

PRESS RELEASE

IACLE rewards global educators at 40th BCLA Conference



Pictured at the IACLE Awards ceremony at the 40th BCLA Clinical Conference are (l-r) CooperVision's Dr Gary Orsborn, Professor Jan Bergmanson, Kristina Mihić, Dr Yazan Gammoh and IACLE President Dr Shehzad Naroo.

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators presented the prestigious IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards and IACLE Travel Award at the 40th British Contact Lens Association Clinical Conference this month (9-11 June).

The ceremony took place on the final day of the BCLA Conference and marked a very successful participation for IACLE, its members and Fellows this year.

The conference was preceded on 8 June by **IACLE/BUCCLE Education Day**, organised jointly with the British Universities Committee of Contact Lens Educators, which attracted 80 Professors, lecturers and clinic supervisors from universities and colleges in the UK and Ireland, as well as early-stage researchers and IACLE members from around the world.

The **IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards** recognize and reward achievements in contact lens education worldwide. Each winner receives a bursary of **up to US\$3,000** towards the cost of attending a major international conference.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from CooperVision and support from the BCLA, three Educator of the Year Awards are presented this year, one for each of IACLE's three global regions. The winners are:

IACLE Americas Contact Lens Educator of the Year 2017

Professor Jan Bergmanson
University of Houston, Texas, USA

IACLE Europe / Africa – Middle East Contact Lens Educator of the Year 2017

Dr Yazan Gammoh
Amman Ahliyah University, Amman, Jordan

IACLE Asia Pacific Contact Lens Educator of the Year 2017
Professor Koon-Ja Lee
Eulji University, Seongnam, Korea

Professor Lee was unable to attend the BCLA and will receive her award later this year.



The **IACLE Travel Award** is a travel bursary for an IACLE Educator Member who would not otherwise be able to attend a major international conference. This annual Award is funded by IACLE and supported by the BCLA. This year's recipient was:

IACLE Travel Award 2017

Kristina Mihic, University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica, Croatia

The awards ceremony completed a very successful week for IACLE that saw its members and Fellows involved throughout the BCLA program, delivering paper, poster and workshop presentations, and chairing sessions.

IACLE President **Dr Shehzad Naroo** commented: 'Congratulations to this year's winners – they were truly deserving individuals. And a big thank you to the BCLA and CooperVision for supporting this IACLE initiative.'

'All eye care professionals have stories about how educators influenced them to be the very best providers of excellent patient care, and I'm certain many have been inspired by this year's recipients,' said **Dr Gary Orsborn**, Vice President of Global Professional & Clinical Affairs for CooperVision.

Nominations and applications for the 2018 IACLE Awards will open in December.



Pictured at IACLE/BUCCLE Education Day are (l-r) BUCCLE Chair Neil Retallic, IACLE Regional President for Europe / Middle East – Africa Judith Morris, who chaired the day, and IACLE President Dr Shehzad Naroo



Professors, lecturers and clinic supervisors from universities and colleges in the UK and Ireland attended Education Day, along with IACLE members from around the world.

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ABOUT IACLE

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators was established in 1979 and is a non-profit, non-political association. IACLE has 731 active members in 68 countries and welcomes contact lens educators from all eye care professions and related disciplines. IACLE is dedicated to raising the standard of contact lens education and promoting the safe use of contact lenses worldwide. It is the leading provider of educational resources essential to contact lens educators. IACLE is supported by leading global contact lens manufacturers: platinum sponsor Alcon, silver sponsors CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, and donor sponsor Euclid.

ABOUT COOPERVISION

CooperVision, a unit of The Cooper Companies, Inc. (NYSE:COO), is one of the world's leading manufacturers of soft contact lenses. The Company produces a full array of monthly, two-week and daily disposable contact lenses, all featuring advanced materials and optics. CooperVision has a strong heritage of solving the toughest vision challenges such as astigmatism and presbyopia; and offers the most complete collection of spherical, toric and multifocal products available. Through a combination of innovative products and focused practitioner support, the company brings a refreshing perspective to the marketplace, creating real advantages for customers and wearers. For more information, visit www.coopervision.com.

ABOUT BCLA

The British Contact Lens Association (BCLA) is the UK's leading source of information and education on contact lenses and the anterior eye. Its mission is to educate, interact and promote growth within the field of contact lenses and related areas – and to be the leading resource gateway for the contact lens community. The BCLA's Clinical Conference and Exhibition is one of the largest international events dedicated to contact lenses, and regularly attracts more than 1,000 delegates to hear from the world's leading experts in their fields.