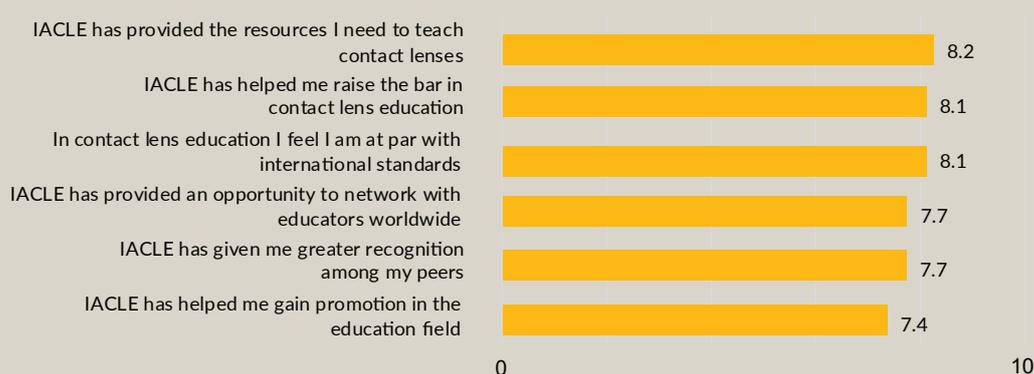
DIFFERENCE MADE BY IACLE MEMBERSHIP (SCALE 1-10)



## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Thinking about the specific benefits IACLE membership has provided, members indicated their level of agreement with a series of statements on a 1-10 scale where 1=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree. There is strongest agreement that IACLE provides the resources needed to teach contact lenses.

BENEFITS OF IACLE MEMBERSHIP (SCALE 1-10)

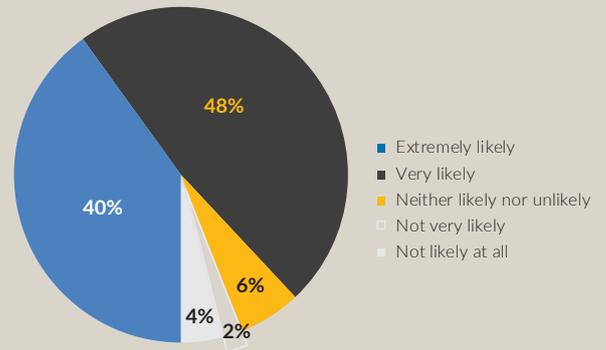


# IACLE FELLOWSHIP

## RECOMMENDATION

We asked FIACLEs about their attitudes to recommending Fellowship of IACLE. Most (88%) say they are extremely or very likely to recommend IACLE Fellowship to other contact lens educators.

LIKELY TO RECOMMEND IACLE FELLOWSHIP

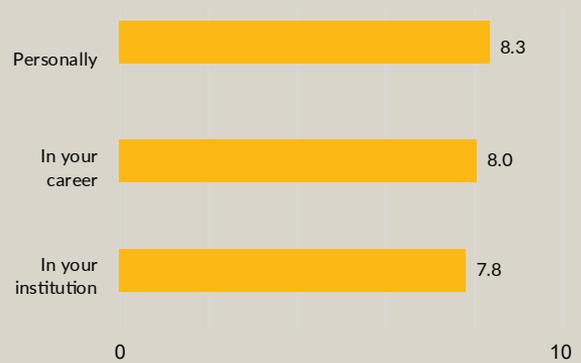


## DIFFERENCE FELLOWSHIP MAKES

FIACLEs were also asked about the difference Fellowship has made to them personally, and in their careers and institutions. Average ratings are slightly higher than when asked about the difference that IACLE membership has made.

Comments include that FIACLEs are held in high esteem in professional circles, are more likely to be invited to prestigious meetings as speakers, and are recognized as leaders in the field within their countries.

DIFFERENCE MADE BY IACLE FELLOWSHIP (SCALE 1-10)



## IACLE SUPPORT

Members (Educator and Associate) identified the support they would like IACLE either to provide or encourage in future, selecting all the types of support from a given list. There is strongest support for collaboration with educators in other institutions / countries (75%), and for help with research within members' institutions (65%).

Other support members would like to see includes increased communication between members and connecting them via WhatsApp groups, and more one-to-one regional interaction between institutions.

