

June 2022

### EAME Leadership Team Meeting



Three members from the EAME region – **Professor Raquel Gil Cazorla** (Europe), **Dr Elizabeth Chetty** (Africa) and **Dr May Bakkar** (Middle East) – met virtually with IACLE Board members, past Regional President **Judith Morris**, and staff to discuss IACLE’s mission within the region (19 May).

The discussion included updates and outcomes regarding previous meetings with current, former, and potential members within the individual’s sub-regions. The group also discussed the need for donations of trial lenses and solution. As a result of the meeting, the IACLE Education Team have contacted IACLE industry partners to assist with this.

EAME Regional President **Dr Fabrizio Zeri** chaired the meeting, and Director **Dr Byki Huntjens** and **Lakshmi Shinde** provided an update on the plans for the region.

### IACLE Session and Members’ Meeting during JOPAL

During the 6<sup>th</sup> Jordanian Palestinian Optometry Conference (JOPAL 2022), held in Amman, Jordan, FIACLE **Dr May Bakkar** from [Jordan University of Science and Technology](#) arranged an IACLE session and Members’ Meeting.



#### Dr Bakkar's key outcomes from the session:

- Encouraged potential new members to apply
- Encouraged members to pursue FIACLE status, use IACLE resources and meet regularly for educational webinars in Arabic
- Introduced the Student Area on IACLETOP and encouraged members to run the STE for their students
- Discussed a standardized teaching method of contact lens education in academic institutions within the Middle East

#### Virtual Meeting in Four African Countries

**Dr Elizabeth Chetty** is working alongside IACLE EAME Regional President **Dr Fabrizio Zeri** to engage with contact lens educators in Africa. Dr Chetty has reached out to eight southern and eastern African countries, including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia. Dr Chetty's investigations have revealed there are 36 optometry programs across 20 African countries.

Eight attendees from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Mozambique attended Dr Chetty's first virtual Africa meeting.



#### Dr Chetty reports the following findings:

- A wide variety in the way contact lens education is approached, depending largely on how long the department has been in existence
- The majority of optometry departments in Africa are relatively new
- There is minimal industry presence in Africa
- South Africa appears to be the only African country that has a rigid lens lab and soft lens distributors
- Funding is needed to cover costs for students to participate in programs such as the Student Trial Exam
- Internet connectivity is an issue across Africa