

ASSOCIATION
OF OPTOMETRIC
CONTACT LENS
EDUCATORS

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Educator Meeting Report

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Education Resources

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Campus News

AOCLE Faculty Development Grant

Read how part of Dr. Etty Bitton's sabbatical was supported by an AOCLE Faculty Development Grant.

AOCLE Officers

Chair: Ron Watanabe, OD
New England College of Optometry
New England Eye Institute (NEEI)
Tel (617) 236-6249
Fax (617) 369-5056
WantanabeR@neco.edu

Vice-Chair: Etty Bitton, OD, MSc
École d'Optométrie
Université de Montréal
Tel (514) 343-7302
Fax (514) 343-2382
etty.bitton@umontreal.ca

Secretary: Vinita Henry
University of Missouri-
St. Louis
School of Optometry
Tel (314) 516-6532
Fax (314) 516-6708
HenryVi@msx.umsi.edu

Treasurer: John Corzine, OD
University of California, Berkeley
School of Optometry
Tel (510) 643-2793
Fax (510) 643-5109
jcorzine@spectacle.berkeley.edu

Communications Committee:
Co-Editor:
Susan Kovacich, OD
Indiana University School of Optometry
Tel (812) 856-5699
Fax (812) 856-6769
skovach@indiana.edu

Co-Editor:
John Mark Jackson,
OD, MS
Southern College of
Optometry
Tel (901) 722-3314
Fax (901) 722-3370
jjackson@sco.edu

Message from the Chair

Happy New Year!

2006 is in the books, and it was yet another awesome year for AOCLE! The workshop held at Montreal was another great example of how far contact lens education has come. To me, it seems that rich new workshop topics are difficult to come up with, but year after year, the host schools come through with innovative programs. My hat is off to all past workshop hosts, and I know that future hosts will continue AOCLE's tradition of collegiality, camaraderie, and academic excellence.

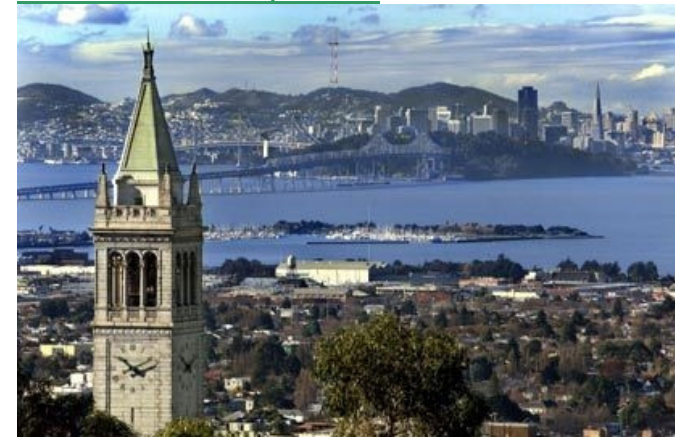
As we move into 2007, I know that AOCLE will continue to evolve and stay at the forefront of contact lens education through advances in teaching methodology, clinical care, and research. As long as we have great people in contact lens education, we will continue to produce great new contact lens practitioners.

I am looking forward to this year's workshop, which comes full circle to the site of the first AOCLE workshop, UC Berkeley. It promises to be an enriching and enjoyable meeting, with a

unique Berkeley spin. I wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2007, and I look forward to seeing you all at this year's AOCLE functions.

Ron Watanabe
Chair, AOCLE

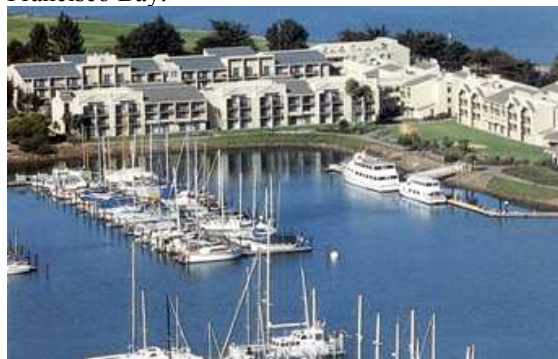
2007 AOCLE Workshop Preview



In 2007, the AOCLE Workshop returns to Berkeley, home of the first workshop in 1983. Please note that the workshop will take place later than usual this year, August 2–5. The main emphasis of this year's workshop will be case report writing for publication. The program will include a forum of optometric journal editors who will share their knowledge of what it takes to get case reports published in the optometric literature. Attending educators will prepare a draft case report in advance of the meeting on a contact lens/cornea related topic. At the meeting, these case reports will be refined and finalized for submission for publication in an optometric journal.

