



**ASSOCIATION  
OF OPTOMETRIC  
CONTACT LENS  
EDUCATORS**

**November 2002  
Newsletter #18**

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### ***I Love New York !***

The 2002 annual AOCLE workshop was held on May 30th to June 2nd in vibrant New York City ! Amongst numerous activities, attendees were introduced to SUNY's College of Optometry new location (on 42nd street), residency programs at the school and a taste of New York city nightlife. AOCLE would like to thank the SUNY faculty especially those of the contact lens department for the organization of this year's workshop.

### ***AOCLE Directory***

Over the years, the AOCLE directory has become a valuable networking tool. In an effort to improve this resource and to decrease the length of this electronic newsletter, the directory will be placed on the AOCLE website. The Directory icon will link you directly to the continually updated pdf file. We hope you continue to find this resource useful.

### ***In Memorium...***

Sad news hit the contact lens community this year when we received news of the passing of friend and colleague, Duane Tracy Director of Professional Services, Conforma CL & Dow Corning Ophthalmics) and Dr. George Mertz (Director of Academic and Clinical Affairs at Vistakon). A tribute to George is provided by friend and colleague, Dr. Stan Yamane.

### ***New CL Database for Educators and more !***

A new vision science database is available for CL educators entitled Vision Science Reference Database, launched by the collaborative effort of the CCLR and Bausch & Lomb. Find out how this can help your (as well as your student's) on-line searches !

### ***First AOCLE electronic newsletter !***

In order to be more efficient and reduce production costs, we welcome you to the first electronic newsletter. Back issues are available as PDF files on the AOCLE website ([www.aocle.org](http://www.aocle.org)). Happy reading!

### ***IACLE at AOCLE***

IACLE representatives were in attendance at the 2002 annual workshop in NYC. Eef van der Worp from the Netherlands and Fady Geagea from Lebanon. Find out their impressions as first time attendees.

### ***New AOCLE Officers !***

Elections for new AOCLE Officers were held in conjunction with the annual workshop held in New York. AOCLE thanks past chair, Dr. Gary Gunderson (ICO) and welcomes the new board for the 2002-2004 term.

## From the chair



As many of you know, a new slate of AOCLE officers was elected at the New York workshop, and they are shown on this page. I am grateful to have such exceptional people serving on the executive committee. Many thanks also to our hosts from

SUNY for that workshop, which is recapped in this newsletter. Thanks also to Gary Gunderson, and all past chairs for their service to AOCLE. Their standards of service set a high level for all of us to shoot for.

Upon assuming the post of chair, one naturally reflects on what AOCLE has meant and hopefully what it can mean in the future. It has been a great resource of information and ideas which can make us better educators in clinical and didactic settings. The workshops have educated us all in a wide variety of ways, and by making us better teachers, have surely enhanced the contact lens education of several generations of interns. The newsletters, web site, CD's and videos AOCLE has produced or assisted with have served to educate students and practitioners alike. All of this has been done through the hard work of many members, and with the strong support of our industry sponsors and friends.

That last word – friends – may best describe what I think of first and foremost when reflecting on many years of AOCLE involvement. Many wonderful friendships have been formed over the years, and I thank all of you for that. I look forward to continuing these, and developing even more.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we reflect on the passing of one of these friends this fall. Please join us in fondly remembering George Mertz, as we read the tribute found herein. George was indeed a great friend of AOCLE, and of us individually, and will be sorely missed.

## 2002-2004 Officers

Elections for new AOCLE officers were held at the annual business meeting, held in conjunction with the annual workshop in New York City (June 2002). New Officers for the 2002-2004 term are:



Chair: Neil Pence, OD  
Indiana University  
College of Optometry  
Tel (812) 855-5446  
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pence@indiana.edu

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Secretary: Etty Bitton, OD, MSc  
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etty.bitton@umontreal.ca

Treasurer: Ron Watanabe, OD  
New England College of Optometry  
New England Eye Institute (NEEI)  
Tel (617) 236-6249  
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Immediate past-chair: Gary Gunderson, OD, MS  
Illinois College of Optometry  
Tel (312) 949-7315  
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### Communications Committee:

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### Consultant to AOCLE:

Les Caplan, OD, MEd  
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The AOCLE thanks the previous AOCLE Officers and congratulates the new 2002-2004 Officers.

