



Campaign Statements – IACLE’s Board of Directors Election

Shehzad Naroo, Aston University, UK

I believe that contact lenses represent one of the most interesting sub-specialties of primary eye care. Patients can benefit from vision correction in a more natural way with minimal risk so long as they take care of the lenses. Here is the role of the enthusiastic contact lens practitioner and to ensure good quality practitioners, we need to ensure good quality education. IACLE is instrumental in providing this, with the generous support from sponsors. The aim is to grow the contact lens market in a safe and efficient way and instill the passion we have for our profession into the next generation of future contact lens practitioners. For our field to continue to grow, we need to ensure that our students have the capability to achieve more than the current generation. This is the mark of a good teacher and I am passionate that IACLE members become the best teachers possible.

Shehzad Naroo is an Associate Professor (Reader) at Aston University and teaches in the area of anterior eye. Shehzad’s research interests include contact lenses, dry eye, corneal biomechanics, laser refractive surgery, cataract and lens surgery, intraocular lenses, sports vision and business aspects of UK eye health care. He has authored and co-authored nearly 200 publications (including peer-reviewed, editorials, textbook chapters, non-peer-reviewed etc.). He is Editor-in-Chief of the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA) journal ‘Contact Lens and Anterior Eye’ and Global President of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE). He is a Fellow of the BCLA, IACLE, American Academy of Optometry, European Academy of Optometry and Optics and College of Optometrists. In 2014 he was awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership of the BCLA, and in 2017 was awarded Lifetime Fellowship of IACLE. In 2015, he was awarded the World Council of Optometry (WCO) International Optometrist Award due to various projects helping not-for-profit hospitals and universities in countries with less developed health care systems, working towards improving their education and patient care. In 2017, he became a member of the International Society for Contact Lens Research, whose membership restricted to around 100 people from around the world who are deemed to be the top researchers in the field of contact lenses. In 2019, he was listed as the 8th global expert in the field of presbyopia research and in 2021, he was listed in the top 200 research optometrists in the world.

Philip Morgan, University of Manchester, UK

I am pleased to have been nominated for the IACLE Board and I write to seek your support in the upcoming election. IACLE plays a key role in global contact lens education. Our aim is to ‘educate the educators’ to high clinical and professional standards such that they can best teach their students to be competent and enthusiastic practitioners. I believe that I am well placed to play a role in the leadership of the Association for the coming years.

I have been a member of IACLE for 28 years and I have experienced at first hand the positive impact of the Association on my own contact lens teaching. I was very fortunate to

be able to attend the first IACLE World Congress at the University of Waterloo in 1994 and the people I met and the information we received during those few days meant that I have been a keen supporter of the organization ever since. I have served on the IACLE Board since 2005, holding the positions of Assistant Secretary, Secretary, and my current role of Vice President.

The next few years will be key to IACLE. Even before the COVID pandemic we were gradually moving more activity online, but the past 12 months has seen a dramatic shift to web-based education, including our webinars and virtual meetings. I helped the IACLE team with our launch of a new Learning Management System – IACLETOP – which has been instrumental in recent months and which I believe will act as the basis for much IACLE work in the coming years. As a full-time university professor at the University of Manchester, I can see the benefits of this type of resource for student education and I believe we should continue to innovate in this form of online education and information delivery.

IACLE is a unique and precious organization, working alongside our sponsors to deliver our global mission. I believe that my long-standing work with the Association and day-to-day activity in contact lens education and research means that I am in a strong position to continue to influence and lead IACLE's work over the next few years.

Etty Bitton, University of Montreal, Canada

I would like to put in my candidature for a director position at the next IACLE election. I have been an educator at the University of Montreal, School of Optometry for more than 25 years with an interest in contact lenses, dry eye and diagnostic techniques. I continue to teach at the didactic and clinical level at all levels of our program and have taught diagnostic skills, such as biomicroscopy and more, for numerous years.

In parallel, I have contributed to numerous organizations including the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE), and IACLE, to name a few. In fact, I became an IACLE member early on in my career as an educator and have attended several world conferences over the years, which provided me with great insight and useful tools to enhance my teaching.

I have also contributed to the literature and the collective scientific community with case reports, scientific presentations, conferences and publications on topics of, or associated to, contact lens wear. I hope to continue to bring my skillset as an educator, researcher and administrator to continue to serve IACLE.

