



ASSOCIATION  
OF OPTOMETRIC  
CONTACT LENS  
EDUCATORS

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**November 2010  
Newsletter #33**

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### *Message from the Chair*

I know we are all busy as we are midway through the fall semester and getting ready for the American Academy of Optometry in San Francisco. I am enjoying my own third year students' excitement as they fit their first contact lens patients or for fourth year students, working with those more challenging fits, such as scleral contact lenses and keratoconic patients. That is what this organization is all about; the collaboration of contact lens educators from all over North America to increase their individual knowledge, increase the quality of their contact lens programs and the sharing of ideas. This group has certainly been a big part of my professional career and I appreciate the camaraderie and friendships over the years.

Many of you attended the 2010 workshop at University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry at the lovely Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. Special thanks goes to Katie Clore who headed up the team with the help of Keshia Elder, Adam Gordon, Chandra Mickles, Joe Benjamin and Asher Maystein. (Shown in the next photo)



The focus of the workshop was a timely topic: large diameter and hybrid contact lenses. The 2010 recipients of the George Mertz New Educator Travel Award were Annie Chang from Southern California College of Optometry and Aaron Zimmerman from the Ohio State University College of Optometry (pictured below, with past AOCLE Chair, Ety Bitton, OD.)



The recipient of the Lester E. Janoff Memorial Award was Langis Michaud from the Universite De Montreal Ecole d'Optometrie. The AOCLE officers elected for 2010-2012 are Chair, Vinita Henry, University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry; Vice Chair, Bruce Morgan,

Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University; Secretary, Judy Perrigin, University of Houston, College of Optometry; Treasurer, John Corzine, University of California Berkeley, School of Optometry and Past Chair, Etty Bitton, Universite De Montreal Ecole d'Optometrie.

This next year, our 2011 workshop will be held at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. Joel Silbert is hard at work planning the workshop which will be held June 2-5. Make sure to read more about Joel's plans in this newsletter. If you have never planned a workshop at your institution you cannot imagine the hard work that goes into the planning and executing of the meeting. This quality meeting could not be accomplished without the support of our industry sponsors. We appreciate their contributions to our worthy program.

By now you should have received your boxes of materials produced by the AOCLE for your students. The third edition of the Contact Lens Clinical Pocket Guide is out this fall. I recently had an office manager of a large private practice contact me to purchase pocket guides for their staff after observing our students using them. She was very complimentary, but disappointed that we do not sell the pocket guides. We do plan to have the pocket guide information available on our website. Etty has been working to bring a new look to our website. Look for this in the coming months. The other item that has been shipped to the schools is the Healthy Soft Contact Lens Habits Pads, which are generic and can be used to educate your patients.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not spend some time thanking some people who are dedicated to our organization. Our sponsors, as mentioned previously, are an important part of our success. Thanks to them for all they do. Susan Kovacich, John Mark Jackson and Bill Edmondson work

hard to produce our newsletter. Andrea Janoff keeps our membership directory updated. Neil Pence works with the website. I want to thank them for all of their hard work. Our past chair, Etty Bitton, spent enough hours on AOCLE to make it a full time job. Etty worked on getting our history recorded, the pocket guides and healthy habits posters produced, documenting our projects and their completion, a publication of our mentoring workshop and many more areas too numerous to mention. Thank you, Etty for all of your hard work and dedication!

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as your chair. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

-Vinita Allee Henry

### [2010 AOCLE Annual Workshop Summary](#)

The South welcomed AOCLE for the second year in a row as the 2010 AOCLE Workshop was hosted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry (UAB). Thursday night's events included a welcome reception and the annual AOCLE Awards Ceremony. At the reception, the group was also introduced to Dr. **Haiying Wang**, who represented the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE).

This year's workshop theme was "The Magic of Fitting Large Diameter Contact Lenses." The topic is very timely as scleral lenses have made a huge comeback in recent years. On Friday, the group met at UAB for the first part of the workshop. Dr. **Christine Sindt** (U. of Iowa), (shown in the next photo) well-known for her work with scleral lenses, gave the first lecture. She gave a thorough overview of scleral lens fitting and management. Dr. **Adam Gordon**

(UAB) then gave a great overview of hybrid rigid/soft designs for keratoconus.



Following the lectures, the group broke up into small teams for the clinical rotations. Each team saw seven patients in the UAB Eye Care Clinic, all wearing different types and brands of large-diameter lenses. Lab representatives for the designs used were on hand to introduce their designs and give helpful hints for their successful use.

That afternoon, Dr. **Steve Byrnes** gave a lecture/discussion on mini-scleral lenses and clinical pearls for their use. He presented a number of unique cases to show the power and potential of these lenses. The group then took tours of both the UAB Eye Care Clinic and the Vision Science Research Center.