SUPPORT MEMBERS WANT IACLE TO PROVIDE / ENCOURAGE

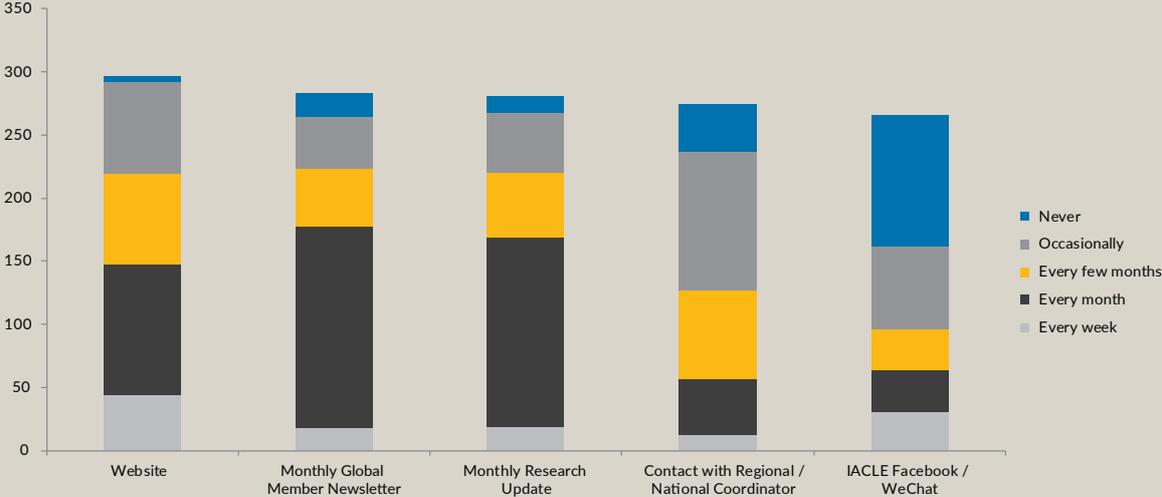


# IACLE COMMUNICATIONS

## FREQUENCY OF ACCESS

We surveyed our members on how often they access IACLE communications. Our website, monthly Global Member Newsletters and the new monthly Research Updates are the most accessed forms of communication, with the largest proportion of respondents accessing these every month. Contact with regional / national coordinators is less frequent and social media are less likely to be accessed overall.

FREQUENCY OF ACCESSING IACLE COMMUNICATIONS

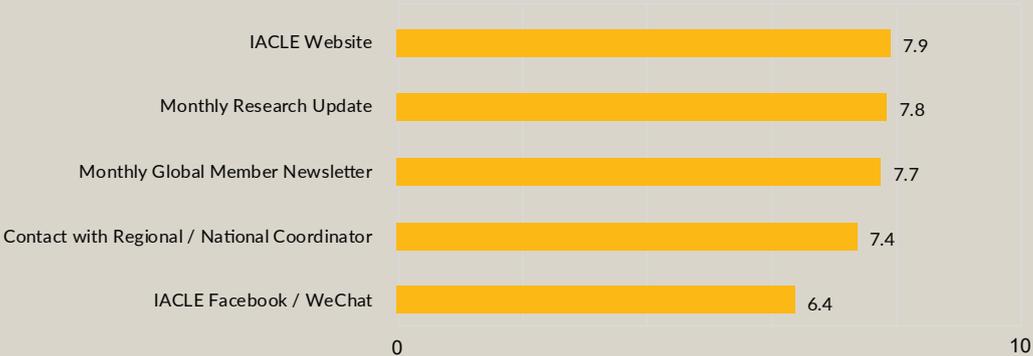


## SATISFACTION AND IMPORTANCE

Members expressed how satisfied they are with IACLE communications that they have accessed, on a 1-10 scale where 1=not at all satisfied and 10=extremely satisfied. The IACLE website, Research Update and Global Member Newsletter receive the highest average ratings. Members tend to be more satisfied with the traditional communication channels than with social media.

Asking about the importance of IACLE communications to their jobs on a 1-10 scale where 1=not at all important and 10=extremely important produced very similar results. Again, the importance of social media was rated lower compared to the IACLE website and monthly communications.