Renée Reeder, University of Pikeville, USA

My involvement with the International Association of Contact lens Educators began at the Third World Congress in Manchester in 2015. While I had been in education for many years, I had not yet been teaching specialty contact lenses in the classroom and I had just been asked to take over this course. I needed resources and ideas to help me get started. The timing for the congress could not have been more perfect. Without the IACLE resources and the colleagues at that meeting, I would not have been able to succeed. IACLE made such an impression on me that I chose to complete my Fellowship the very next year.

In addition, the focus of that congress was on technology in teaching and upon returning to the US, I realized there was so much more that could be done for our students. There were innovative ways to meet the needs of the tech savvy students coming up through the program. I brought back such enthusiasm that I was appointed Chair of the educational technology committee at my institution. I also would not have been prepared for the abrupt

pivot to online with the start of the pandemic without IACLE. My students voted me 'best transition teacher' which would not have happened without IACLE.

In 2017, I also attended the regional congress in the UK. At this meeting, I realized that we all have challenges in our laboratories and difficulties tracking competencies for our students in clinical care. The lessons learned there are helping me now as I work with the AAO Section on Cornea, Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies propose advanced competencies for our subspecialty.

I continue to reach out to my colleagues when I need ideas and help. I offered the Student Trial Exam (STE) at my previous institution and hope that I will be able to do the same at my current institution in the coming year. It's an incredible exam that truly helps students identify their strengths and weakness before sitting for their national board.

2021 marks my 25th year as a contact lens clinician in academia. I have been so blessed to start a residency program in contact lenses, run a clinical service, and to teach microbiology, anterior segment disease and specialty contact lenses. I love teaching and I love learning how to do it better. I also love sharing my own tips and tricks and have been blessed to be invited to the University of the Incarnate Word to offer their first classes and labs in scleral lenses. I also had the opportunity to provide a scleral workshop in Trinidad in 2018 and at BCLA in 2019. In 2020, I provided a scleral lens webinar for a contact lens manufacturer in UAE and several of their practitioners. I also participated in the first virtual IACLE meeting.

I was awarded the 2018 AOA Contact Lens Achievement award winner, the 2018 GPLI practitioner of the year and the 2020 IACLE Americas Educator of the Year. I currently sit on the AOA CLCS Council and oversee the written exam for the AOA CCLRT. I have a diplomate from the AAOCCLRT as well as my fellowships in the AAO, BCLA, FSLs, and IACLE. It is my desire to mentor faculty and students and share my passion for cornea and contact lenses to anyone who will listen. It would be my great honor to serve on IACLE's Board of Directors.

Byki Huntjens, City, University of London, UK

As an optometrist, contact lens lecturer and researcher, I am incredibly excited to stand for IACLE's Board of Directors. My career started in the Netherlands where I completed my bachelor's degree, followed by six years at the University of Manchester for my MSc and PhD degrees. For the past decade, I have been an educator and researcher at City, University of London in the UK.

I am most known for my never-ending passion for contact lenses and dry eye, which is evident from my students' feedback and educational awards. I proudly hold fellowships with the BCLA and IACLE, and I would encourage everyone to consider getting involved in these challenging but enormously satisfying achievements.

I have regularly presented at IACLE (and other) contact lens and anterior eye conferences and events, recently contributed to the CLEAR evidence-based contact lens practice report, and currently collaborate on a Cochrane review on interventions for myopia control in children. I hold the Chair position with the British & Irish University and College Contact Lens Educators (BUCCLE), as well as Council member with the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA). Within both associations, my focus is to promote clinical research, nurture collaborations, and encourage mentorship. My role as BCLA certificate program lead allows me to facilitate the online dry eye and myopia management certificates for all members.

As a strong believer of collaboration and sharing ideas, I will bring a lot of enthusiasm to this role, uniting all of us educators globally and driving new and exciting ideas while waving the flag for IACLE. This includes new concepts for IACLETOP that will benefit all of us as educators as well as our students, such as global educational as well as clinical research projects.

