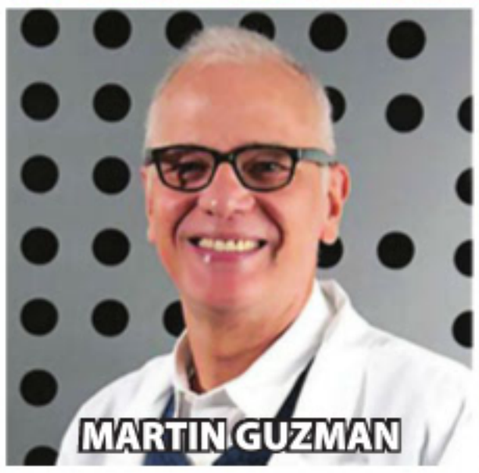
IACLE ANNOUNCES 2020 AWARD WINNERS


JO UNDERWOOD


ELIZABETH CHETTY


BARIAH MOHD ALI


MARTIN GUZMAN


NIRAV MEHTA


RENEE REEDER

Contact lens educators from six countries – India, Malaysia, South Africa, the US, UK and Venezuela – will soon be celebrating their success in the 2020 IACLE Awards. All award winners will receive a bursary of up to US$3,000 towards the cost of attending a major international meeting where they will receive their certificates.

The IACLE Contact Lens Educators of the Year Awards, sponsored by CooperVision and supported by the American Academy of Optometry, are presented to an individual from each of IACLE's global regions – The Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe/Africa-Middle East. These prestigious awards recognise and reward achievements in contact lens education worldwide.

The winners announced for 2020 are Professor Renée Reeder from the University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry, USA, Professor Bariah Mohd Ali from the Unviersiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Jo Underwood from the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) College, Godmersham, UK.

The recipients of the IACLE Travel Awards for 2020 are Dr Elizabeth Chetty from the Univeristy of Johannesburg, South Africa, Professor Martín Guzmán from the Universidad Nacional Experimental Romulo Gallegos, Zaraza, Venezuela, and Associate Professor Nirav Mehta, Hari Jyot College of Optometry, Navsari, India.

Dr Shehzad Naroo, IACLE President, congratulated this year's winners and thanked the sponsors and supporters. All meetings to be attended by the award winners will be confirmed after the COVID-19 crisis.

WEARABLE SMART PHOTONIC CONTACT LENS FOR DIABETICS

A research team from the Pohang University of Science & Technology (POSTECH) has developed a new technology that allows diagnosis of diabetes and treatment of diabetic retinopathy simply by wearing 'Smart Light-emitting diode (LED) Contact Lenses'.

Professor Sei Kwang Hahn and his research team including his PhD student, Geon-Hui Lee, in collaboration with a research group led by Zhenan Bao from Department of Chemical Engineering at Stanford University and David Myung from Stanford Medicine Ophthalmology, invented this smart photonic contact lens and a wearable medical device designed to diagnose diabetes and treat diabetic retinopathy. Their research results are published in the renowned journal, *Nature Reviews Materials*.

The new device is actually a smart contact lens with an integrated micro LED and photodetector which can measure glucose concentration in the conjunctival blood vessels by analysing the Near Infrared (NIR) light. Armed with this technology, the researchers succeeded in diabetic diagnosis.

The new smart LED contact lenses were tested on rabbit eyes with diabetic retinopathy disease and irradiated light repeatedly for a month. The results confirmed that there was noticeable reduction of angiogenesis (production of new blood vessels) in retina and verified the clinical feasibility of the smart LED contact lens for diabetic retinopathy therapy.

This newly developed device is expected to let diabetic patients monitor their blood-sugar level in real-time and will also enable medical treatment for retinopathy which is caused due to diabetic complications.