



**IACLE**  
International Association  
of Contact Lens Educators

**The**  
**TLC** **Initiative**  
TEACH. LEARN. CONNECT.

# IACLE Activity Summary 2021

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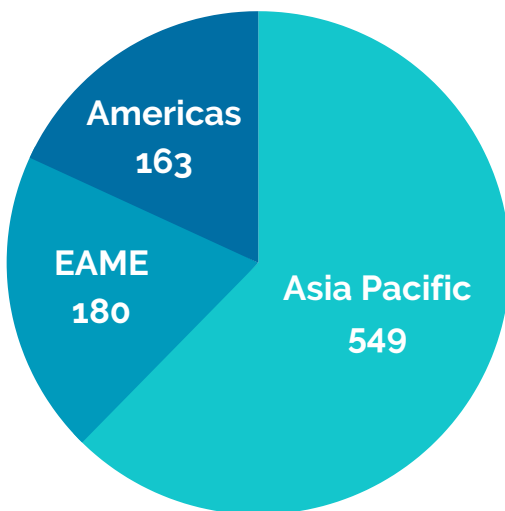
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# Our Members

IACLE was established in 1979 and, over its history, has provided resources and training to more than 2,700 members from over 90 different countries around the world. At the close of 2021, our membership was comprised of 871 active members\* in 80 countries, with the largest representation in China (268), India (135), United Kingdom (41), Mexico (39), and South Korea (32). A total of 134 new members joined IACLE in 2021.

## Members by Region



|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Full Members      | 620 |
| Associate Members | 251 |
| Honorary Members  | 21  |
| Total Members     | 892 |



# Fellows of IACLE

Fellows of IACLE (FIACLEs) are our most active, visible, and involved members. They are recognized for their accomplishments within contact lens education.

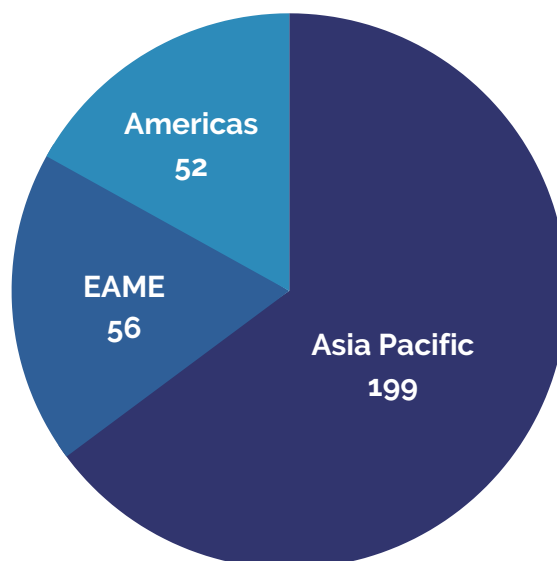
The Fellowship Exam is the only internationally recognized means of measuring an educator or eye care professionals' contact lens knowledge, running every two years.

In November 2021, over 160 members took the IACLE Fellowship Exam, with 39% of candidates achieving a successful outcome. The exam was administered in five languages: English, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Bahasa, and Korean. Following the exam, 58 members became eligible to apply for FIACLE status.

To support and prepare members sitting the exam, IACLE developed a designated area within IACLETOP where members could take part in monthly tutorials, discussion groups, and a mock exam.

As of 2021, there were 307 active FIACLEs worldwide representing 35% of our membership.

## FIACLEs by Region





# Profiling FIACLEs

**FIACLE Dr May Bakkar from Jordan University of Science and Technology, Department of Optometry, was awarded FIACLE status in 2016**



## **How has having FIACLE status helped you in your career?**

'I consider obtaining the FIACLE status a great achievement that defines me as a contact lens educator and a leading expert in my teaching profession in Jordan. It also makes me feel more confident in contact lens teaching and research at my institution.'

## **What made you want to become a FIACLE?**

'I considered FIACLE status to be internationally recognized and highly esteemed by contact lens educators worldwide. Preparing for the Fellowship Exam gave me a great opportunity to evaluate my knowledge in the contact lens field and identify strengths and weaknesses concerning all areas of contact lenses that I must consider in my teaching as well as improving the contact lens course in my department.'

## **What would you say to IACLE members who are thinking about taking the Fellowship Exam?**

'The exam is an intriguing experience. Prior to the exam, be prepared by studying the Distance Learning Program and other valuable resources within IACLETOP.'