## Workshop 2002: NYC

New York City ! Wow ! What a city, what energy ! NYC was the site for this year's AOCLE annual workshop and our hosts were the folks at the State University of New York (SUNY), School of Optometry. Drs. Terry Scheid, Evan Kaplan, Ralph Gundel and David Libassi were part of the organizing team for the workshop and we would like to thank them and the College for yet another interesting workshop.



Dr. Alden Haffner had an opening address and welcomed the attendees to the SUNY College of Optometry and to New York.



Drs. Terry Scheid and Evan Kaplan were part of the organizing committee for the annual workshop.

## Residency Training and Recruitment



Dr. Diane Adamczyk, Head of Residency and Externship Education at SUNY discussed issues on training and recruitment of residencies. She opened up an informal talk on ORMS (Optometric Residency Matching Service) and its impact at different schools/colleges. Attendees were able to exchange their experience

with the ORMS program. Statistics of applicants to the ORMS program reveals a 65.5 % female participation, which is reflective of the tendencies of the profession.

According to statistics, only now being more formally compiled on residencies, the school that has the most students that apply to residencies is SUNY and the school that receives most of the residents is NEWENCO.

According to a survey done on SUNY graduates, some of the top reasons for participating in a residency included experience during an externship rotation, specialty training and advanced development.

Other issues that affected the residency programs were the revised ACOE (American Council on Optometric Education) standard. Several standards need to be met to obtain an accreditation of your residency program. (Goals and Objectives, Administration, Faculty...)

## Library Resources/Technology

Elaine Wells, Library Director and Kadri Niider, webmaster addressed the group and updated the attendees on the resources and technology of the library. The Harold Kohn Vision Science Library at the SUNY College of Optometry is one of the largest vision science library in the country. The library has over 700 full text electronic journals, over 30,000 monographs, over 400 print journals, an extensive collection of audiovisual materials and a comprehensive library website. Attendees were invited to visit the library and browse through the impressive facility.

Some of the services that the library offers include;

- A literature evaluation class: how to locate high quality medical information
- How to evaluate books, articles and websites.
- How to properly reference sources.
- How to utilize med information in clinical decision making

Electronic Databases that are available at the College include;

ScienceDirect, PubMed, VISIONET, PsycINFO, Health Reference Center, NetLibrary and Expanded Academic Index.

On the College's website there is an "e-journal" page which gives you access to electronic full-text journals.



SUNYConnect offers access to all SUNY Library collections (18 million volumes) through common library management systems. Electronic database resources are available at any time and from any place.

The library website offers a gateway to online databases, search engines and a connection to info on statistics, vision science, health and medicine and New York.

[www.sunyopt.edu/library/libhome.shtml](http://www.sunyopt.edu/library/libhome.shtml)



## Custom Lens Fitting



Pat Caroline from Pacific University presented to the attendees a lecture on "Emerging Trends in Contact Lenses", with a special attention on Custom Soft Lens Fitting. He emphasized that one of the most simple measurements in contact lens fitting, the horizontal visible iris diameter (HVID), has a tremendous influence, along with the sagittal depth, on the final lens selection

and ultimately on the success of the lens fit.

Studies have revealed that the average HVID is 11.8 mm. For those corneas that have an HVID larger than 11.8, it is suggested that for every 0.2mm larger, one should add 1D to the K's. Similarly, for corneas smaller than 11.8mm, subtract 1 D for every 0.2 mm reduction in size.

ex. Large Cornea

Flat K= 41.00

HVID = 13.0 mm, 1.2 mm more than 11.8 mm  
add 6.00 D ( 1 D for every 0.2 mm)

Effective K = 47.00 = **7.18**

Lens Diameter Selection = 15.0 (1 mm on each side of the cornea, hence 13.00mm + 2mm = 15.00 mm)

Diameter Fit Factor (see table) **1.10 mm**

Final Base Curve: **8.28 mm** (~ 8.3 mm)

Final Lens choice: Diameter: 15.0 mm  
Base Curve: 8.3 mm

### So remember LASS = Larger -Add, Smaller-Subtract

The fit factor tables are based on sagittal height calculations of the cornea only. Other anatomical factors must also be considered when selecting the appropriate base curve radius, these include such features as scleral radius and

eccentricity. This is especially true with smaller diameter corneas which may have a significantly steeper scleral curvature thereby necessitating a steeper than anticipated lens radius.

