



December 2019

IACLE India meeting benefits from interactive approach

Group activities and shared experiences were popular features of the IACLE India Annual Members' Meeting, which included a celebration of IACLE's 40 years in contact lens education. Nilesch Thite reports on a successful event with an enthusiastic audience



IACLE recently organized its Annual Members' Meeting' at [L V Prasad Eye Institute](#) (LVPEI), Hyderabad, India (23-24 November). Out of 36 attendees, 28 were educator members who represented 23 institutes, four were associate and four were industry members (one member from Alcon and three members from Bausch + Lomb).



The first day started with **Professor Gullapalli Rao**, chairman of LVPEI and former IACLE Asia Pacific Regional President, who welcomed delegates and gave a brief talk on how IACLE started and how it has grown as an organization globally.

Lakshmi Shinde (left), Director of Global Education, thanked the industry for supporting IACLE and set the tone by establishing goals and objectives for the meeting.



Niles Thite (above left), Director of Educational Programs, then discussed IACLE resources and their applications. He also demonstrated how to navigate the new website to access various resources.

This was followed by a group activity on ‘How to keep students interested’? Attendees were divided into five groups. Each group was given a sub-topic to discuss among themselves and present the important points at the end. Everyone participated in this exercise enthusiastically and some interesting yet relevant ideas were proposed.

During the lunch break all the delegates gathered to celebrate IACLE’s 40th Anniversary by cutting a cake. It was followed by a group photograph and sumptuous lunch.



Shared experiences

The post-lunch session started with FIACLE **Dr Rajeswari Mahadevan**, IACLE’s Asia Pacific Regional President, giving a talk on ‘How to improve RGP lens teaching’. In this comprehensive lecture, she covered all the aspects to be taught and shared her experiences. FIACLE **Usman Memon** then spoke about ‘Practical assessments – formats and the way forward.’ He encouraged educators to have a uniform system and use standard formats for assessments to cover various parts of the contact lens curriculum.

The last session of the day was about sharing experience of using resources. FIACLE **Anitha Arvind** spoke enthusiastically about how case reports have been useful to her in engaging students. She demonstrated the use of a case report by navigating the audience through an example. Finally, FIACLE **Runa Mazumder** explained the utility of Research Update and discussed how she uses this resource with her students.

Industry contribution

Day two started with a quick recap of the previous day. FIACLE **Premjit Bhakat** spoke about ‘How to teach lens care’. He discussed different steps from designing learning outcomes to planning learning strategies and activities. FIACLE **Pancham Kulkarni** then gave a talk on ‘How to teach complications’. He stressed the essentials to be covered and not to over-emphasize the rare complications. FIACLE **Rajesh Kumar** from Alcon and FIACLE **Khemraj Nackwal** from Bausch + Lomb then gave an account of the latest technology and industry’s contribution to education.



The opportunity of having many institutions together was utilised for important discussions on Student Trial Exams, industry seminars etc. Some relevant suggestions were noted and agreed to be implemented. At the end of the meeting, feedback forms were distributed and finally certificates were handed over to all the meeting attendees.



Feedback from members:

It's the very first IACLE members meeting I attended. Excited to meet contact lens educators in one place. It's been a very interesting and interactive meeting. As a new member of the IACLE family, I learned so many things during this meeting.

Got a clear idea of all the resources available at the IACLE website and how to use them for better learning.

Came to know what is happening with contact lens education in different institutions/colleges.

Case report session found to be very interesting, in fact created a lot of interest in learning further with fun.

A lot of effort has been made by educators to improve contact lens education across India.

Industry sessions are beneficial.

Each and every session has its importance and didn't feel any of the topics were irrelevant.

In short, it's a well-planned and neatly organized meeting which provided so many inputs on contact lens education and how to improve the standard of contact lens education in India for students. Speakers were awesome. Special thanks to Nilesh Thite, Lakshmi Shinde and Kavitha Jayanna for organizing such a beautiful meeting.

It's been my pleasure to cut the IACLE 40 years' cake along with Dr GN Rao. Thanks to IACLE team.