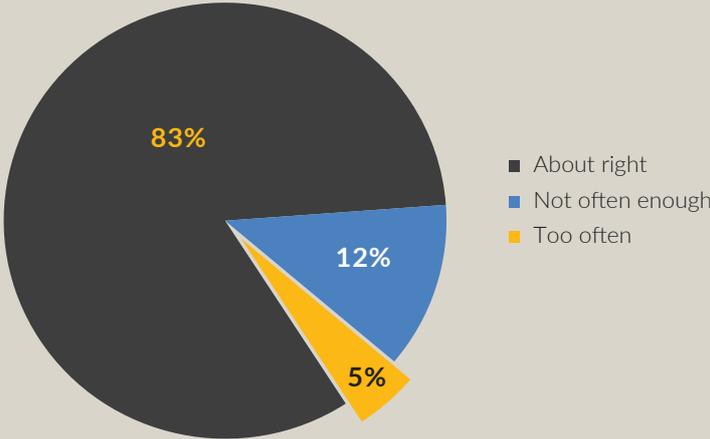
SATISFACTION WITH IACLE COMMUNICATIONS (SCALE 1-10)



# FREQUENCY OF EMAILED COMMUNICATIONS

IACLE’s emailed communications include monthly Global Member Newsletters and Research Updates, Special Notices and Industry Informers. A majority of members responding said the frequency of these communications was about right. Around one in eight would like to receive them more frequently.

MEMBERS RATING OF FREQUENCY OF EMAILED COMMUNICATIONS



# OTHER COMMENTS

At the end of the survey more than 60 respondents provided further comments on IACLE and its activities. Some of the comments were specific to contact lens education in their region or country. Common themes were the need to reach out to more educators across the world and to provide resources in more languages. Encouragingly, many respondents took the opportunity to thank IACLE and congratulate the association on its work. With large numbers also contributing suggestions for future activities, respondents would seem to have a high level of engagement with IACLE.

# SUMMARY SECTION A

## IACLE RESOURCES

- The New ICLC, IACLE Case Reports Series and Image Gallery are the most used resources in the past 2 years
- The New ICLC, Research Update and Image Gallery are rated highest for satisfaction, and the New ICLC is considered most important
- IACLE resources are used in a variety of ways – the most common is to put together lectures / workshops / tutorials
- Nine out of 10 members use some version of the ICLC and nearly two-thirds are now using the latest version
- Of potential new resources, standard student assessment forms for practical examinations / clinics, and flashcards on initial contact lens assessment and aftercare are preferred

## IACLE PROGRAMS

- The Fellowship scheme, DLP and STE are rated highest for satisfaction, and Fellowship and DLP are considered most important
- Among potential future programs, a contact lens awareness campaign / event in members' institutions and additional IACLE Awards are most popular

## IACLE EVENTS

- Educator members are most likely to have attended Educator Meetings and World Congresses in the past 2-3 years
- World Congresses are considered the most important of IACLE events
- Many Educator members attend major international conferences and the top three they expect to attend in the next 2-3 years are BCLA, AAO and WCO
- Potential topics to be covered at future meetings receive a spread of interest. How to use technology in your teaching and how to teach specific topics are the most popular
- Members would like more Educator Meetings and Train-the-Trainer Programs

# SUMMARY SECTION A

## IACLE MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

- Membership is considered very good value for money and more than nine in 10 members would recommend other contact lens educators to join
- Around nine in 10 FIACLEs are extremely or very likely to recommend Fellowship
- IACLE membership and Fellowship makes the greatest difference at a personal level, as well as to members' careers and within their institutions
- Providing the resources needed to teach contact lenses is considered the number one benefit of membership
- Of potential future support for members, collaboration with contact lens educators in other institutions / countries and support for research in members' institutions are most popular

## IACLE COMMUNICATIONS

- Members are regularly accessing a variety of IACLE communications
- The IACLE website, Research Update and Global Member Newsletter have the highest ratings for satisfaction and importance, and are most likely to be accessed monthly. Traditional methods of communication are preferred to social media

