



July 2019

IACLE takes centre stage at APOC 2019 in Manila

The IACLE team was in the thick of the action at the 22nd Asia Pacific Optometry Congress in Manila, Philippines. From celebrating its 40th anniversary to being a major part of the scientific program, IACLE was involved at every stage. Nilesch Thite reports



Dr Scott Mundle (left), President of the World Council of Optometry, made his mark on the time wall of IACLE achievements at the association's exhibition booth at APOC 2019. And the IACLE team raised their cupcakes to mark the 40th anniversary

IACLE's celebrations of 40 years of 'Exceptional Education. Exponential Impact' continued at the Asia Pacific Optometry Congress (APOC) in Manila, Philippines (17-20 June). Members of the Executive Board, staff, Fellows and members were involved throughout the program, as they delivered workshops, lectures and posters.

The theme of the conference was 'Optometry Refocused – Adapting to Disruptive Technologies and Heightened Consumerism' and the event was co-organised by the [Asia Pacific Council of Optometry](#) and [Optometric Association of the Philippines](#).

The IACLE exhibition booth was a busy place. Delegates kept visiting the booth to mark the time wall of milestones in the association's history. The booth generated a lot of curiosity among delegates and it was heartening to see non-members visit the booth to enquire about IACLE membership.

The IACLE Session

IACLE Director of Educational Development, **Dr Lewis Williams** presented contact lens options in presbyopia. Lewis said that although a majority of contact lens practitioners recognized the potential

for fitting more presbyopes to grow their practices, the reality was far less convincing. He discussed various correction options and how to manage the expectations of presbyopes with active lifestyles.

Dr Luigina Sorbara, IACLE's Assistant Secretary, then spoke on dealing with adverse events in contact lens practice. She cited the recent outcomes from the Contact Lens Assessment in Youth (CLAY) Study and spoke on how to manage complications in contact lens wear.

IACLE workshops

Director of Educational Programs **Nilesh Thite** and Global Director of Education **Lakshmi Shinde** conducted an interactive workshop on proactive contact lens practice to improve business. They stressed the importance of proactively recommending contact lenses to every potential wearer. They also covered how to introduce contact lenses and how to upgrade existing lens wearers.

Concurrently, Dr Lewis Williams was busy with his workshop entitled 'Technology in education'. He gave an account of how technology could be used in different ways to make educational endeavours more effective and efficient. FIACLE **Professor Prema Chande** and **Dr Ramesh S Ve** shared their experiences of using various aspects of technology in their institutions.



'Blended learning' was the theme of the workshop delivered by Lakshmi Shinde (right) and **Dr Cheni Lee** (left), IACLE's Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator. Lakshmi gave an account of various forms of blended learning and emphasized the benefits of the flipped classroom. Cheni then shared her experience and encouraged the participants to share their views and how they could implement technology in their teaching.

Dr Sorbara conducted her workshop on contact lens options in myopia control. She covered all the available options along with their effectiveness.

IACLE on the scientific program

Elsewhere on the program, IACLE educators were busy participating in some of the key sessions at the conference. Themes this year were particularly around **myopia control** and **optometry practice**.

Highlights of IACLE involvement included:

- **Dr Luigina Sorbara** (Canada) gave a lecture on evidence-based optometry practice.
- **Lakshmi Shinde** (India) presented the current state of Indian optometry.
- FIACLE **Professor James Wolffsohn** (UK), took part in the Myopia Management Symposium, gave a lecture on trends in myopia management and moderated a panel discussion on this topic. He also spoke on incorporating the TFOS Dry Eye Workshop II outcomes into clinical practice.
- 2019 IACLE Travel Award winner **Fakhruddin Barodawala** (Malaysia) presented his research work as poster.
- Indian FIACLEs **Prema Chande** and **Veshal Madan** and member **Somnath Ghosh** also presented their work as free paper and posters.

Celebrating success

IACLE's 40th anniversary celebration and presenting the awards to the IACLE Travel Award winners was one of the main attractions of the Gala Dinner. Dr Sorbara gave a brief account of IACLE's journey and was then joined by Past President **Professor Deborah Sweeney**. The 2019 IACLE Travel Award winners stepped up to the stage. Winners received their certificates from Professor Sweeney, Dr Sorbara and **Dr Peter Hendicott**, President of the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry. The annual Travel Awards are funded by IACLE and all its corporate sponsors.



Pictured (left to right) at the IACLE Awards presentation at the Gala Dinner are: Dr Peter Hendicott, Wan-Yun Tsung, Fakhruddin Barodawala, Professor Deborah Sweeney, Dr Luigina Sorbara and Ma Yuying

Professor Sweeney then acknowledged the contribution of Dr Lewis Williams to IACLE's resources, such as the IACLE Contact Lens Course (ICLC), Case Reports Series, Fellowship Examination and Distance Learning Program (DLP).

Lewis worked on the very first module of the ICLC in 1995 and the following year joined as full-time

Project Coordinator. He plans to retire from IACLE at the end of this year.



IACLE also hosted a celebration dinner where Director of Educational Development Dr Lewis Williams (right) received a special award from Professor Sweeney marking his outstanding contribution to contact lens education

'It was a great honour and privilege on behalf of IACLE to recognise and thank Lewis for nearly 25 years of dedicated service,' said Professor Sweeney.

IACLE's 40th anniversary events now move on to 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).

