



ASSOCIATION  
OF OPTOMETRIC  
CONTACT LENS  
EDUCATORS

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August 2006  
Newsletter #25

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### Montreal Workshop Summary

The École d'optométrie, Université de Montréal was this year's host of the AOCLE Workshop. Topics included Aberrometry, eLearning, and Immersive Reality and Virtuality.

### AOCLE Officers

New officers were elected at the Montreal Workshop, and the editors of the AOCLE Newsletter have changed.

### Preview of Berkley Workshop

The 2007 Workshop will be hosted by the University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry on Aug 2-5, 2007. Note the change in time of year.

### IACLE INFO

News on the IACLE Student Trial Examination, IACLE Contact Lens Course and Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting.

### Educator Meetings

Reports from the CibaVision Meeting held in the spring in San Antonio, Texas and the Bausch & Lomb meeting held in the summer in Rochester, New York.

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oxygen issue for most of our patients, but adverse solution interactions are much more common now. Gas permeable lens materials are better than ever, but that market keeps on shrinking. And 1800Contacts keeps pounding away, trying to corner the market on contact lens sales.

As contact lens educators, we must not only keep up with market changes, we must continue to be the leaders in shaping the contact lens field.

I look forward to working with my Executive Committee - Etty Bitton, John Corzine, and Vinita Henry - as well as our colleagues at all the optometry schools to continue to move our contact lens education programs forward. I hope to see you all at upcoming meetings and at our Annual Workshop next year. Until then, I welcome your input on how AOCLE can better help all of us educate the next generation of contact lens practitioners. Have a great Fall!

Ron Watanabe  
Chair, AOCLE



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Message from the Chair

Change is a good thing, but it is not always easy. Recently, I became a father again, changed jobs, and became AOCLE Chair.

I really love my two daughters and enjoy my time with them, but as you parents out there know, when you have a toddler and a newborn, chaos is more the rule than the exception. And going from a guaranteed salaried full-time faculty position to private practice where your income is variable is exciting but scary. As is becoming AOCLE Chair. (By the way, I am still at NECO half-time.)

The contact lens industry is going through a lot of changes right now, and though these changes are exciting and will surely benefit our patients, they are not always easy and straightforward.

Silicone hydrogels are a technological breakthrough that seem to have solved the

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## 2006 AOCLE Workshop Summary



The 2006 AOCLE Workshop was hosted by the wonderful folks at the University of Montreal School of Optometry. This year's theme was officially "Aberrometry, eLearning, and Immersive Reality and Virtuality".

Unofficially, the theme appeared to be "Food, Food, and More Food"! This meeting could not have been more well-planned and enjoyable!

We are grateful to everyone at Montreal for an outstanding meeting and good time, and special recognition goes to Etty Bitton for all her hard work and dedication to making this meeting what it was.

Workshop participants were housed in beautiful Old Montreal, just around the corner from the Notre Dame Basilica. The weather was very pleasant and allowed for a great deal of sightseeing and shopping in this beautiful, historic city.

We visited such sites as the Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum and Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel (where we had a wonderful wine and cheese event organized by Langis Michaud), St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, took a tour of the University of Montreal Campus, and even took a ride on the Montreal Metro subway system. Did we mention how much we ate?? The dining was phenomenal!



### Meeting Opener

Our first evening we had a wonderful dinner at the Auberge Le Saint-Gabriel, the oldest inn in North America and now a part of the Spring Hill Suites Marriott. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of optometry in Quebec, and to celebrate we had a very informative presentation on optometric history and warm welcome to Montreal by Jacques Gresset, Director of the School of Optometry.

### Meeting Highlights

As much as we enjoyed the hospitality, we were in Montreal to learn some things, too! Our workshop day began with a tour of the School of Optometry and presentations about its history, academic programs, and research endeavors.

The school has exceptional facilities and state-of-the-art information services to prepare its students for 21<sup>st</sup> century optometric practice.

The School's research program is broad-scoped, with emphasis in both basic and clinical sciences. We were able to visit several of the research labs and discuss research interests with the faculty. Overall, it was a very exciting introduction to the school's programs.

In the afternoon there were several sessions addressing the topics of this year's theme. Daniel Brazeau and Neil Hodur gave a very nice overview of our current understanding of ocular aberrations. The discussion included modern instrumentation and methods to measure ocular aberrations, theoretical and practical methods of correction for aberrations, and current research in using contact lenses for this purpose.

A second session addressed eLearning. This session was led by Langis Michaud and Guy Gagnon. The School of Optometry also has the responsibility of providing continuing education to Canadian optometrists. To that end, they have initiated an online CE curriculum using Macromedia Breeze services. This integrated software and hardware package provides for very robust online education and meetings. CE courses can be presented as PowerPoint presentations as well as audio and video recordings of lecturers. Courses can be passive (one person viewing material) or active (several participants in a class). Overall, this system allows for a very streamlined and powerful delivery of education.