**FIACLE Ruben Velazquez Guerrero from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, was awarded FIACLE status in 2000**



**How has having FIACLE status helped you in your career?**

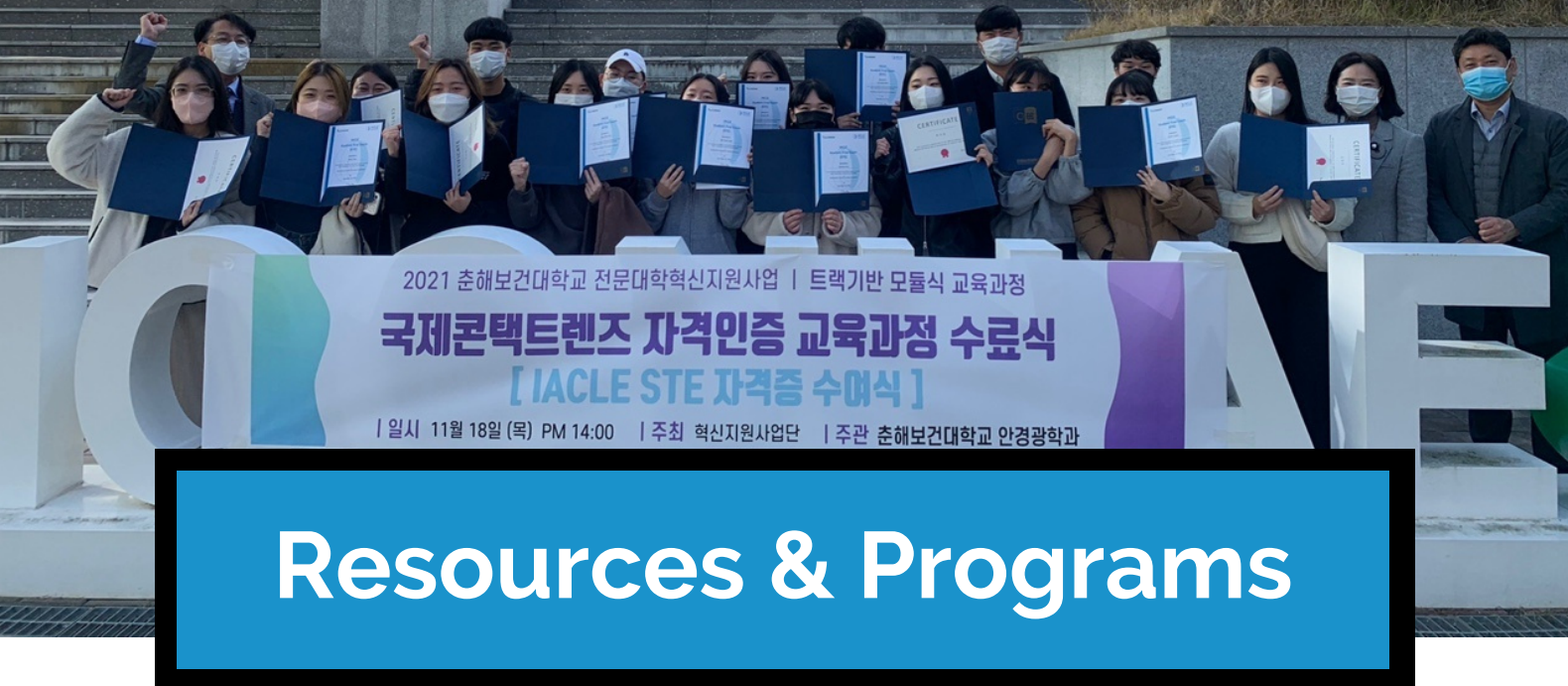
'The main achievements of having FIACLE status are gaining knowledge, updating what was already known, and the awareness of how we should teach this knowledge to our students. As well as this, global contact lens companies and the local industry have invited me to lecture which has allowed me to convey the IACLE philosophy for the benefit of better contact lens practices and practitioners. Many of them have benefitted by receiving new knowledge, which makes them more competent in the contact lens area.'

**What made you want to become a FIACLE?**

'IACLE's invitation to achieve FIACLE status was clear: "Achieving FIACLE status will help you to become a better contact lens professional and help continue to pass on knowledge to others". I simply accepted the challenge.'

**What would you say to IACLE members who are thinking about taking the Fellowship Exam?**

'If you love the contact lens field, teach classes, and regularly see patients in your practice, taking the Fellowship Exam to achieve FIACLE status will be one of the best investments of your life.'



