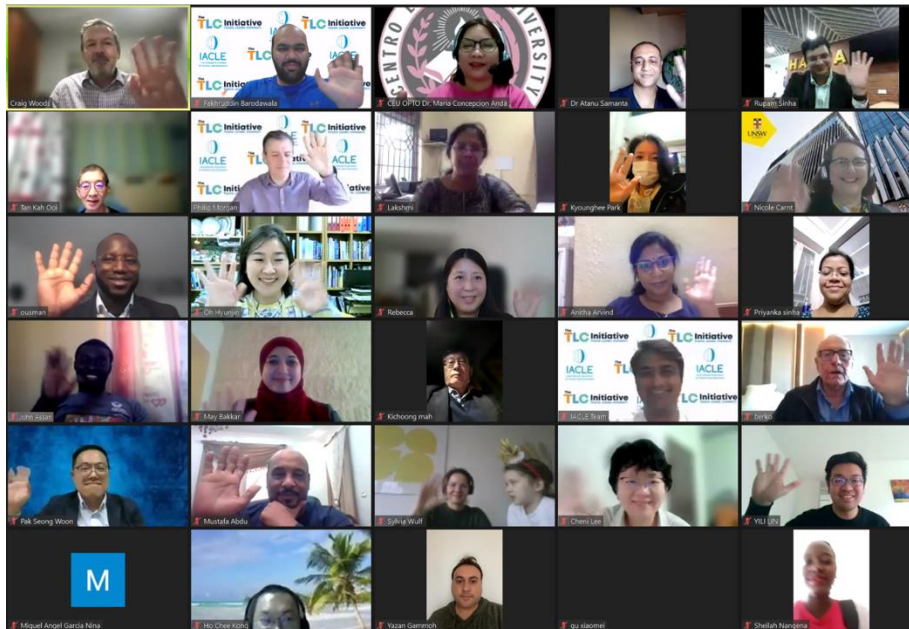


November 2022

‘Seize the Opportunity’ – IACLE’s Fifth Global Virtual Conference



Over 100 members, eye care practitioners and industry representatives tuned in live to IACLE’s fifth Virtual Conference on ‘Seize the opportunity’ (26 November). This theme encompassed relevant, contemporary topics and highlighted how contact lens practitioners should prepare for their future careers. IACLE President **Professor Philip Morgan** welcomed the half-day event, and IACLE Executive Manager of Educational Development **Professor Craig Woods** chaired the meeting.

The scientific session began with a presentation on the ocular surface in contact lens wear, delivered by **Nicole Carnt** from the School of Optometry and Vision Science at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney, Australia. Nicole discussed real-life cases, such as lid wiper epitheliopathy dehydration-related staining, contact lens papillary conjunctivitis (CLPC) and the differential diagnosis of infiltrative conditions, and covered various dyes used in ocular surface assessment and the applications for each. Nicole also suggested some practical tips on assessing the ocular surface, emphasizing the importance of routine steps, such as lid eversion.

Also from UNSW, **Professor Eric Papas** delivered a talk on ‘Contact lens comfort – the role of materials and solutions’, focusing on end-of-the-day discomfort. He provided evidence on the impact of contact lens materials and solutions for discomfort and argued that it is possible to pick the best combination. However, the best solution may be to not use any lens care solution at all and prescribe one-day lenses. He noted that the ocular comfort response varies, even with daily disposables with differing materials. Surface properties, such as surface friction, appear to be more important than bulk properties of the lens materials.

Another important topic, 'Managing presbyopia with contact lenses', was covered by Principal Research Optometrist for nthalmic **Dr Daniel Tilia**. He explained various types of multifocal lenses, their designs, and how the power progresses in each. Patient selection and choosing the best option for each patient basis remain essential factors in successfully managing presbyopia with contact lenses. Dr Tilia shared comparisons of various available lenses and their performance at various distances – near, intermediate, and far. The talk was made engaging by showcasing various real-life cases depicting both success and failure in managing presbyopia with contact lenses.

Later on, a panel discussion themed 'An educator's take' focused on how the information of relevant topics is transferred to students, all under the skilful chairing of IACLE Executive Manager of Global Education **Lakshmi Shinde**. The panellists comprised of **Pak Seong Woon** from Vision Space Optometrist, Malaysia, **Maria Concepcion Anda** from Centro Escolar University's (CEU) School of Optometry, Philippines, and optometrist **Professor Monica Chaudhry**, from India. The panellists shared their academic situations and how they manage their clinical roles. Professor Chaudhry mentioned the use of case reports and students acting as volunteers for hands-on sessions. Pak Seong emphasized the need to continue education even after graduating as science keeps evolving. Maria discussed her institution's public health education initiative regarding the safety of contact lenses, along with teaching students about scientific ways of prescribing and dispensing contact lenses. She also mentioned that most of her students also wear contact lenses.

IACLE President **Professor Philip Morgan** and Vice President **Professor Shehzad Naroo** gave a fascinating talk on how practitioners may deliver contact lens care differently in future. The pair began with how the pandemic has impacted how we see our patients and teach our students. Some of the learnings can be applied, and a part of the examination and aftercare can be done remotely using technology. The next section of the talk was dedicated to the ocular inflammatory response to contact lens wear and how it may be important to assess it regularly. The subclinical inflammatory response may have some relationship with contact lens discomfort. The following part covered the possibility of tele-optometry and remote examination in more detail. The possibility of remote training and education taking support of artificial intelligence was also discussed. The final part of this futuristic talk was on the technological applications of contact lenses. This included multifocal lenses with liquid crystal elements into scleral lenses controlled remotely, lenses to monitor intraocular pressure and diabetes, and lenses with integrated displays.

The contact lens industry has been a great supporter of IACLE, and this conference witnessed its active involvement. All IACLE Sponsors were represented in the meeting, and their representatives delivered relevant discussions. **Rupam Sinha** from **Alcon** spoke about how contact lens practitioners can '*Seize the opportunity*' by understanding the lifestyle of their patients and proactively recommending contact lenses to enhance it. **Tacy Song** from **CooperVision** gave an account of the untapped opportunity of prescribing toric contact lenses and offering myopia management to patients. From **Johnson & Johnson**, **Dr Karen Cheng** passionately shared the unique initiative, 'Vision for Good', emphasizing the importance of continuing education. **Dr Osbert Chan** discussed **Bausch + Lomb's** educational initiatives for eye care practitioners in the Asia Pacific region. **Ousman Marr** from **Ophtecs** gave an update on new science in contact lens care. Finally, **Rebecca Yan Shun Weng** from **Menicon** introduced Menicon and its history, capacity, and legacy.

Conference Chair **Professor Craig Woods** brought the conference to a close and announced the details for the 4th IACLE World Congress on Contact Lens Education, and invited all IACLE members to register.