Turning to "virtuality", workshop participants got to experience the CAVE, a virtual-reality room. Jocelyn Faubert gave us an introduction to this fascinating technology. Notably, the school was the first in the world with a setup of this kind.



Its primary use is in visual perception research, but has uses in areas beyond vision science.

Participants donned 3-D glasses and lost themselves in this virtual environment, experiencing several different virtual “scenes”...some people were even chased by bees! It was a very powerful demonstration of the level of research conducted in Montreal.



In a final session, participants were introduced to the AOCLE Contact Lens Clinical Pocket Guide. This handy lab-coat reference was designed to help students keep track of the enormous amount of information about modern contact lens practice in an easy-to-use format. It includes sections with conversion charts, soft and rigid lens fitting and assessment, soft lens replacement schedules, soft toric lens markings, contact lens solutions, history-taking, specialty lenses, and more. These guides were distributed at the meeting for junior and senior students at all of the schools and colleges of optometry. Thanks to all those who worked very hard to make this guide possible!



We also want to thank our corporate sponsors for their generous support of the 2006 AOCLE Workshop. The sponsors gave some very informative presentations that will no doubt enhance our students’ education and clinical training. The following is a list of our corporate sponsors and their websites.

**Advanced Medical Optics**

Dr. Dennis Pardo  
[dpardo@theratears.com](mailto:dpardo@theratears.com)

**Alcon Laboratories**

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### **Business Meeting**

There were three new attendees to the meeting. Zoanne Schinas served as AOCLE representative from NOVA. The George Mertz Travel Award recipients were Jason Chin (NECO) and Josh Lotoczky (MCO).

Highlights from the business meeting include a report from Harue Marsden regarding ongoing work to define minimum competency in contact lens skills for new OD graduates. Rick Spinell presented the results of a survey of the schools regarding contact lens lab course content.

New officers elected were: Ron Watanbe (Chair), Etty Bitton (Vice-Chair), Vinita Henry (Secretary), and John Corzine (Treasurer). The Communications Committee also experienced a change. After many, many years of hard work on the AOCLE Newsletter, Bill Edmondson and Latricia Pack formally stepped down as co-editors of the AOCLE Newsletter. Susan Kovacich and John Mark Jackson have volunteered for a two year stint as co-editors. Bill and Latricia are to be thanked for the excellent newsletter that they produced, and they will be a hard act to follow! Please forward information of interest to the AOCLE to the email addresses of the new editors.

### **Cult of Personality**

Icing on the cake for this great meeting was a presentation by Mr. Gale Stoner regarding personality traits of the attendees. Meeting participants completed a web-based survey before the meeting and Mr. Stoner presented the results. We had a very lively discussion about how personality affects how people interact and work together.



### **2007 AOCLE Workshop Preview**

The latest news on the 2007 Workshop to be hosted by the University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry is that it will be at a different time of the year (the first week of August) and that the host hotel will be the Berkeley Marina Doubletree: <http://www.berkeleymarina.doubletree.com>. More information will be in the next newsletter.

### **IACLE INFO**

#### **IACLE STUDENT TRIAL EXAMINATION**

The STE is intended to serve as a good trial exercise for students before sitting for their final contact lens exams as it assists them in assessing their area of expertise as well as identifying any areas where they may lack knowledge.

The University of Waterloo has held the exam for graduating students prior to their national board exams, for the past two years. The response has been very positive as the students used their results to identify areas where further study was required.

In 2005, the exam was also held at the Pacific University College of Optometry and the Illinois College of Optometry.

To register your institution for this exam or to find out more information please visit their website at [http://www.iacle.org/education\\_page/programs/student\\_trial\\_examination.asp](http://www.iacle.org/education_page/programs/student_trial_examination.asp)

#### **IACLE CONTACT LENS COURSE**

The IACLE Contact Lens Course is a comprehensive 10-module curriculum, which is packaged to provide lectures (text, diagram and/or picture slides and related notes), practical sessions (discussion topics and exercises), and tutorials (quizzes and reading materials).

Now available only in CD-ROM format, educators and students have access to a printable version of the full-text module, as well as color images and slides, which provide excellent visual representations that can be included in lectures and will enhance the learning experience.

Using the modules as a student textbook has become very popular world-wide. In North America, the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry has been using the IACLE Contact Lens Course as a required textbook for their 3<sup>rd</sup> year optometry students since approximately 1998.

For information about the Course content and pricing, please visit the IACLE website at [http://www.iacle.org/education\\_page/programs/contact\\_lens\\_course.asp](http://www.iacle.org/education_page/programs/contact_lens_course.asp)

### **IACLE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING**

The Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting will be taking place at the LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India on 19 – 23 August 2006. AOCLE members Gina Sorbara, Desmond Fonn and Meng Lin will be attending the meeting. If you are interested in participating in IACLE programs, purchasing the IACLE Contact Lens Course or have any questions, please contact Anita Fonn, North American Liaison for IACLE at [anita@scimail.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:anita@scimail.uwaterloo.ca).