## IACLE Teaching Online Platform – IACLETOP

IACLE launched its online Learning Management System (IACLETOP) in May 2020 to support members in their teaching.

**IACLE introduced a number of member resources in 2021:**

### Research Update

The Research Update Area, a designated space for members to catch-up with previous Research Updates, along with summary videos produced by the IACLE Education Team, **launched in February 2021**. Executive Manager of Educational Programs, Nilesh Thite, reviews the contact lens-related research literature and provides a summary of the most topical and essential articles. February 2021 marked the Research Update's 50th edition.

### IACLE Library

This searchable database accessible through IACLETOP was **launched in March 2021**. The IACLE Library consists of IACLE images, presentations, videos and PDFs. The IACLE Education Team receives and approves resources members wish to share with other IACLE colleagues. Members can also find photographs from the Image of the Month initiative [here](#).

### Fellowship Exam Area

The Fellowship Exam Area **launched in April 2021** to support and assist those sitting the Fellowship Exam, allowing members to join study groups, understand different methods of assessment, sit a mock exam, and chat to other members taking the exam, prior to the exam date. The area was available in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Bahasa.

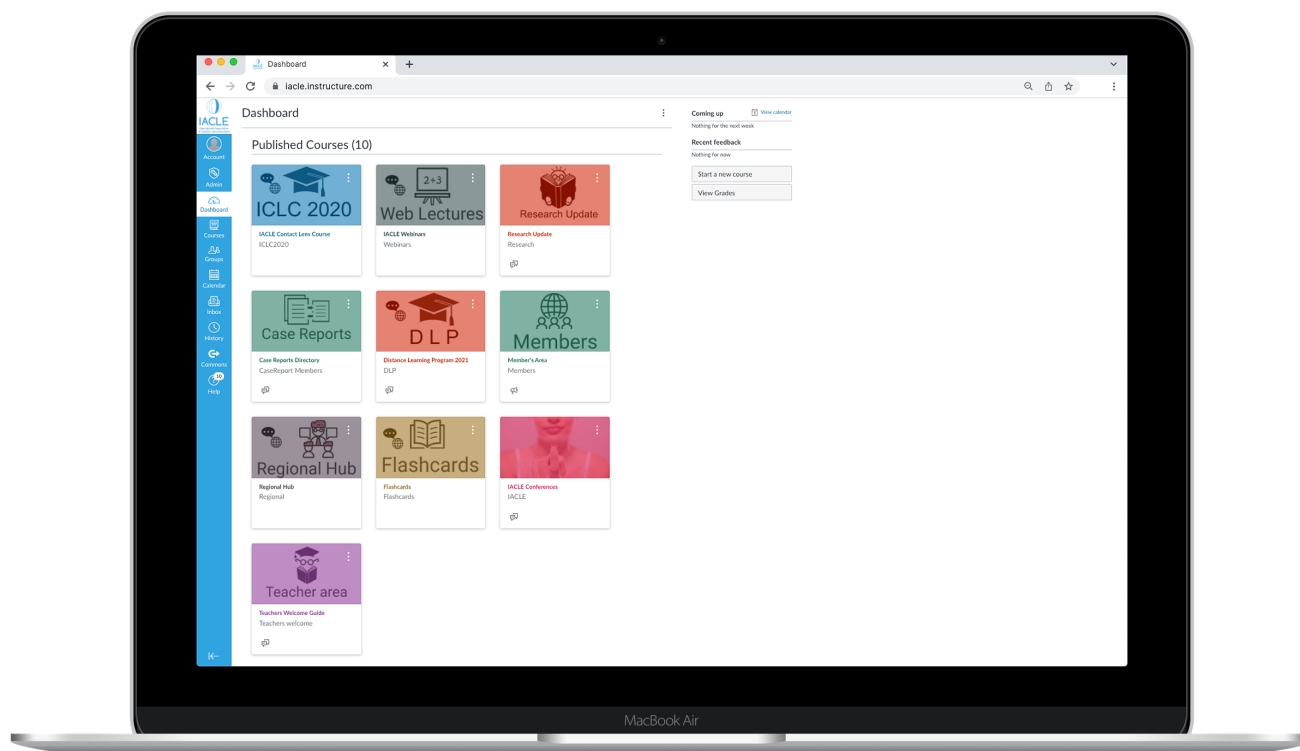
## Distance Learning Program

The Distance Learning Program (DLP), designed to improve the contact lens knowledge of educators and prepare them for the Fellowship Exam, **launched on IACLETOP in May 2021**. A total of 38 out of 67 members who completed the DLP and wrote the 2021 Fellowship Exam achieved a successful outcome – a 57% pass rate.

