

40 YEARS OF IACLE'S EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION



HOLDEN FONN MERTZ AT FOUNDING MEETING



IACLE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL
EDUCATION, LAKSHMI SHINDE

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE), established in 1979, has 845 active members, as of December 2018, in 78 countries. The non-profit, non-political association welcomes contact lens educators from all eye care professions and related disciplines. The Association dedicated to raising the standard of contact lens education and promoting the safe use of contact lenses worldwide is the leading provider of educational and information resources essential to contact lens educators.

Over the past four decades, IACLE

has brought together a total of 2,500 members in 91 countries, who have shared their knowledge with 170,000 students. It is estimated that more than 250 million contact lens wearers have experienced the life-changing benefits of CLs as a result.

IACLE will be celebrating 40 years of 'Exceptional Education. Exponential Impact' with special events in the UK, the Philippines, Colombia and the US, as well as with more national and local meetings around the world.

Dr Shehzad Naroo, president of the Association and reader at Aston University in Birmingham, said, "BCLA

will mark the first of our celebrations at international events worldwide. We look forward to welcoming old friends, founding members, current members and guests to our events at the BCLA Conference . . ."

The events at the British Contact Lens Association Clinical Conference & Exhibition in Manchester, is scheduled from 30 May to 1 June. Delegates will be invited to 'Make Your Mark' at an exhibition on a time wall of milestones in the Association's history. An International Perspectives session, including a presentation marking the anniversary, and talks by

international authorities on 'Research and evidence base related to our publications and presentations' are also on the programme.

During a joint IACLE / BUCCLE (British & Irish University & College Contact Lens Educators) Education Day for contact lens educators and postgraduate students, some of the founding members of IACLE who attended its very first meeting in November 1979 will be saluted. Its founding president Hilmar Bussacker, first BUCCLE chair Richard Pearson and former IACLE vice president Des Fonn will describe their experiences of the early days. The event will conclude with a ceremony where the 2019 IACLE Contact Lens Educators of the Year and IACLE Travel Award will be presented.

Fortieth year events will also be conducted at three further major international meetings

during 2019: the Asia Pacific Optometric Congress (APOC) in Manila, Philippines (17-20 June), the Colegio Federación Colombiana de Optómetras (FEDOPTO) Congress in Bogotá, Colombia (8-10 August), and Academy 2019 and 3rd World Congress of Optometry in Orlando, Florida, USA (23-27 October). The programmes will be along the lines of the opening event.

IACLE presenters will be especially prominent on the APOC programme in Manila, with lectures and workshops from invited lecturer, its assistant secretary Dr Luigina Sorbara (USA), and director of educational development Dr Lewis Williams (Australia). Workshops will be delivered by director of global education Lakshmi Shinde (India), director of educational programs Nilesh Thite (India), and Asia Pacific regional coordinator Dr Cheni Lee

(Indonesia). They will be joined by FIACLE Professor James Wolffsohn (UK).

Delegates from throughout the Asia Pacific region are expected to attend, including at an IACLE members meeting. Lakshmi Shinde commented: "IACLE will have a major presence at APOC 2019. We're delighted to be closely involved with the congress and look forward to welcoming all our Asia-Pacific members attending the conference. The highest impact of IACLE's 40-year journey has been in the Asia Pacific region, so this is the opportunity to celebrate that journey of ours in contact lens education."

The anniversary events around the world have the support of leading global contact lens manufacturers as sponsors: Alcon, CooperVision, Johnson & Johnson Vision, Bausch + Lomb, and Euclid.