Participants will have the opportunity to work on their case reports under the guidance of the editors and other experienced authors.

The meeting will be hosted at the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center at the Berkeley Marina, offering a panoramic view of picturesque San Francisco Bay (berkeleymarina.doubletree.com) and the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry (optometry.berkeley.edu). Attendees will get a taste of Berkeley by sampling some of its unique cuisine, featuring Zachary's pizza, Noah's bagels, Dreyer's ice cream, and a tour of the Scharffen Berger chocolate factory (sorry, no Chez Panisse). The meeting will be capped Saturday evening with a dinner cruise on San Francisco Bay.



(photo: berkeleymarina.doubletree.com)

Tentative agenda:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Arrivals
Reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres)
AOCLE business meeting
Dessert reception

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

Breakfast at hotel
Bus to campus

Dean's welcome to UCBSO
History of contact lenses at Berkeley
Tours of school
Lunch
Case Report Workshop/Editors Forum
Scharffen Berger chocolate factory tour
Dinner at hotel

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Breakfast at hotel
Industry presentations
Small group case report workshops
Lunch
Case reports wrap-up
Dinner cruise

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

Breakfast
Departures

We look forward to welcoming AOCLE to Berkeley in August!

IACLE INFO



Dear Executive Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE) Asian Pacific Meeting, held

from August 19-23, 2006 at the L. V. Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India. The IACLE hosted representatives from 17 countries. The meeting explored a variety of technical subjects, including aberrations, corneal pachymetry, confocal microscopy, and corneal topography. A tour of the L. V. Prasad Eye Institute was memorable. This comprehensive eye health facility was founded in 1986 by Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao, a US-trained ophthalmologist.

The Institute has six main areas of focus: patient care, research (clinical and basic science), sight enhancement and rehabilitation, community eye health outreach programs, education (for both optometrists and ophthalmologists), and product development. It is a comprehensive eye institute encompassing all areas of eye care and related research. It provides free services to the underprivileged patients who make up half its patient population. The clinic is well equipped with cutting-edge instruments. After visiting the facilities, it is evident why its clinical training programs are highly regarded.

Although I have been an IACLE member for the past two years, it was not until this trip that I truly came to appreciate this organization's efforts and contributions toward raising the caliber of contact lens educators throughout the world. While listening to regional coordinators report on the status of IACLE progress in many nations, I was very impressed by the IACLE's strategic investment in providing teaching resources, training seminars/workshops, and accreditation exams. These educational tools are critically important in places where contact lenses may be dispensed by untrained or uncertified individuals. In some countries, contact lens education has been considered an insignificant part of eye care; therefore, practitioners (ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians) may not be properly educated

during their formal training. Thanks to IACLE, there will be more qualified contact lens educators to train clinicians to provide adequate lens fitting and eye care to the public.

I am sincerely grateful for receiving this travel grant. It was truly an educational and eye-opening experience (no pun intended). It was wonderful meeting so many IACLE members who felt passionate about promoting the safe and effective use of contact lenses throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Meng C. Lin, OD, PhD, FAAO

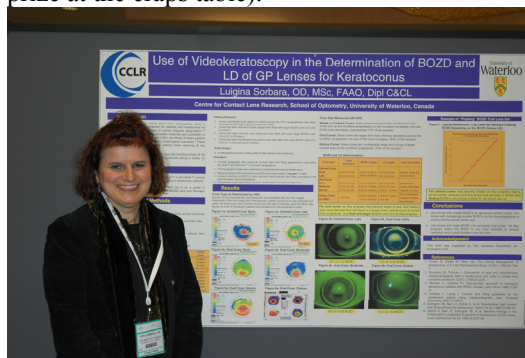
Educator Meeting Report

The first Global Keratoconus Congress was held in Las Vegas in late January 2007. The event was conceived and organized by Joe Barr, with the help of a planning committee led by Craig Norman which included Ed Bennett, Patrick Caroline, and Eef vander Worp. With over 400 people attending from more than 30 countries, the GKC was a rousing success.