### Fit Factor Table

<u>Lens Diameter</u>	<u>Fit Flatter by:</u>
12.5 mm	0.10 mm
13.0	0.30
13.5	0.50
14.0	0.70
14.5	0.90
<u>15.0</u>	<u>1.10</u>
15.5	1.30
16.0	1.50
16.5	1.70

Hence HVID measurements has a tremendous effect in the selection of the final lens, often custom made, to fit the larger or smaller corneas. Fitting guides are often based on average corneal measurements, although some have made adjustments to their fitting guides. ToriTrack from CooperVision is a program that helps you calculate the effective measurements of the lens and facilitate lens selection. Corneal diameters can be measured using rulers designed for that purpose or using an eyepiece on the slit lamp that houses a reticule.

Caroline also shared some clinical pearls of custom lens fitting of keratonic and post-refractive corneas. Paying more attention to the initial prefitting corneal measurements and making appropriate changes to the lens parameters should increase your success with custom lens fitting and improve chair time.

Piggyback Design should be considered, especially with the advent of silicone hydrogels, to resolve some of your custom lens fitting challenges. This modality is unfortunately under-utilized and yet easily accessible. Trial lens sets can be ordered and kept available when the opportunity arises.

Tinted CL for sports have had a renewed interest to enhance the quality and quantity of visual performance. For example a yellow/amber lens is used by baseball players to allow maximum observation of the red threads of a baseball. The Pacific University Baseball Team has tried these sort of lenses and their batting averages is being tracked to see if

these lenses have an effect. Improvement of athlete's performance is very attractive for many sports related industries and companies.

Several companies offer custom soft lens designs and these include but are not limited to;

Innovations in Sight  
Flexlens  
Optech  
Kontur Kontakt Lens  
Continental Soft Lens

## The Prosthetic Eye

Dr. David Libassi, from SUNY, lectured on "Solving prosthetic eye problems. Systemic approach to assessing the state of the prosthetic eye". He covered clinical presentation of signs and symptoms of someone with a prosthetic eye including associated patient history.



Different types of prosthetics (prosthetic eyes and cosmetic scleral shells) were available and different stages of manufacturing could be appreciated by the attendees. Dr. Libassi also covered how to evaluate the state of a prosthetic eye (ie. protein coating, scratches, fractures, crazing, sharp edges, etc).

Dr. Libassi then described the process of cosmetic eye manufacturing from iris positioning and color selection. SUNY offers their CL residents this exclusive opportunity to experience the process and rewards of prosthetic fitting. Dr. Libassi encourages attendees to include something in their courses to represent this exclusive CL fitting niche. Lectures by faculty, ophthalmologists and specialty laboratories can offer experience with this specialty.



Here are some addresses to get you started;

Monoplex Eye Prosthetics (Southbridge, Massachusetts)  
Ocularist: Peter Krazanovicz  
phone: (508) 764-8885

Eye Designs (Tustin, California)  
Ocularist: John Kennedy

American Society of Ocularists (San Francisco, California)  
phone: (415) 221-5765  
website: www.ocularist.org  
journal: Journal of the American Society of Ocularist

American Anaplastology Association  
journal: The Journal of Facial and Somato Prosthetics

Ciba Vision (Des Plaines, IL)  
Special Eyes Program (dot matrix process, soft lens cosmetic)  
phone: (800) 488-6859

Coopervision(Lake Forest, California)  
Prosthetic Soft Lenses  
phone: (800) 341-2020

## Personal Digital Assistants

Melissa Lee, final year student at the SUNY Optometry program updated attendees on "Personal Digital Assistants (PDA). It's role in our Profession". She summarized existing PDAs on the market such as PALM, VISOR and SONY and offered a brief overview of their features.

PDAs can keep us organized and updated on many topics including;

- news
- patient records
- medical dictionaries
- optometric/medical references (ie. Will's Eye Manual, ICD-9 diagnostic codes, AOA guidelines)
- medical references
- drug references (ie. PDR)
- pictures

Many features are available for PDAs such as size (thinner costs more), operating system upgrade, memory (at least 8mb internal), expansion cards (increases memory to 32, 64 or 128 mb), color screens. The price range varies depending on the extras, most are over \$200 US. The best place to keep

updated on these features is at the websites of the companies;

www.palm.com  
www.handspring.com  
www.sonystyle.com/vaio/clie/index.shtml

Tyler's quarterly should be available on a Palm Pilot soon.

## CL Lab Manual Comparisons

Dr. Ralph Gundel, faculty member at SUNY, discussed with the group a brief comparison on lab manual across institutions. Prior to the workshop Dr. Gundel contacted each of the nineteen north american school/college of optometry and compared their CL lab manual. Amongst several comparisons, he compared the number of "hands-on" CI fitting experience at each school. He divided the experience in soft CL and RGP fitting (spherical, toric), multifocal/monovision fitting, ortho-K, semi-sclerals, corneal topography, lens verification, RGP modification, lens care and instruction, work-up and CL selection and Dispensing and Follow-up visits.



