

March 2020

Collaboration with Dominican Republic's first optometry program moves ahead

Following further discussion with **Professor Hector Santiago** from the [Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry](#), the [Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago](#) (UTESA) Optometry School in the Dominican Republic will have some support for contact lens education.

The key points to follow up are:

- Review UTESA's CL curriculum and make recommendations based on the [IACLE Contact Lens Course](#) and how to use IACLE's educational resources to strengthen UTESA's course.
- Make suggestions on the minimum equipment for CL practice to devise an adequate theory/practice scheme. Investigate whether [VOSH International's](#) TTP (Technological Transfer Program) could collaborate to supply some slit lamps and other equipment. Hector is a director of VOSH so he will investigate how to proceed.
- Suggest ways to optimize educational resources and identify new educators for the CL course. Planning for the course is still ahead of time because the first cohort of students are only in their second term. Hector will investigate with UTESA's authorities the best time of the year to visit. The purpose of the Americas Regional Coordinator's visit would be focused on having detailed information on the on-site facilities, identifying IACLE candidates and getting involvement from authorities.
- Prior to visiting UTESA, the suggestion is to offer some [Web Lectures](#) on basics in CLs, inviting IACLE members to donate their time and knowledge for a specific CL program for UTESA's educators and students.



IACLE Americas will take part in 1st CL Education Consensus in Mexico

[AMFECCO](#) (Mexican Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry) is leading the 1st CL Education Consensus on 4 March during activities for the [Mexican Congress of Optometry in Puebla – Mexico](#) (5-7 March).

The IACLE Americas office will take part, showing educational tools and strategies for enhancing CL education, and also numbers gathered from Deans and IACLE members on some barriers to developing a CL curriculum. Next month we will have further details on this meeting.



IACLE LA Office on Radio – IACLE in the World

The IACLE Radio Program reached a total of 96 broadcasts in 2020 after more than 2 years on the air. Every week this program offers space for IACLE members across the LA region to discuss different contact lens topics.

Members are interviewed by Americas Regional Coordinator **Guillermo Carrillo** and this program comes thanks the sponsorship of www.franjavisualradio.com.

Members from different parts of the region are taking part and share with colleagues and other members their experiences and comments about their educational markets.

This month topics were around: 'Current alternatives for myopia control', 'The importance of tear film assessment and adequate use of staining', 'Promotion of contact lens wear is the responsibility of eye care practitioners' and 'Anisometric amblyopia treatment with contact lenses'.



The graphic is a promotional poster for an IACLE radio broadcast. At the top, it features social media icons for Facebook (@iacle.americas), Twitter (@acleradio), and Instagram (iacle.americas). The IACLE logo is prominently displayed, with the text 'International Association of Contact Lens Educators' below it. To the right is the 'Franja Visual Radio' logo. The main text reads: 'Miércoles de Contactología', '26 de Febrero', 'Reyna Citalán (México)', and 'Tema: TRATAMIENTO DE AMBLIOPÍA ANISOMETRÓPICA CON LENTES DE CONTACTO'. A photo of Reyna Citalán, a woman in a white lab coat, is shown. Below the photo, it says 'ESÚCHANOS a través de: www.franjavisualradio.com' and 'Conduce: Guillermo Carrillo Ortueta'. A list of broadcast times for various regions is provided: Colombia, Perú & Ecuador: 9:00 am; Chile: 10 am; Argentina, Uruguay & Brasil: 11:00 am; México: 8:00 am; Centroamérica: 8:00 am. The graphic is decorated with blue circles and lines.

IACLE members who took part this month were **Oscar Bello** (Colombia), **Johana Garzón** (Colombia), **Josue Molina** (Guatemala) and **Reyna Citalán** (pictured, Mexico).

IACLE in the World has now reached 13 LA countries: Colombia, Perú, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Guatemala, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras and Brazil.

[Franja Visual Radio](http://www.franjavisualradio.com) is web-based radio with an audience of more than 100 eye care practitioners.

The program goes every Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 am (UTC-5). Recorded programs can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.franjavisualradio.com/index.php/programas-especiales/iacle> through ivoox.