The congress was a jam-packed two and one-half days of talks, panels, free papers, poster sessions, and a bustling exhibit hall. Topics included information derived from the CLECK studies, and several sessions covered the fitting of various lenses ranging from corneal to semi-scleral to scleral designs, with soft and hybrid designs thrown in as well. Presentations on basic science research put forward evolving data and theories as to mechanisms, possible genetic molecular markers, and a discussion of the use of riboflavin-UVA applications as a treatment to stiffen and stabilize the cornea.

Several AOCLE sponsors were present and very

active at the meeting. The Polymer Technology arm of Bausch & Lomb, X-Cel Contact, Blanchard Contact Lens, and SynergEyes all participated in breakfast or evening product presentations, as well as their strong presences in the exhibit hall. AOCLE member Gina Sorbara from Waterloo won first prize in the poster competition (and declined the generous offer of Bruce Morgan and myself to help increase her prize at the craps table).



Special thanks go to the CLMA for supporting educator's attendance by covering the registration fees. Another excellent aspect of the congress for educators was that most of the presentations were made available on a CD and/or via the GKC website. Optometric educators not in attendance will also be able to benefit greatly from the availability of these materials from their colleagues who were able to attend.

Congratulations to Joe, his committee, and Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Health Care Conference Group for a great event. We look forward to the second GKC to be held January 25-27, 2008 in Las Vegas. More information is at <http://www.healthcareconferencegroup.com>.

-Neil Pence, OD

Campus News

NSU

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, is seeking applicants for two faculty positions with an emphasis in primary care. One position is a tenure track position and will include classroom and clinical teaching duties. The second position is a non-tenure track position with responsibilities for providing direct clinical care and clinical teaching.

Applicants' qualifications must include the O.D. degree and eligibility for licensure to practice the full scope of Optometry in **Oklahoma**. Preference will be given to applicants with advanced academic degrees, residency training, or teaching experience. Positions open until filled.

A current curriculum vitae, official transcripts of all college work completed, and three letters of reference must be submitted to:

**Barbara Abercrombie, Director of Human Resources,
Northeastern State University, 600 North Grand Avenue
Tahlequah, OK 74464-2399**

Questions concerning the positions may be directed to:

Douglas K. Penisten, O.D., Ph.D.
Associate Dean at (918) 444-4025
Ref: Position # E0002002 (tenure track)/PPCN2006 (non-tenure track)

NSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

NECO

The New England College of Optometry's clinical system has opened a new flagship clinic, New England Eye Commonwealth! This new clinic is a state of the art facility that offers primary care, contact lenses, pediatric care, low vision, and ophthalmological care (in association with Boston Medical Center). Also, the clinic will house a Vistakon Conference Room modeled after the Vision Care Institute in Jacksonville. The new clinic just opened on January 8, and it promises to be a huge step forward in our missions to provide the highest quality eye care possible to our patients and the best learning experience possible to our students.

Dr. Marjorie Rah and her husband Mike Rah welcomed their first child, Jace, into the world on November 25, 2006 (Thanksgiving Day!). Jace was 7lbs 2.8oz and 19 3/4 inches long. Despite Ohio State's devastating loss in the BCS Championship Football game on January 8, Jace is already well on his way to becoming yet another avid Buckeye. Congratulations to Marjie and Mike and the rest of the Rah family!