The DLP is a series of assessments that takes members through the IACLE Contact Lens Course (ICLC) module by module. There are four phases to the self-study program to allow members to adjust to the online environment. After working through each section of the ICLC, members complete a related assignment, submitting directly through IACLETOP with instant feedback available. Once members have achieved the satisfactory grade, they move onto the next phase. This cycle repeats until all modules of the ICLC are covered. Progression is managed with each phase having a staggered released date.

## Regional Hubs

**In August 2021**, IACLE launched the Regional Hubs – a language-specific community space that enables members to interact and engage with other IACLE colleagues. The Hubs allow members to see who is online, meet with others through the coffee room feature, instant message, share documents and exchange teaching materials. The Regional Hubs are available in English, Bahasa, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish.



## Student Area

In 2021, IACLE launched the Student Area, a space designed for educators to offer their students a unique teaching environment for learning and assessment opportunities. The Student Area has the tools to allow educators to produce individual teaching content and assessments, while streamlining and integrating IACLE resources available in this area, into their teaching. A French Student Area also launched in 2021.

### Programs and resources available for members to use with their students:

- Student Trial Exam – available in two formats – is administered through IACLETOP (50 or 100 multiple choice questions) and can be accessed as frequently as desired. Students can resit the STE as required, allowing progression to be monitored and compared.
- IACLE Case Report Series – available in two formats – as self-directed learning or to use as a flipped class environment. Each Case Report can be delivered as a tutorial using the Nearpod software.
- IACLE Webinars – offered in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Bahasa on a global, regional, and national basis from a wide range of eye care professionals.

During 2021, **1,134 students** in **27 institutions** from **five countries** worldwide registered for a Student Area within IACLETOP.

Student Area totals by country:

| Country      | No. of students | No. of institutions |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| India        | 480             | 12                  |
| China        | 306             | 4                   |
| Korea        | 286             | 9                   |
| South Africa | 45              | 1                   |
| Malaysia     | 17              | 1                   |



## Student Trial Exam

In 2021, 1,001 students from 21 institutions across five countries completed the Student Trial Exam (STE) via IACLETOP.

The countries with the highest numbers of STE candidates were India (347 in six institutions), China (306 in four institutions), and Korea (286 in nine institutions).

## STE Candidates Total by Region and Country

| Asia Pacific |     |
|--------------|-----|
| India        | 347 |
| China        | 306 |
| Korea        | 286 |
| Malaysia     | 17  |

