



12 August 2021

Global Member Newsletter

Welcome to our monthly newsletter bringing you the latest news, resources and regional updates on IACLE activities around the world.

MEMBERSHIP PERKS IN AUGUST

IACLETOP UPDATES

Introducing Regional Hubs

We are pleased to announce a new feature within [IACLETOP](#) – the Regional Hubs – a language-specific community space to interact and engage with other IACLE colleagues. The Hubs enable members to see who is online, meet with others through the coffee room feature, instant message, share documents and exchange teaching materials.

[Register for the Hubs here](#)

Student Area now available in French

The Student Area, designed for educators to offer their students a unique teaching space for learning and assessment opportunities, is **now available in French**. The area provides access to the [Student Trial Exam](#), online classrooms, and a space to develop your own teaching material.

[For more information on the Student Area](#)

July global webinar series available now

In July, the theme for our global webinar series was ‘Grow your contact lens practice’. We heard from four international experts, **Brian Tompkins**, **Rakesh Kapoor**, **Nick Howard**, and **Caroline Christie**, who gave great insights into the topic. The complete series is available to view on IACLETOP through the Webinars tab.

Access the webinars: [Business aspects of CL practice](#) – [Aftercare visits: Why, when and how](#) – [Maximize your potential with soft CLs](#) – [Managing presbyopia with soft CLs](#)

THIS MONTH'S THEMED WEBINARS

Advanced instruments in contact lens practice

IACLE is hosting a global webinar series themed 'Advanced instruments in contact lens practice' throughout August and September. **Dr Keyur Patel** began the series with a talk on 'Assessment of tear film and ocular surface' (11 August). Tune into the next webinar of the series on **25 August at 12 noon UK (BST)** hosted by **Stefan Bandlitz** on 'Measuring the anterior ocular surface'.

[View the webinar schedule in IACLETOP](#)

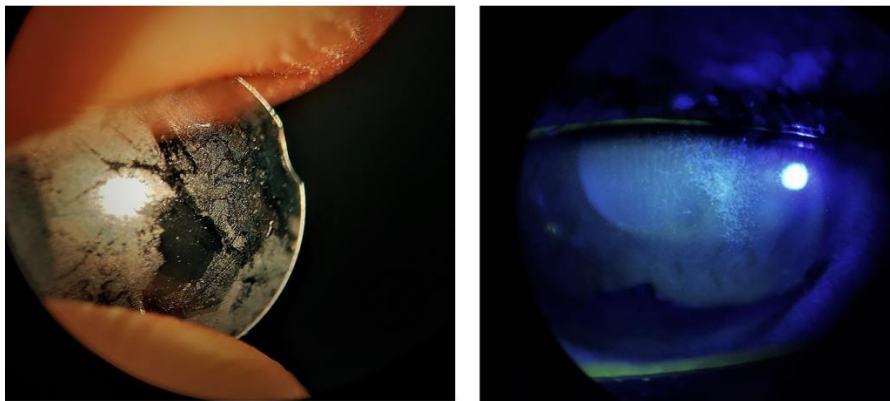
NEWS IN AUGUST

Join the President on Facebook live for a special announcement

On **Thursday 2 September**, IACLE President **Professor Philip Morgan** and newly elected Board Member **Dr Byki Huntjens** are hosting a Facebook live to announce the details of an exciting IACLE event coming up in the near future.

[Tune into our Facebook page at 12 noon UK time for the announcement!](#)

Image of the Month



Dr Atanu Samanta from [Nagar School of Optometry](#) in Ahmedabad, India, captured the above images using a OnePlus 6 mobile phone using a 9mp camera sensor under slit lamp diffuse illumination. The 28-year-old RGP lens wearer complained of ocular irritation whilst wearing the nine-month-old lenses. On slit lamp examination, the lens was found to be chipped on the edge with protein and lipid deposits on the front surface. In addition, corneal abrasions were observed on surface examination with fluorescein.

[Feature in next month's Image of the Month by submitting your image here](#)

EAME Regional President steps down



A member since 1992 and a Fellow of IACLE since 1996, **Judith Morris** steps down as Europe / Africa / Middle East Regional President. Throughout her 21 years working with IACLE, Judith enjoyed giving input into the growing number of available resources. When Judith was relatively new to teaching, she found the curriculum and slides, especially the images, invaluable, and wishes they had been around when she was starting her career. Judith reflects on her IACLE journey and says, 'My most fond memories are the people and colleagues I have worked with or known through my involvement with IACLE over the many years. I've got to spend time with many colleagues in my region who I hold in high regard. But more importantly, I have enjoyed the many dinners around the world where the subject is not necessarily contact lenses but life in general; those evenings are my fondest memories'.

IACLE reports great year in 2020 Activity Summary

At the close of 2020, IACLE's membership consisted of 731 members from 74 countries, and more than two fifths of members (41%) were Fellows of IACLE. In June 2020, we introduced the TLC Initiative to supplement IACLE's existing educational activities during the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic where the total attendance at our virtual webinars was 10,200.

[Read the full Activity Summary](#)

2021 Annual General Meeting

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.

[Read the full meeting minutes](#)

Prepare for the Fellowship Exam

Each month, we conduct virtual workshops for members who have registered for the Fellowship Exam, with the topic changing each month. The next session is on **Tuesday 7 September** at **11 am UK time (BST)** where members can receive advice from a current FIACLE and chat with IACLE's Vice President **Dr Shehzad Naroo**. We encourage all members sitting the exam to accept their invite to access the Fellowship Exam Area within IACLETOP to help you prepare as thoroughly as possible.