Elizabeth Chen was appointed as the new President of the New England College of Optometry. Ms. Chen is the 6th NECO President and the first woman and second non-optometrist in that position at the College. A graduate of Yale University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, she has held numerous leadership positions in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. For a profile and news articles on Ms. Chen, see the NECO website at www.neco.edu.

Education Resources

Teague Training Group (TTG)

TTG, founded in 2006 is a new company with a focus on providing industry supported programs

to optometry students. TTG's goal is to broaden the scope of programs offered to optometric educators and to their students as well as facilitating industry support for these programs.

With support from educators, Vistakon and Ciba Vision, The Industry Toric Workshop was developed. The goal of the workshop is to provide a safe and enriching environment for students to gain experience, to be successful and gain confidence in prescribing toric contact lenses. With its fresh, well-coordinated format, the students spend two hours seeing two patients, work with two different practitioners and three to four toric products. The results have been outstanding, and all attending students have increased their fitting confidence level and recommend the workshop to their peers. Contact TTG for further information or to schedule a workshop for 2007.

Sharon Teague
Teague Training Group
Steague2@verizon.net
714-969-6134

New Online Training Program being developed by GPLI

The Contact Lens Manufacturers Association (CLMA) and Gas Permeable Lens Institute (GPLI) is creating a series of interactive web based training tools to simulate GP lens fitting. The objective is to create a *click and fit** online program providing the student with an opportunity to practice GP fitting. The interactive *click and fit* program begins with a narrated lecture reviewing the fitting tips and pearls in each of the following categories: spheres, torics, multifocals/bifocals, ortho K and keratoconus. Once the lecture has been viewed, the student can advance to the interactive fitting tool.

The interactive fitting tool will provide the student with a virtual patient in six fitting categories. In addition to a series of choices they make regarding anatomical and corneal measurements, the student will then be able to "*click*" and select lenses from a virtual diagnostic set to see how the lens performs on eye (video). Once the fitting is completed the virtual patient will return for follow-up. During the follow-up visit, the student may or may not be faced with making problem solving decisions. The ultimate goal is a satisfied GP lens wearer.

The goal of the *click and fit* program is to improve the student's comfort level with fitting GP lenses. As they progress through the program, every "*click*" or choice they make will be explained whether it's a good or poor decision, thus helping them develop a logical thought process when fitting and problem solving GP lens fitting.

The internet offers an exciting vehicle to educate novice fitters in GP lens fitting. Advancements in technology present the opportunity to make learning interactive and simulate the live experience. Additionally, the ability to test and track usage provides a measurable method to evaluate the learning experience. Each of the six sections (spheres, torics, multifocals and bifocals, ortho K and keratoconus) are designed as a stand alone *click and fit* course. This allows the student to access the level of training appropriate for where they are in their 2nd and 3rd year course curriculum. The first of these modules will be available August 2007.

Although the "Vision Management with GP Lenses" program that has been provided for several years will not be available this year, several colleges of optometry have partnered with CLMA member laboratories to sponsor this program. Please contact Ursula Ulotzkat

(Ulotzkat@aol.com) or Ed Bennett (Ebennett@umsl.edu), to try to help make this possible.

The Cornea and Contact Lens Residents program will be August 24-26 at The Ohio State University courtesy of Joe Barr. The GPLI will again be sponsoring GP excellence awards for one third year and one fourth year student at each institution.

"The GP Lens Case Grand Rounds Troubleshooting Guide", a comprehensive online GP text is complete and should be available at www.gpli.info by March, 2007. It includes 54 cases with a similar format, which pertain to spherical, toric, bifocal/multifocal, irregular cornea, post-surgical and corneal reshaping GP lenses. Contributors to this online text included AOCLE members Manuel Conde, Terry Scheid, Vinita Henry, Julie DeKinder, Joel Silbert, Neil Pence and Heidi Wagner. It will be updated in approximately six months. Please let Ed Bennett know if you would like to contribute a case.