| EAME         |    |
|--------------|----|
| South Africa | 45 |



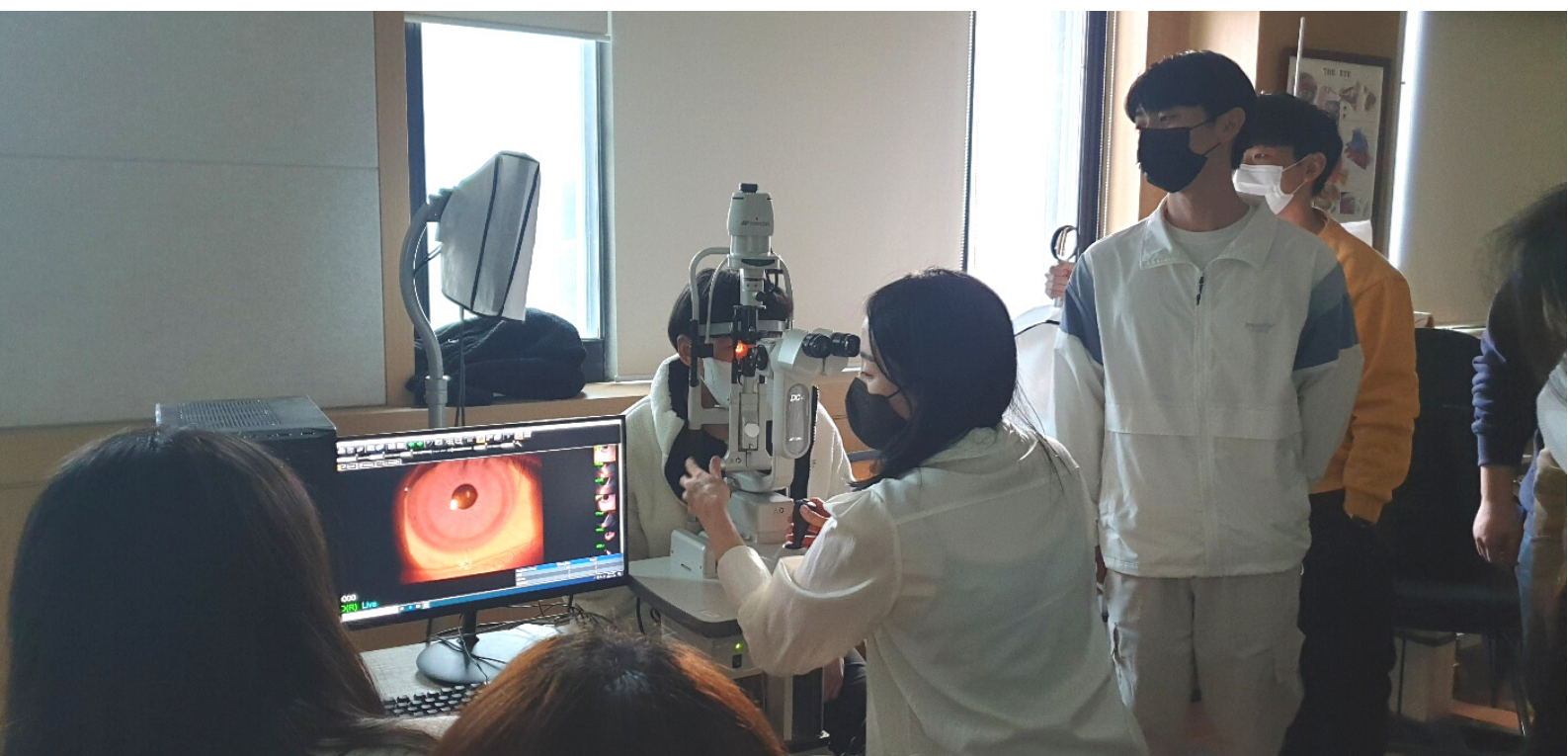
# TLC celebrates one year

## The Teach. Learn. Connect. Initiative

In 2020, IACLE introduced the Teach. Learn. Connect. Initiative (TLC), an online education program and communications campaign to supplement IACLE's existing educational activities during the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the success of the TLC Initiative and as people around the globe began to adapt their working lives to the changes the pandemic brought, IACLE made the decision to redefine and implement the TLC Initiative into IACLE's branding indefinitely. From Q4 of 2021, the Teach. Learn. Connect. Initiative became IACLE's online and in-person education and communications program to supplement existing educational activities that support members through their contact lens teaching career. The TLC Initiative includes:

- A full program of live and recorded webinars on a global, regional, and national basis to help educators and students adapt to new ways of teaching and learning
- Bi-annual Virtual Conferences
- Opportunities for industry to connect with educators and students worldwide
- Communications providing new information and resources to support all sectors





# IACLE Awards

## 2021 IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards

The IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards recognize and reward achievements in contact lens education worldwide. Thanks to the generous sponsorship from CooperVision, award winners receive a bursary of up to US\$3,000 towards the cost of attending an international meeting when COVID-19 restrictions allow.



**Dr Johanna Garzón Parra**

2021 IACLE Americas  
Contact Lens Educator of the Year



**Wei Xu**

2021 IACLE Asia Pacific  
Contact Lens Educator of the Year



**Dr Byki Huntjens**

2021 IACLE Europe, Africa and Middle East  
Contact Lens Educator of the Year



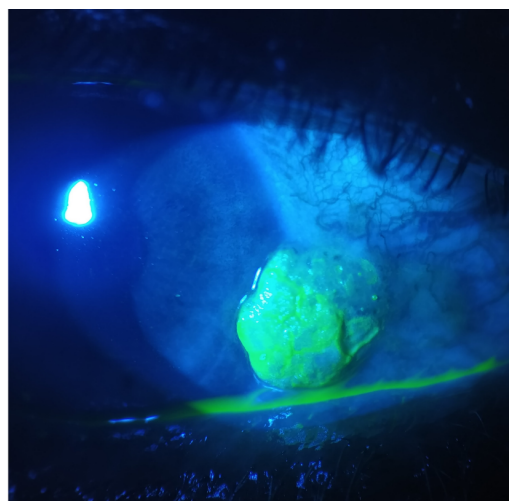
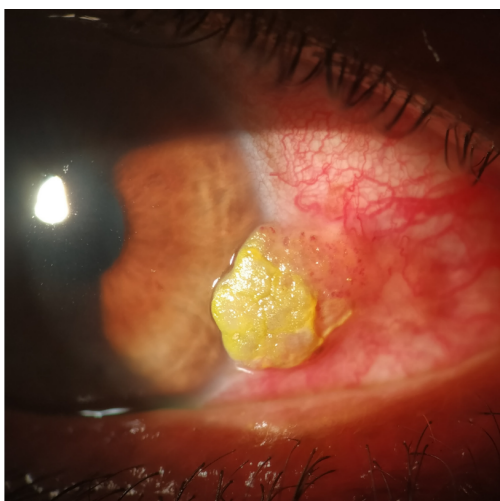