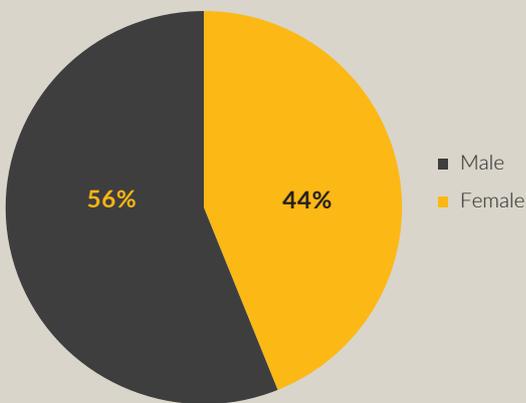


# SECTION B RESULTS

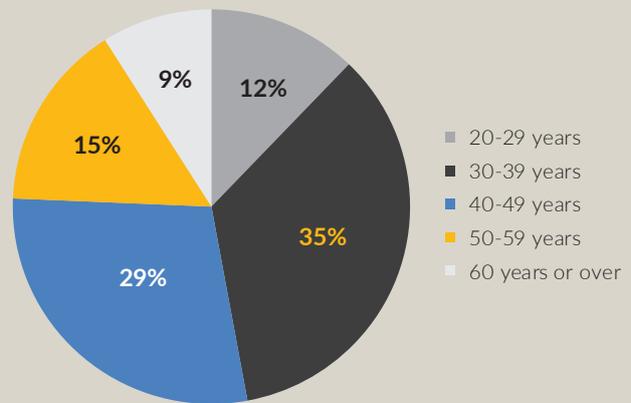
## GENDER AND AGE

The profile of members responding according to gender is 56% males and 44% female. The largest proportion is aged from 30-39 years, followed by 40-49 years.

GENDER



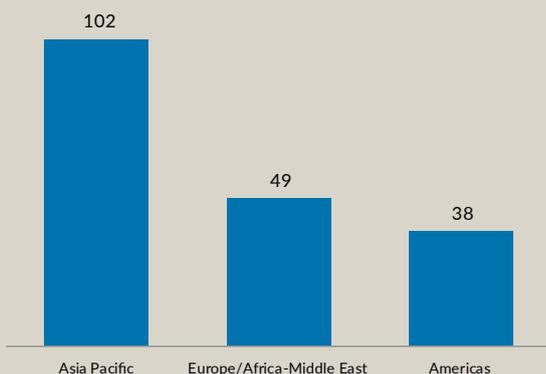
AGE RANGE



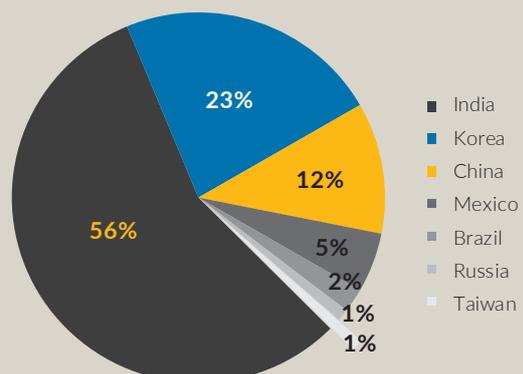
## SATISFACTION AND IMPORTANCE

The highest participation in the survey is from the Asia Pacific region (54%) followed by EAME (26%) and Americas (20%). These figures are roughly representative of total IACLE membership, with proportions for the three global regions of 55%, 24% and 21% respectively. The top three countries for survey responses are India (54), Korea (22) and Colombia (16). Of members responding from Global Priority Countries, more than half are from India.

