



### IACLE Americas plays key role in advancing contact lens education in Mexico

The First Mexican Consensus in Contact Lens Education took place in Puebla, Mexico last month (4 March). The event was sponsored by [AMFECCO](#) (Mexican Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry), with the support of Johnson & Johnson Mexico.

Eleven academics from 10 institutions (UNAM, CICS UST, CICS UMA, UVAQ, U Sinaloa, CEDEI, ENES León, UAA and Hospital Angeles del Pedregal) took part. Seven industry representatives – from Johnson & Johnson, CooperVision and Bausch + Lomb – participated in the discussion.

Prior to meeting, the IACLE Americas office sent a survey to attendees to collect information about their contact lens curriculum, ie number of hours, number of courses, hours per week, threats and strengths of their specific program, and their relationship with local industry.

The group was divided into four to develop discussion in four areas:

- Contact lens curriculum content and graduation competencies
- Equipment and facilities of the school
- Training to update contact lens educators
- Assessment of competencies

**Nelson Merchan** from Johnson & Johnson acted as facilitator and developed the discussion material. IACLE Americas Regional Coordinator **Guillermo Carrillo** released the survey results which showed some lack of knowledge of IACLE programs, such as the [Distance Learning Program](#) and [Student Trial Exam](#), and use of IACLE resources, as well as the awards that IACLE offers every year to its members to recognize educators.

After group discussion, a document was consolidated as the First Mexican Consensus on Contact Lens Education. Deans and members are very excited about achieving goals on the strength of contact lens education in their institutions. AMFECCO has committed to continue supporting this initiative and measure results.

The Americas office will relaunch the IACLE Certificate of Affiliation in order to recognize the contact lens education level at each institution.

## IACLE LA Office on Radio – IACLE in the World reaches 100 programs

The IACLE Radio Program reached 100 programs last month, after more than 2 years on air. Every week, the program offers space for different contact lens topics to be discussed by IACLE members from across the LA region.

Members are interviewed by Americas Regional Coordinator **Guillermo Carrillo** and this program comes thanks to the sponsorship of [www.franjavisualradio.com](http://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: 'Kids and myopia progression', 'Contact lens education and IACLE resources', 'Talk about contact lenses' and 'Contact lenses today'.

IACLE members who took part this month were **Alejandro Tapia** (Colombia), **Sandra Villegas** (Mexico), **Carolina Rodriguez** (Colombia), **Victoria Báez** (Colombia), **Marisa Montenero** (Argentina), **Sabrina Lara** (Argentina), **Juan Camilo Cuesta** (Colombia), **Hécto Páez** (Colombia) and **Fernando Ballesteros** (pictured, Colombia).

*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.*