2020 IACLE Travel Award winner Professor Martin Guzmán received his 2020 Travel Award at the International Congress of Scleral Contacts in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in July 2021. Professor Guzmán commented on his experience receiving the 2020 Travel Award: 'The International Congress of Scleral Contacts was truly inspirational for me. The meeting brought delegates from 42 countries together, both virtually and in-person, and provided the most up to date knowledge and information regarding the use of scleral lenses in clinical practice. Thanks to IACLE for its support and for making it possible for me to attend this wonderful conference.'

## Image of the Year 2021

The 2021 IACLE Image Collection comprises of 76 images – including the kind donation of 50 clinical photographs from FIACLE Prasad Sawant – donated by our members during the year to gain recognition for their clinical photography skills.

Our monthly Global Member Newsletter features an Image of the Month and the IACLE Education Team awards the Image of the Year.



Indian member Suraj Chaurasiya captured the 2021 IACLE Image of the Year and won a complimentary year of IACLE membership, a US\$100 gift voucher and a certificate. Suraj, from the CL Gupta Eye Institute in Moradabad, India, captured the above images of a 38-year-old patient who complained of discomfort and foreign body sensation with his contact lenses, along with an elevated mass near the nasal limbus in the right eye for three months. The patient had used extended wear contact lenses for high myopia for a long period and was diagnosed with ocular surface squamous neoplasia (OSSN).



## Five members awarded Honorary membership status in 2021



Dr Christine Astin



Dr Douk Hoon Kim



Professor Carmen Seres

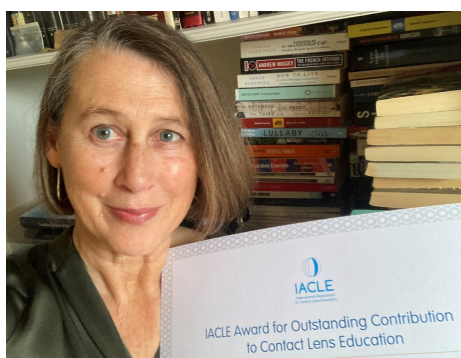


Dr Sharanjeet Kaur



Theodore Morse

## Outstanding Contribution to Contact Lens Education – Alison Ewbank



Former IACLE Head of Communications, Alison Ewbank, retired in December 2020. In acknowledgement of her exceptional contribution to the contact lens education sector, she was awarded the IACLE Award for Outstanding Contribution to Contact Lens Education. Past EAME Regional President Judith Morris presented Alison with the award in London in December 2021.

## Excellence in Optometric Education – Dr Etty Bitton



The American Academy of Optometry awarded IACLE Secretary / Treasurer Dr Etty Bitton with the Michael G Harris Family Award for Excellence in Optometric Education. The American Academy of Optometry Foundation presents the award to an optometric educator who demonstrates ongoing and consistent excellence in educating optometry students and / or advances optometric education.



# Meetings & Events

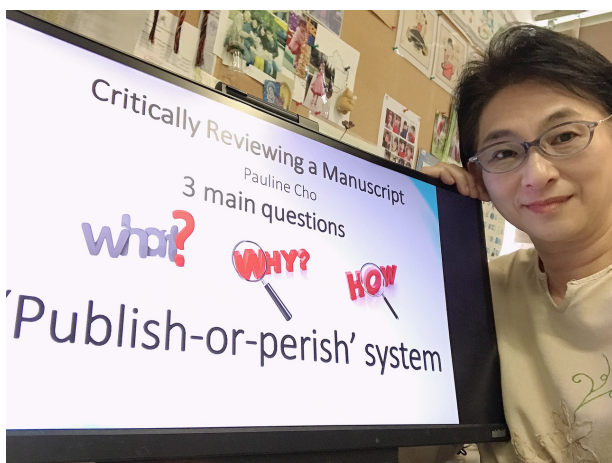
## Virtual Conferences

IACLE held its first-ever Virtual Conference in September 2020, and due to its success, IACLE made the decision to host bi-annual Virtual Conferences for its members (and non-members via the IACLE Facebook page) each year.