### Campus News

#### **NSU-OCO**

NSU-OCO is seeking applicants for a faculty position with an emphasis in primary care, binocular vision, and vision therapy. This position will include classroom and clinical teaching duties and may include some administrative duties. They are also seeking applicants for a clinical faculty position in an affiliated Rural Eye Clinic. This clinic provides primary eye care services to a Native American population. Please direct questions concerning either position to: Douglas K. Penisten, O.D., Ph.D., Associate Dean, (918)456-5511, Ext. 4025.

#### **ICO**

Jan Scharre is stepping down as dean of ICO as of June 30, 2007. She has been dean of the college for the past 10 years. Dr. Scharre plans on doing a sabbatical and then returning to teach in the Pediatric and Binocular Vision Department.

ICO is currently looking for a full time faculty member to teach in the Cornea and Contact Lens Department and in Primary Care Clinic. Anyone interested can contact Associate Dean Dr. Bruce Teitelbaum at [bteitelb@ico.edu](mailto:bteitelb@ico.edu).

### Educator Meetings

#### **CIBA VISION Educator's Meeting**

In March CIBA hosted a special educator's edition of their series of seminars titled "The Silicone Hydrogel Revolution". Over 100 optometric educators, residents, and fourth year optometry students gathered in San Antonio, Texas for the educational program.

Presentations included:

- A review of the introduction and development of silicone hydrogel lenses by Rick Weisbarth and Rex Ghormley

- A discussion of the material properties of silicone hydrogel lenses and the clinical implications of those properties as well as those of lens solutions by Lyndon Jones (as well as informative data relating to the ability of males to multi-task).

- A discussion of the clinical performance of silicone hydrogels, and excellent fitting pearls by Des Fonn

- A review and update on the latest research relating to silicone hydrogel lenses by Debbie Sweeney (and all participants received a copy of the second edition of Silicone Hydrogels by Butterworth/Heinemann and edited by Dr. Sweeney)

- A panel discussion utilizing three Texas practitioners who related their experiences with silicone hydrogel lenses, moderated by Dr. Ghormley

- A discussion of the diagnosis and management of a number of contact lens complications by Dr.s Fonn and Sweeney

- A wrap-up and overview by Dwight Ackerman

After the symposium, many of the contact lens educators remained in San Antonio for an educator's meeting hosted by Kevin Roe and Suzanne Nylander. It provided an opportunity to hear about CIBA's newest introductions and plans for the future, as well as many excellent opportunities for discussion and feedback. Participants also reviewed a number of findings from the three year post-market study for Night & Day contact lenses and continuous wear. Sally Dillehay also presented an overview of an extensive review of all research relating to corneal oxygen demand. Copies of these presentations were provided to participants, so educators unable to attend might be able to obtain these items from those members of their institution that were present.

Educators at this meeting also got an opportunity to enjoy the San Antonio Riverwalk area, where we gathered for dinner one evening. The meeting also provided an opportunity for persons to demonstrate their photographic abilities, including self-portraits (i.e. Bill). Scrapbooking skills were also put to the test, with the end result being a unique "map" of Texas (note from Neil Pence: "Our group rocked!").





***Bausch & Lomb 2006 Educator Meeting:  
Pathway to Innovation***

In July, Bausch & Lomb hosted educators from optometry schools across North America at the Rochester, New York World Headquarters. New product developments wear and care issues in contact lenses, new lens designs and GP lens initiatives were discussed.

Presentations included:

- An overview of R&D by Brian Levy
- A comprehensive review of contact lens design with emphasis on perfecting vision by Gerald Cairns
- A discussion on wear and care in contact lenses by Jerry Warner
- A tour of the Optics Center
- A GP lens presentation by Lin Quio
- A Pharmaceutical Update by Tim Comstock

One of the highlights of the meeting was the unveiling of a beta test version of the Educator Community Website. Mike Pier, Craig Norman and Dawn Sevene helped walk the participants through the website and Kathleen Catrall facilitated input by the school representatives on the ways that educators could utilize this technology.

Mike Pier, Director of Professional Relations - Vision Care, says "The Educator Community Website was designed to provide tools that will aid the teaching missions of the educators of future optometrists. This site will provide slides, videos, white papers and other scientific articles, plus a dedicated ordering section for B&L lenses, lens care products and teaching supplies. This site will continually evolve with new content added monthly plus blog space for discussion of pertinent contact lens subjects."

The Educator Community Website went "live" on September 8, 2006. If you haven't received

information on how to login to this site please contact Dr. Pier at [Michael\\_D\\_Pier@bausch.com](mailto:Michael_D_Pier@bausch.com).

Although no one has offered photo-documentation, the group was treated to a baseball game on Saturday night featuring the hometown Rochester Redwings. The evening was made even more interesting by the fact that the Guinness Book of Records people were on hand to record 5,000 fans in the stadium simultaneously wearing Groucho Marx glasses/noses/mustache for a certain period of time. Many AOCLE members participated in this potentially historic event.



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