The Presbyopia Tool Kit, including the "Rx for Success" CD-ROM is available through the CLMA (rgppam@aol.com). This comprehensive program, produced by Wink Productions, is a comprehensive educational module on GP multifocals and bifocals for practitioner, patients and staff. The Tool Kit includes educational cards and the CD-ROM provides modules on patient selection/education, fitting, calculating fees and patient handling, among others.

The GPLI online symposia will be held from 8:00 - 9:30PM (CST) on the following dates: April 17th (GP Management of Keratoconus), June 12th (Corneal Reshaping: from kids to adults), August 14th (GP Correction of High Astigmatism); October 16th (Post-Surgical

Correction with GP Lenses) and November 13th (GP Correction of Presbyopia).

**Click and Fit* is a proprietary training tool of Wink Productions, Inc.

AOCLE Faculty Development Grant

I would like to thank the AOCLE, once again, in offering the AOCLE Faculty Development Grant for the support of part of my sabbatical leave.

The AOCLE faculty development grant was initiated

1. To encourage contact lens faculty development or CL program development for AOCLE member institutions.
2. To enhance the contact lens experience of our students in clinics or classes.
3. To increase the use of AOCLE faculty members as a resource for faculty or program development between Contact Lens Programs at AOCLE member institutions.

Part of my sabbatical was spent at the Centre for Contact Lens Research (CCLR) at the University of Waterloo. Along with the team at the CCLR, we were able to focus on the assessment of the tear meniscus and to evaluate the variability of the measurement using Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) technology. In addition, overnight changes in the tear meniscus were investigated using OCT and other measurements. Two posters detailing the results of the studies were presented at the 2006 AAO annual meeting in Denver, Colorado. The AOCLE was acknowledged in both presentations. A manuscript of the initial study has been prepared and sent for review for pending publication. The other study is still in progress.

The faculty grant allowed for living/housing expenditures and travel to and from Waterloo. This has been a tremendous learning opportunity for me, and the AOCLE Faculty Development Grant made it possible to alleviate some of the expenditures. Not only have collaborations and friendships been made possible, but the information and skills acquired will be integrated into didactic and clinical teaching. I would like to thank AOCLE for granting me this opportunity, and encourage others to benefit from this grant to which allows collaborations amongst contact lens educators/researchers.

Etty Bitton, OD, MSc, FAAO
Associate Professor
École d'optométrie
Université de Montréal



AOCLE CONTACT LENS FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Revised 3/22/06

The AOCLE supports a faculty development program for contact lens faculty at the North American Schools & Colleges of Optometry. Its purpose is to encourage faculty development, enhance optometry student experiences in clinics and classes, and to increase the use of AOCLE faculty members as resources at all member

institutions. The program provides modest grants to either send an educator to another optometry program to provide training on-site, or to send an educator to another program for training to take back to his or her own program. The goal is to share new clinical skills and techniques, teaching techniques, clinic organization plans, and to enhance collaborative research. It is not designed to fund projects already supported by other programs.

Annual funding for this program is \$10,000, preferably disbursed among 2 to 3 applicants. Funded applicants are required to provide written summaries of the completed projects to be included in the next AOCLE newsletter. The deadline for applications is October 1 of each year. Contact the AOCLE Chair for complete guidelines on the application process.

More Faculty Development

If you are thinking about incorporating new technologies to engage the millennial student, Dr. Bill Edmondson suggests the following IDEA paper which was forwarded to him by the educational department at NSU.

IDEA Papers are small works, usually 4-6 pages, concerning a wide variety of Faculty Evaluation and Development issues. They are made available through the Individual Development & Educational Assessment Center at Kansas State. The link to the article is http://idea.ksu.edu/papers/Idea_Paper_43.pdf

GPLI article incentive plan

The GPLI article incentive plan is still flourishing under the direction of Dr. Barbara Anan-Kogan (bakogan@mindspring.com). If you or your students are considering publishing an article on GP lenses, Dr. Anan-Kogan can help by either assisting with the writing or determining the appropriate journal.

There is grant support available for eligible articles selected for publication.

Photos from the GKC



The AOCLE
Communications
Committee
Dr. Susan Kovacich
Dr. John Mark Jackson