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## **IACLE announces worldwide winners of awards in anniversary year**

Contact lens educators from eight countries – Australia, China, India, Italy, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico and Taiwan – are to receive prestigious awards from IACLE as it celebrates its 40th year.

IACLE has today announced the winners of the **2019 IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards** to recognize and reward achievement in contact lens education, and the **2019 IACLE Travel Awards** for members to attend major international meetings. This year's awards will be presented at events around the world to mark **IACLE's 40th Anniversary**.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from CooperVision – and co-sponsored by the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA) and IACLE – three IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards will be presented, one for each of its three global regions. To receive their awards, winners will travel to the BCLA Clinical Conference in Manchester, UK (30 May-1 June)

IACLE will be holding 40th Anniversary celebrations at these events, and at the Asia Pacific Optometric Congress (APOC), Manila, Philippines (17-20 June), Colegio Federación Colombiana de Optómetras (FEDOPTO) Congress in Bogotá, Colombia (8-10 August) and Academy 2019/3rd World Congress of Optometry (WCO) in Orlando, USA (23-27 October).

The **2019 IACLE Contact Lens Educators of the Year** are:



**IACLE Americas Contact Lens Educator of the Year**  
**Ruben Velazquez**

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City



**IACLE Asia Pacific Contact Lens Educator of the Year**  
**Craig Woods**

Deakin University, Victoria, Australia



**IACLE Europe/Africa – Middle East Contact Lens Educator of the Year  
Fabrizio Zeri**  
Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy

Fabrizio commented on his award: ‘In my experience, IACLE has played a massive role in contributing to the growth of contact lens education around the world. Sharing knowledge, experience, passion, and resources among educators has been the key to upgrade the level of education in the field in every country. This is the reason why having been chosen as IACLE EAME Contact Lens Educator of the Year for 2019 is a great honor for me.’

This year, five IACLE Travel Awards – funded by all IACLE’s industry sponsors (all awards), and co-sponsored by BCLA (one award) and Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCL, one award) – will be presented, more than ever before.

The **2019 IACLE Travel Awards** recipients and the meetings they will attend are:

**Joseph Afonne**

Mzuzu University, Mzuzu, Malawi  
*BCLA Clinical Conference & Exhibition*

**Fakhruddin Barodawala (pictured right)**

SEGi University, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia  
*Asia Pacific Optometric Congress*



**Maheswari Srinivasan**

Dr Agarwal’s Eye Hospitals, Chennai, India  
*AOCL Annual Workshop, Pacific University, Oregon, USA  
(30 May-2 June)*

**Wan-Yun (Connie) Tsung (pictured right)**

Central Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan  
*Asia Pacific Optometric Congress*



**MA Yuying**

Wuxi Occupational Institute of Arts and Crafts, China  
*Asia Pacific Optometric Congress*

IACLE President **Dr Shehzad Naroo** thanked all those who applied for IACLE Awards in this special year. He commented: ‘2019 is our 40th anniversary year and we’re talking about the exponential impact that we’ve had on contact lens education. Over four decades, we

estimate that IACLE has been instrumental in fitting as many as 250 million contact lens wearers worldwide.

'So it's especially pleasing that – with the help of our sponsors and co-sponsors – we have been able to make an exponentially higher number of awards this year!'

'Every eye care professional can name an educator who has been influential in their approach to patient care. This year's recipients have surely been an inspiration to the students who have been fortunate to learn from them,' **said Dr Gary Orsborn**, Vice President of Global Professional & Clinical Affairs for CooperVision. 'We are privileged to continue to partner with IACLE to support these honors and extend our longstanding commitment to the profession and contact lens educators around the world. Congratulations to the 2019 Educators of the Year on their achievements.'

**Click [here](#) to find out more about the 2019 IACLE Contact Lens Educators of the Year**

**Click [here](#) to find out more about the 2019 IACLE Travel Awards and read what previous recipients say about their experiences**