

November 2018

IACLE members from the Middle East actively participate in EMCO Congress

Members from the Middle East and IACLE President Dr Shehzad Naroo played an active role in the Second EMCO Congress. Dr Yazan Gammoh, EMEA Contact Lens Educator of the Year 2017, reports



The second [Eastern Mediterranean Council of Optometry \(EMCO\)](#) International Congress took place in Marrakesh, Morocco (21-22 September). Around 250 delegates from EMCO and other [World Council of Optometry \(WCO\)](#) regions attended.

The theme of the congress was **Optometry Saves Sight: Educate, Advocate, Legislate**, in line with the vision and objectives of WCO and where IACLE Middle East members play a big role in the aspects of education and support the legislative aspect of the contact lenses fitting and prescribing in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.



The conference was characterized by its convening in one of the most beautiful countries in the region; Morocco, a country of dizzying diversity where epic mountain ranges, ancient cities, sweeping deserts and warm hospitality was much appreciated by the delegates.

IACLE President **Dr Shehzad Naroo** (above right) presented on 'How to improve contact lens retention' which was well received by the delegates. IACLE members from the Middle East – **Dr Yazan Gammoh** (above left), **Dr Liana Al-Labadi** (left) and **Dr Mustafa Abdu** (below) – participated in the myopia control symposium, drawing from their experience in the field and basing their presentations on the New ICLC.



The need to focus on myopia management stems from the fact that more than half of the Middle Eastern population are young. With the excessive near work demand due to changing lifestyles, the prevalence and incidence of myopia are increasing which requires optometrists to be at the forefront of myopia management.

It is worth mentioning that the ICLC is adopted by some universities in the Middle East to teach and train students enrolled in the undergraduate optometry programs. The newly introduced Myopia Management module will be valuable for educators to prepare the soon to be optometrists for engaging in myopia management.

- Find more information on the New ICLC and the Myopia Management module [here](#)