The group then returned to the hotel for a wonderful dinner and Night Putting at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course. The "Cornea Huskers" (Neil Pence, Chris Snyder, Harue Marsden, Randy Sakamoto, Phyllis Andrejko, Gina Sorbara, Aaron Zimmerman, and Katie Clore) won the putting competition for the evening.



Alan McKee, OD, observes a putt

Saturday morning Dr. **Aurora Denial**, editor of *Optometric Education*, lectured on the role of “teaching” case reports in the journal and in our institutions. Dr. **Jason Nichols**, editor of *Contact Lens Spectrum*, gave the group an update on “Global Trends in Contact Lenses.” Both lectures were very informative and greatly enhanced the program.

Following these lectures was a roundtable/small group discussion of large diameter lens fitting pearls. Each team of 6 wrote a list of their top ten tips or strategies and then shared them with the whole group. There were some great ideas shared and Drs. Sindt and Byrnes were on hand to provide even more insight into these lens designs.



Terry Scheid (SUNY), contemplates Step I

In the afternoon, groups split up and had choices of shopping or tours of either the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute or Tannehill State Park (site of iron production during the Civil War).



In the evening everyone got together again for a wonderful dinner at the Gardens Café Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The grounds of the Gardens are beautiful and provided a lovely backdrop for the last evening together before departing the next morning.

All in all, another highly successful workshop and a fantastic job by the fine folks at UAB! Thanks for hosting!



### A Thank You Note to AOCLE:

Thank you to the sponsors, the UAB planning team, and the AOCLE executive committee for inviting me to my first AOCLE meeting. I was surprised by the amount of collaboration between the optometry schools to provide consistent contact lens education to students and to promote healthy contact lens habits to the public. The Large Diameter Lens Workshop was extremely useful and I look forward to trying new lens designs with patients. I enjoyed the night putting golf game (Go Anterior Chamber Packers!) and all the wonderful conversations with other educators and sponsors throughout the three days. Thank you again for allowing me to be part of this wonderful meeting.

--Annie Chang, OD (shown below with past AOCLE Chair, ETTY BITTON, OD)  
Southern California College of Optometry



### Sponsors for the 2010 AOCLE Workshop

We would also like to thank our corporate sponsors who attended the meetings and provided support for the event. We also appreciate the informative presentations updating the educators on the latest developments. The following is a list of our sponsors:

**Abbott Medical Optics**

Dave Hansen, OD

**Acculens**

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Dennis Pardo, OD

**X-Cel Contacts**

Linda Glover

Mark Parker

**2011 AOCLE Workshop in Philadelphia**

The 2011 AOCLE Workshop will be held from June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia, hosted by Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. Invitations will be mailed shortly after the New Year to the respective Deans of the schools and college members of AOCLE, for names of two participant contact lens educators from each program. Industry supporters of the AOCLE and contact lens education will also be in attendance. This year's workshop is entitled "Cornea-Cornea-Cornea...and Contact Lenses Too" so you can expect a program that will be emphasizing corneal disease and surgical

procedures, as well as post-surgical contact lens fitting. We will also have contact lens education topics for group instruction and interaction. We have a top-notch group of clinicians and educators, including contact lens diplomates and a corneal sub-specialist to bring you up-to-date on contact lens fitting options, new treatments for keratoconus, and new developments in corneal transplant surgery.

AOCLE attendees will be staying at the Omni Hotel at Independence Park, in the historic district of Philadelphia, so be prepared for some lessons in American History, as well as good Philly Phare, entertainment, and the famous (...or infamous) contact lens educator camaraderie.

-AOCLE Workshop Chair: Joel Silbert, OD

**AOCLE CL Pocket Guide Update****A Thank You Note to AOCLE**

Dr. Etty Bitton,

On behalf of the Indiana University's School of Optometry's Class of 2012:

Thank you so much for the contact lens booklets. I'm sure they will come in very helpful when fitting patients in clinic! The toric lens marking will definitely help when new patients can not remember the lens they are currently wearing. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Emilie Jennings and Peter Koerner  
Class 2012 Class Representatives  
Indiana University  
School of Optometry

**ERRATUM:** Please note that under the acknowledgement section of the 3rd edition of the AOCLE Contact Lens Clinical Pocket guide, Dr. Christine Sindt was incorrectly identified as being from Chicago, when in fact it should have read Iowa. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

### AOA Contact Lens Topics Summary

AOA Meeting in Orlando Contact Lenses and Anterior Segment Topics discussed at various CL seminars & round tables, by Bill Edmondson:

Bausch + Lomb Early Vision Institute.

Our own Dr. Joe Barr announced a new global partnership aimed at conquering pediatric cataract between the Bausch + Lomb Early Vision Institute and Lions Clubs International Foundation. Together they will combine resources to identify, fund and promote programs to overcome this issue. During the first year, the Initiative's primary focus will be on the People's Republic of China, where at least 40,000 children are estimated to suffer from congenital & pediatric cataracts. Joe told us that he would keep us informed of specific aphakic lens designs & materials as they are developed. Hats off to Joe & Bausch & Lomb for this humanitarian effort.