In April 2021, IACLE's second Virtual Conference was themed 'Integrating Research into Education', featuring presentations on:

- Evidence based teaching
- Editor's perspective – what gets published?
- How to write an abstract and critically review a manuscript
- How to conduct a journal club
- Costing a research proposal
- Forging successful research collaborations

The conference included a panel discussion, chaired by FIACLE Professor James Wolffsohn, themed 'Students' research: challenges and potential solutions', with educators from different regions participating as panellists.



The theme for the Virtual Conference in October 2021 was 'Education and Practice: All CLEAR', that covered the papers published in the first half of 2021 to make up the British Contact Lens Association's 'CLEAR' project. This work featured 11 papers written by 102 authors from 16 countries and covered the latest information across a wide range of contact lens-related topics.

The program featured presentations on:

- Evidence-based practice: Why and how?
- Ocular response – effect on tears
- Ocular response – effect on physiology
- Ocular complications in contact lens wear
- Going beyond the routine – contact lenses for medical use
- Going beyond the routine – orthokeratology
- Going beyond the routine – scleral lenses

Experts from IACLE's sponsors joined IACLE President Professor Philip Morgan for a panel discussion on 'Future challenges and solutions for contact lens educators' to consider key issues across the contact lens industry and how IACLE members can help to make contact lenses an even more successful vision correction option.

## Webinars in 2021

| Language / Region                                 | Attendee total –<br>Members, Students<br>and ECPs | Total hours of<br>education |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| English (Global)                                  | 873   | 15                          |
| English (India, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia) | 685   | 17                          |
| Spanish (Latin America)                           | 3,266   | 53                          |
| Chinese (China)                                   | 1,795   | 10                          |
| Korean (South Korea)                              | 138   | 6                           |
| Bahasa (Indonesia)                                | 95  | 7                           |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>6,852</b>                                      | <b>108</b>                  |

## **IACLE Virtual Annual General Meeting – May 2021**

In May 2021, IACLE held its first-ever virtual Annual General Meeting. The IACLE Board and the membership approved several motions including the 2019 meeting minutes, IACLE's new By-Laws and the financial statements.

## **IACLE at AOCLE – June 2021**

Executive Manager of Global Education, Lakshmi Shinde, presented at the 2021 Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE) meeting, discussing various aspects of IACLETOP and how it is useful for educators and their students. IACLE Secretary / Treasurer Dr Etty Bitton and Lakshmi also spoke about IACLE's Image of the Month initiative. Multiple educators from universities around the globe attended the virtual meeting.

## **IACLE at the BCLA – June 2021**

IACLE had a prominent presence at the 2021 BCLA Virtual Clinical Conference, with its officers and staff members acting as chairs, moderators, and speakers. Professor Philip Morgan, Dr Shehzad Naroo, Professor Craig Woods, Nilesh Thite, and Lakshmi Shinde led talks and discussions throughout the conference.

## **IACLE at Italian Optometric Society National Congress – October 2021**

IACLE President Professor Philip Morgan delivered a talk titled 'IACLE: four decades of global contact lens education. What's next?' during the contact lens session of the Italian Optometric Society (SOPTI) meeting held between 10-11 October in Bologna, Italy. The meeting was themed 'Good practice in optometry and contact lenses'.

## **IACLE at WCO 24-hour live stream – November 2021**

In November 2021, the World Council of Optometry presented 'Eyes Around the World: A Global Day of Learning', a 24-hour live stream of lectures for practising clinicians and optometry educators. On behalf of IACLE, FIACLEs Professor James Wolffsohn, Professor Monica Chaudhry, Professor Raquel Gil Cazorla and Dr Lindsay Sicks delivered four lectures in support of the continuing education day.

# Communications

In 2021, IACLE gave the monthly Global Member Newsletter a fresh look, featuring an IACLETOP Updates and Membership Perks section to further highlight upcoming news and events. The monthly TLC newsletters inform members of upcoming webinars and Special Notices are sent to members to announce any upcoming events or news.

IACLE utilizes Facebook to live stream global webinars and conferences for students and non-members. Image of the Month and webinar speaker video selfies are some examples of posts that gain the highest engagement rates across IACLE's social media platforms.