TOTAL RESPONSE BY REGION



RESPONSES BY GLOBAL PRIORITY COUNTRIES



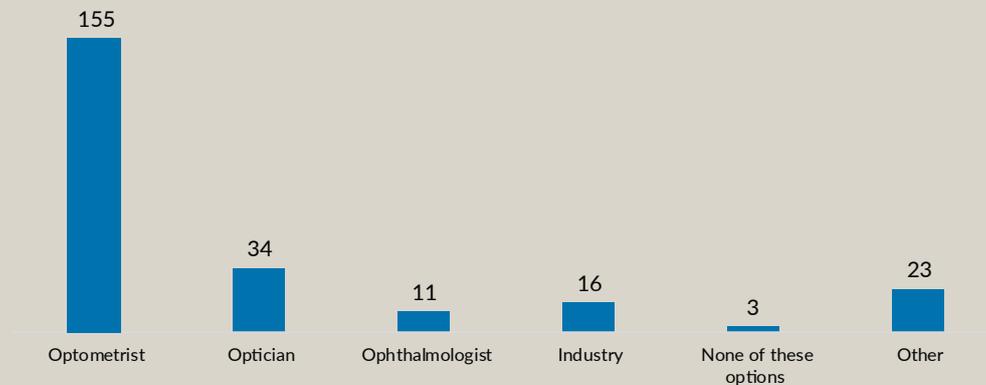
# SECTION B RESULTS

## PROFESSION AND AREAS OF ACTIVITY

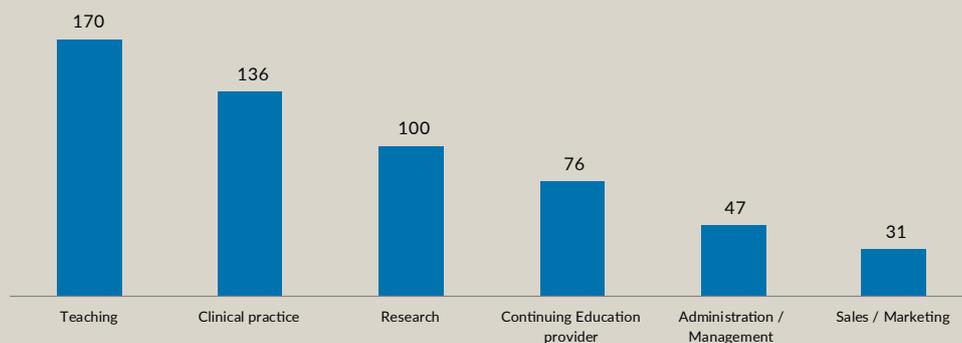
Members were asked to indicate their discipline selecting all that apply and all the areas of activity in which they are involved. Optometrists make up by far the largest group by profession with opticians the next largest. The most common 'Other' response was Professor.

Teaching is the area of activity cited by a majority of respondents (89%), followed by clinical practice (71%) and research (53%). Providing continuing education is also a common activity.

PROFESSIONS



ALL AREAS OF ACTIVITY SELECTED



Asked to select their principal area of activity just over half cite teaching (52%) and nearly one in three (31%) say clinical practice.

The most common type of institution or organization they principally work in is a university / college (63%). About one in three (30%) principally work in clinical practice and a small proportion (7%) say contact lens manufacturer is their main workplace. A majority of participants (84%) pay their own IACLE membership fee and the remainder have their fees paid by their institution / company / organization.

## POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS

Members supplied more than 130 email addresses for colleagues in their institution / company / organization who are not currently members of IACLE and who would be willing to be contacted by IACLE for membership purposes.

# SUMMARY SECTION B

- IACLE members responding to our survey are more likely to be male and are most commonly aged between 30 and 39 years
- Location of survey participants is roughly representative of total IACLE membership with the highest response from Asia Pacific, followed by EAME then Americas
- The largest group are optometrists and the most common area of activity is teaching, which is also likely to be the principal activity
- A majority are principally working in universities / colleges although nearly one in three work mainly in clinical practice
- IACLE members are a good source of contacts for potential new members



# CONCLUSION

The 2018 Membership Survey provides a wealth of information to inform IACLE's plans for future resources, programs and events. The results also help to profile our current membership and identify potential future members.

Key findings are that IACLE has a major impact on our members and Fellows worldwide. Resources such as the IACLE Contact Lens Course are widely used and important to them in their jobs. Tools to improve the practical skills and assessment of students would be welcome resources in future, along with programs to increase contact lens awareness and recognize achievement. Educators would like IACLE to provide more events, including more Educator Meetings and Train-the-Trainer Programs.

Further work is required to determine differences in use of and attitudes to IACLE activities in different regions and countries, in order to respond to specific needs around the world. Feedback from individual members will be valuable when planning our future regional activities.

Our thanks to all members who participated for helping to shape IACLE's agenda for the next five years and bring the benefits of IACLE membership to more contact lens educators worldwide. With your support we look forward to putting our future plans into action.

# SUPPORT IN 2018

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