Fakhruddin Barodawala, SEGi University & Colleges, Malaysia

I am fortunate to be asked to nominate myself for a part of IACLE's Board of Directors. I have been into academics for approximately eight years and involved in teaching various topics in the field of optometry and vision science, although contact lenses and dispensing optics are close to my heart. I have also been associated with International Association of Contact Lens Educators since 2015 as a member, a Resource Centre Coordinator and also as a Fellow which has been an asset in developing my skills in contact lens teaching.

With the need of online education emerging during the COVID pandemic, I along with some of my optometrist friends have conceptualized an Online learning platform known as "Online Optom learning Series (OOLS)" where we invite speakers to share their expertise with a global audience. This initiative has no financial interest and we have been able to conduct more than 120 sessions in over a year. OOLS has been recognized by various national organizations, and I have played an instrumental role in uplifting the platform.

I consider myself as a good team player, quick learner, and detailed-oriented person. I do believe and assure that being a part of IACLE, I will play an important role in uplifting the Association onto greater heights. I will commit to contributing my time and efforts in making a positive difference to the Association and maintaining the vision and mission of IACLE.

For these reasons I would like myself considered to be a part of the IACLE Board of Directors and I wish to receive your support.

Yazan Gammoh, Al-Ahliyya Amman University, Jordan

During my PhD thesis writing phase at the University of Bradford, UK, I was introduced to IACLE by Professor Douthwaite, and I was looking forward to joining IACLE once I joined the university and started teaching contact lenses to optometry students in Lebanon. I am from Jordan but have spent a few years of my teaching career in Lebanon chairing the department and building the foundations of optometry education, including contact lens education, by forging ties with industry professionals and allowing an industry-related academy to flourish and allow students and professionals to have access to latest innovations in contact lenses. From there, I moved to Dubai to support the Dubai Government in establishing an annual event where professionals from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) meet and have access to the latest in science and knowledge, where we were able to host IACLE twice. For all my efforts, I was awarded the Conferences Ambassador Award by the Government of Dubai in the year 2020. During this time I was awarded the Fellowship of IACLE and attained the FIACLE status.

Through my four-year service to the education committee of the Eastern Mediterranean Council of Optometry (EMCO), I was able to host IACLE members as speakers in the various conferences in the region. I was awarded IACLE's Contact Lens Educator of the Year in 2017 for Europe, Africa and the Middle East, a vintage year for me since chairing an optometry department which I established in Jordan, in addition to mentoring professionals from MENA in the World Council of Optometry (WCO) advocacy programs for eye health.

Working with several universities in the region through my connections with UK and EU, IACLE educators gave me an international perspective on optometry and contact lens education with a passion to uplift optometry education in regions where optometry is still in its beginnings. The fruits of this passion were the development of ECMO's unified optometry curriculum, which sets the minimum requirements for any undergraduate program in the MENA region.

Moments in my career that I cherish include hosting the late Professor Brien Holden in Lebanon to educate the professionals about myopia control, followed by hosting Professor Kovin Naidoo in Sudan to support the advocacy for myopia prevention in North Africa. I feel honored to have translated several documents for the Scleral Lens Education Society and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

I am no stranger to managerial positions, serving on the Board of Directors for WCO, representing EMCO to the education and legislation committees of WCO, and acting as an advisor to two EMCO presidents provided me with an insight into what a director of an international organization entails. Knowing the region, while being aware of what is happening in other regions in the field of optometry education, is a quality that I will hopefully bring to IACLE's Board of Directors.

Raquel Gil-Cazorla, Aston University, UK

My name is Raquel Gil-Cazorla, and I am a lecturer in optometry at Aston University. I am applying for a position on IACLE's Board of Directors because I am very passionate and committed in contact lenses and anterior eye, and I want to play an active role in promoting and furthering the ideals of the contact lens and related anterior eye elements. I believe that my solid education and my extensive clinical and research experiences will make me a rather competitive candidate. This is evident from the following examples of experience within my CV:

- Strong knowledge and experiences within the fields of contact lenses and anterior eye. Chief of the contact lens specialty service in a private eye clinic.
- Extensive knowledge of contact lens and anterior eye research. I have been doing research in the field of contact lenses and anterior segment since 2004. For the last eight years, I have been part of one of the few anterior eye research groups in the UK (Optometry and Vision Science Research Group, Aston University)
- Broad academic experience as a lecturer in the UK and in Spain since 2002
- International profile and networking which will help to promote IACLE in Europe, Central and South America
- Fluent in English, Spanish and French