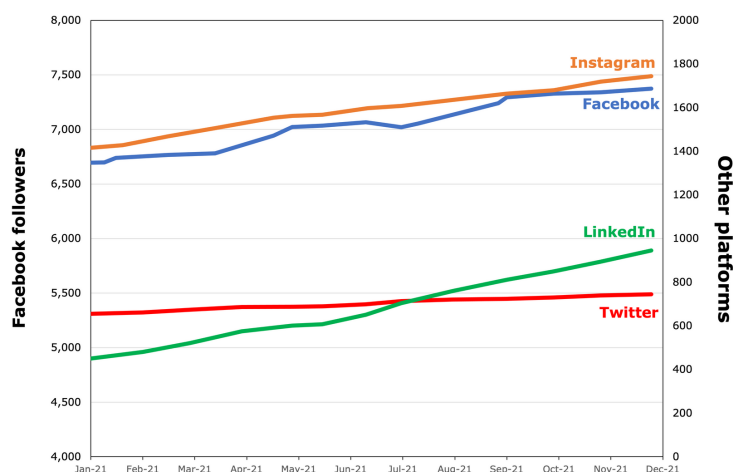
**May 2021 Image of the Month**

Norma Cárdenas of Instituto Colombiano de Lentes Especiales, Bogotá, Colombia captured these images



**November 2021 Image of the Month**

Dr Atanu Samanta of Nagar School of Optometry, Gujarat, India, captured these images



Social media follower count data from January-December 2021

# Introducing new Board and Officers of IACLE

In April 2021, IACLE held an election for its members to vote for the Board of Directors. The results were announced in June 2021, and the six candidates voted to fill Director positions are:



**IACLE President**  
Professor Philip Morgan  
University of Manchester, UK



**IACLE Vice President**  
Dr Shehzad Naroo  
Aston University, UK



**IACLE Treasurer / Secretary**  
Professor Etty Bitton  
University of Montreal, Canada



**IACLE Director**  
Dr Byki Huntjens  
City, University of London, UK



**IACLE Director**  
Dr Renée Reeder  
University of Pikeville, USA



**IACLE Director**  
Fakhruddin Barodawala  
SEGi University & Colleges, Malaysia

In August 2021, IACLE introduced three new Regional Directors to provide strategic advice and oversight for their regions. The Regional Directors are:



**Asia Pacific Regional Director**  
Dr Kah Ooi Tan  
nthalmic, Australia



**Americas Regional Director**  
Professor Martin Edison Giraldo Mendivelso  
De La Salle University, Colombia



**Europe, Africa and Middle East Regional Director**  
Dr Fabrizio Zeri  
University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

During 2021, IACLE Europe, Africa and Middle East Regional President, Judith Morris, stepped down from her role. Judith was an IACLE member since 1990 and a Fellow of IACLE since 1996. IACLE thanks and celebrates Judith's three decades of involvement with the Association.



# IACLE acquires new sponsor

In June 2021, IACLE acquired a new Bronze Sponsor, Ophtecs, a contact lens care solution manufacturer based in Japan. Founded in 1981, Ophtecs aspires to contribute to the comfortable contact lens wear for all types of wearers. This desire has driven the company to develop unique and innovative contact lens care solutions, distributed in over 15 countries. Ophtecs' corporate mission is to 'Contribute to the Global Ophthalmic Field'. To achieve this, they open their doors to the global market and continue to research and develop new products by having the care for contact lens wearers at heart.

CEO and President of Ophtecs Joe Yoneda commented, 'We are very excited to be a part of IACLE's activities and we look forward to working closely with the Association.'

Mr Fumio Saito CTO and Executive Director said, 'We are happy and honoured to be a part of this worldwide organization. We are looking forward to working with IACLE and its members for a long time.'

# Ophtecs

# Support in 2021

Platinum Sponsor Alcon, Gold Sponsor CooperVision, Silver Sponsor Johnson & Johnson Vision, Bronze Sponsors Bausch + Lomb and Ophtecs and Donor Sponsor Euclid Systems together help support IACLE's high-quality contact lens programs and resources worldwide.

## Thank you to our 2021 sponsors

Platinum Sponsor

The Alcon logo is displayed in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font.

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor

The Johnson & Johnson Vision logo consists of the words "Johnson & Johnson" in a red script font, followed by the word "VISION" in a grey sans-serif font.

Bronze Sponsors

The Bausch + Lomb logo is in a bold, teal sans-serif font, and the Ophtecs logo is in a blue sans-serif font.

Donor Sponsor



International Association of Contact Lens Educators