Adopt a Patient Program – by CooperVision, Inc.

Also, a tip of the hat to CooperVision for providing this fantastic opportunity to help patients in need. I asked Mark Andre to summarize the Adopt a Patient program

Mark Andre says that, "Adopt a Patient" is intended to be a positive contact lens fitting experience for Optometry students in their third and/or fourth year. The program should also benefit prospective contact lens patients that are

otherwise unable to afford contact lenses. This program should provide the student an opportunity for an additional "hands on" fitting experience that would otherwise have been prevented by the patient's lack of resources.

Each school is allowed a complimentary year's supply of lenses for well deserving, low income patients in their community. The number of patients that each school is allowed will depend on the number of students in the third year class. The school will be given complimentary lenses for one patient for every third year student. The only lenses excluded from the program are those with opaque or enhancing tints.

Each third year student is encouraged to "adopt" a deserving patient into the program, fit them with CooperVision soft contact lenses, and follow them up during their clinic time at the school. Patients can be re-adopted after a year by a student from the next year's class. The primary target audience is for teenage patients that would greatly benefit from contact lens wear, but can't afford the cost of the contact lenses. CooperVision will not restrict patients that are older, but instead leave recruitment up to the discretion of the course or clinic supervisor.

Lenses can be ordered by E-mail or fax from CooperVision using a form designed specifically for this program. This form identifies the order as lenses for a patient in the Adopt a Patient program. It will allow CooperVision to track the patients from each school and prevent charging the school's account for the lenses.

When I asked Mark, he said exam fees, fitting fees and follow up care will be determined by each school. Most schools have a sliding scale for clinic fees that can be adapted for this program.

I know that that Alan, Latricia, & Earlena at the Oklahoma College of Optometry and Judy at U of Houston have been able integrate the program into their course work to not only provide care for patients, but to also provide students extra contact lens experience, including caring for presbyopic patients.

### School News **ICO**

ICO faculty member, **Jan Jurkus, OD**, participated in a special symposium: "Not a Dry Eye in the House", honoring the accomplishments of Professor Alan Tomlinson. The event was held at the Glasgow Caledonian University in Glasgow, Scotland. Although Ed Bennett could not attend, his videotaped greetings were greatly enjoyed.

### **IUSO**

Dr. Joseph A. Bonanno was named the third dean of the Indiana University School of Optometry this fall. Dr. Bonanno, the School of Optometry's executive associate dean for academic affairs and student administration, came to IU in 1998 from a professorship at the University of California Berkeley School of Optometry. A teacher of biochemistry and physiology, Bonanno has focused his research primarily on the ion and fluid transport properties of the corneal endothelium and on corneal metabolic activity in humans for the past 18 years. (From an IU news release)

### **NECO**

Dr. **Clifford Scott** was recently inaugurated as the 12<sup>th</sup> President of NECO.

### **SCO**

**John Mark Jackson, OD, MS** was recently named Teacher of the Year by the Class of 2013 and by Beta Sigma Kappa. He also received the

“Outstanding Faculty Award” selected by the Faculty.

### UHCO

*Contact Lens and Anterior Segment Update*, (CLASU), by **William L. Miller**, OD, PhD, FAAO, Editor, is a new bi-monthly electronic publication sponsored by Bausch & Lomb and published by Anadem Publishing.

In *CLASU*, Dr. Miller applies current clinical thinking, reflected in literature abstracts of the most up-to-date studies, to the practice of vision care, specifically targeting contact lenses, the ocular surface, pharmaceutical treatment of disease and evolving refractive correction technologies. Helpful caveats from each abstracted citation will be provided along with bulleted key points from each article.

Dr. Miller intends *CLASU* to serve as a convenient adjunct to aid current, busy residents and students (future practitioners) in providing full and current clinical care. This service will augment each resident’s and student’s learning experience and allow for future discussions between them and their respective mentors. (From CLASU Update)

### UMSL

**Ed Bennett**, OD, MS, was recently named Assistant Dean for Student Services and Alumni Relations.

### University of Waterloo

Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce today that Dr. **Lyndon Jones** has been named to be the next Director of our internationally renowned Centre for Contact Lens Research. Dr. Jones will take over the reins from Founding Director, Dr. **Des Fonn**, who is

retiring as of January 1, 2011. The press release that has gone out today to optometric media outlets is attached.

As a reminder, there will be an event at the upcoming AAO meeting to honour Dr. Fonn’s long and illustrious career at 7 PM on November 18th in the Grand Ballroom A of the Intercontinental Hotel in San Francisco.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Jones on his appointment and Dr. Fonn on the culmination of an outstanding career.

Thomas F. Freddo, O.D., Ph.D., F.A.A.O.  
Professor and Director  
School of Optometry  
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