

October 2018

IACLE members set the agenda for the future of contact lens education

Tools for assessing students' practical skills, raising awareness of contact lenses and how to use technology in contact lens teaching are top of members' wish lists for IACLE to provide in future.

That's according to the findings of the **2018 IACLE Membership Survey**, released this month. The findings will be discussed by IACLE's Executive Board during a special **Strategic Planning Meeting** at the Academy 2018 meeting in San Antonio, Texas, USA on 6 November.

A total of 300 members in 48 countries took part in the survey in March 2018, representing a response rate of 36%. The highest number of responses was from the Asia Pacific region (62%), followed by Europe/Africa – Middle East (22%) and Americas (16%).

Among the key findings are:

- The New IACLE Contact Lens Course is the most used of **IACLE Resources**, rated highest for satisfaction and most important.
- The Fellowship scheme, Distance Learning Program and Student Trial Exam are the **IACLE Programs** considered most important.
- Educator Meetings are the **IACLE Events** most likely to have been attended and World Congresses are considered most important.
- Collaboration with contact lens educators in other institutions / countries is the type of **IACLE Support** members would most like to see in future.
- Standard student assessment forms for practical examinations / clinics are the most popular **future IACLE Resources**.
- Among potential **future IACLE Programs**, a contact lens awareness campaign / event is the most popular option.
- How to use technology in teaching is the most popular topic for **future IACLE events**, and members want more Educator Meetings.

There is also evidence of the **value** that members place on belonging to IACLE: around nine in 10 members (92%) are extremely or very likely to recommend other contact lens educators to join, and a similarly high proportion are extremely or very likely to recommend becoming a FIACLE (90%).

Members supplied more than 130 email addresses for colleagues who would be willing to be contacted about joining IACLE. And more than 60 members provided further comments and suggestions on IACLE and its activities, showing a high level of **engagement** with IACLE.

Commenting on the survey results, IACLE President **Dr Shehzad Naroo** said: ‘This is our largest and most comprehensive membership survey in recent times. The findings confirm the impact IACLE has on our members and the value you place on the support we provide. The survey also reveals the direction we should be heading to equip the contact lens educators – and practitioners – of the future.’

Further analysis will determine differences in use of and attitudes to IACLE activities in different regions and countries, in order to respond to specific needs around the world.

Our thanks to all members who participated in the survey. With your support we look forward to putting our future plans into action

Read the full Membership Survey report [here](#).