[Members registered for the Fellowship Exam can catch up on previous sessions here](#)

MEET A MEMBER



Introducing **Professor Ankit Varshney** Assistant Professor at [Shree Bharatimaiya College of Optometry](#) in Surat, India, specializing in contact lenses and dispensing optics. Ankit says that IACLE's resources have been beneficial in his contact lens teaching, particularly the new ICLC modules, as they are concise, and students find them easy to understand. 'Try to give your students all of your knowledge so that they can grow and expand to an extent where novelties can bloom and be implemented to bridge the loopholes that exist in today's society', is a top tip from Ankit. In his spare time, Ankit enjoys travelling, reading, and playing cricket. 'Learn, earn, and return' is Ankit's mantra.

Have you advanced the teaching of contact lenses in your institution/company over the past year but have already taken part in Meet a Member? We'd like to hear about your achievements and share them with our membership. If IACLE colleagues would like to connect with other members, we can arrange this by simply emailing us at iacle@iacle.org.

[Introduce yourself to other IACLE members by completing this short online form](#)

RESOURCES

Contact lens journals see rise in impact factor

Two major journals specializing in publishing contact lens-related research have seen an increase in a key metric that estimates their reach and importance in the field. New data from the science analytics company [Clarivate](#) reports that the 'impact factor' for the journal [Contact Lens and Anterior Eye](#) increased from 2.578 in 2019 to 3.077 in 2020. Over this same period, the impact factor for [Eye and Contact Lens](#) rose from 1.521 to 2.018. These scores rank the journals in 25th and 42nd position, respectively, from 62 journals within the ophthalmology category.

COVID-19 RESOURCE

Effectiveness of 0.01% atropine for myopia control during lockdown

Erdinest *et al* retrospectively analysed data of 14 children who had been under effective myopia control before the pandemic and who then were socially restricted from March 2020 to March 2021. The increase in axial length during the lockdown phase was much greater than that seen during the pre-pandemic period and suggests a possible significant impact of the environment on myopia increase even in individuals under effective atropine treatment.

[Access the journal](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR REGIONS?

Americas

Colombian universities join IACLETOP

Two institutions in Colombia have recently joined IACLETOP. The Americas Regional Office held a meeting with **Sandra Guerrero** Dean of the Optometry School at [Universidad Santo Tomas](#) in Bogotá, Colombia, and postgraduate contact lens educators. It was proposed that the university would encourage new contact lens educators to become members of IACLE to gain access to the [Student Area](#) within IACLETOP and for their students to sit the [Student Trial Exam](#).

[Read the full Americas meeting report](#)

Asia Pacific

Showcasing IACLE resources at Chinese university

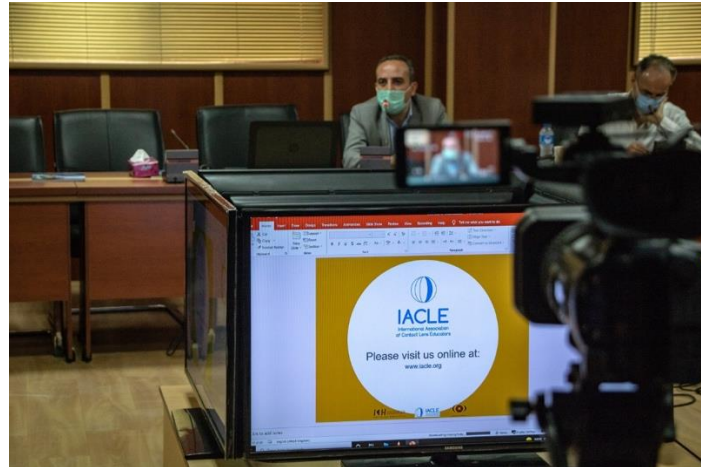
IACLE China National Coordinator **Professor Wang Haiying** visited the Medical College at [Panzhuhua University](#) in China and met with the Dean of the Eye Hospital **Professor Zhou**,

the Director of the Department **Lu Zhi Xia** and faculty member **Yi Zhuo Zheng**. Haiying introduced IACLE to the Head of the Department and encouraged the faculty to become members of IACLE. The session focused on IACLE resources, educational projects and new developments, mainly [IACLETOP](#), as well as the [Student Trial Exam](#).

[Read the Asia Pacific meeting report](#)

Europe / Africa – MIDDLE EAST

Update from a member in Iran



Ali Reza Jafari from the [Basir Eye Center](#) in Tehran, Iran, has been involved in professional contact lens training for over 20 years. Ali Reza holds training sessions, both theoretical and practical, almost every month, at Basir Eye Center and the Iranian Society of Optometry. Jafari uses IACLE resources in his teaching.

BCLA announces Presidential Address

The [British Contact Lens Association](#) has announced that **Neil Retallic** Global Professional Services Manager for [Menicon](#), will take over as President from Indie Grewal after the BCLA's AGM on 7 September. He will deliver his Presidential Address 'The person behind the contact lens - through a pandemic and beyond' as his first duty as President.

[Read the press release](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 September – 49th European Contact Lens and Ocular Surface Congress (ECLSO), online symposium. [Details](#).

8-10 October - SICHT.KONTAKTE Online. [Details](#).

29-30 October – New Zealand Association of Optometrists 90th Annual Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand. [Details](#).

3-6 November – American Academy of Optometry, Boston, USA. [Details](#).

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