Each school/college had its own set of criteria, but across insitutions, spherical RGP lens fitting was devoted the most time (average of 6.8 hours), with lens verification being the second (5.1 hours). The average number of hours for CL labs were between 26-50 hours, depending on the program.

## Prosthetic Lenses

Karen Bator, Manager of Prosthetic Lenses from Novartis discussed the specifics of the Special Eyes Program. This is a non-profit organization that develops and produces prosthetic soft contact lenses to mask ocular disfigurement caused by injury or disease or to aid in treatment of vision disorders. Dr. Terry Scheid (SUNY) and Sharon Teague



(Coopervision) also presented prosthetic CL fitting using Cooper's prosthetic lenses. All three speakers shared their experiences with the attendees on the benefits of this specialized contact lens fitting and the tremendous personal and professional rewards that they have

experienced.

### First Time Attendee

First of all I would like to thank IACLE very much for giving me and Fady the opportunity to participate in the AOCLE meeting (workshop) this year. It was a wonderful experience, with lot's of opportunities.

The content of the lectures was quite different than what normally is provided at the regular IACLE meetings. Especially topics like: resident-programs and industry updates were new. In general I think that when all schools have the same level of education, you can have a more specific approach of topics. With IACLE there is usually a large difference in education, and the goals are therefore completely different, namely trying to get the lesser developed countries in contact lens education to upgrade their knowledge. The level of education at this meeting was high, and highly appreciated by myself.

What I gained for our institution from it is that we will be starting to think about resident-programs at our school. Starting to do (more) research is something that is encouraged at this meeting as well. Furthermore I received useful information about gaining patients for both our clinics and our labs (for instance to fit back toric lenses by students). In addition, comparing contact lens curriculum amongst institutions, as done at this meeting, was very useful to me.

If one thing was most interesting personally at this conference, it sure was meeting other educators. People you normally only read from in the literature, you now have easy access to. Many contacts were made and I am sure it will have a follow up in many cases. Additionally, meeting the people from the (US) industry was also useful.

All together it was just great. The facilities at SUNY are wonderful. I took the opportunity to search for literature in the library. The social program allowed for further networking opportunities. New York is of course a beautiful city (and the weather was also great). But the interaction with the other educators was definitely number one for me.

Kind regards and hope to see you again soon.

Eef van der Worp  
Hogeschool van Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands

## Visiting NYC

Social activities of the workshop included a glimpse of NYC's nightlife including the Broadway show "42nd street", an evening cruise around Manhattan with a guide on board explaining the devastation and rebuilding of the September 11th aftermath and some social time to enjoy some of NYC cultural aspects. Of course a visit to the Big Apple would not be complete without a visit to a NYC Deli for some pastrami and pickles!



## Attendees



Forty six attendees joined the SUNY faculty for the 2002 Workshop. Two international attendees, Eef van der Worp (Netherlands) and Fady Geagea (Lebanon) from IACLE (International Association of Contact Lens Educators) joined the group as well. Thirteen attendees were representatives from industry. Eighteen out of the nineteen Schools/Colleges of Optometry were represented at the 2002 workshop.





Industry Sponsors: Phil Pivnik (Alcon), Sharon Teague (Cooper), Mike Menard (Copper/Biocompatibles), Sally Dillehay (CIBA Vision), Rick Franz (Ocular sciences), the late George Mertz (Vistakon), Rhonda Robinson (consultant for B&L), Dave Sattler (Alcon).

## Industry Sponsors

Several companies sponsored the 2002 Workshop, including, Alcon, Allergan, Bausch & Lomb, CIBA Vision, CooperVision, Ocular Sciences, Vistakon, and X-Cel Contacts. The AOCLE thanks them for their continued support of CL education.



The workshop allocates time for each representative from industry sponsors to update attendees on the latest programs and materials at their respective companies.

This overview of latest developments and academic programs is a valuable part of the workshop for the educators to keep abreast of the

latest technological advancements and teaching tools they can bring to their students and integrate into their respective programs.

Academic development programs often include hands-on workshops, diagnostic lenses for labs, speakers, educational support materials, scholarships, etc.



Contact your representative to find out more about these valuable programs. A list of e-mail and full contact information is found on the AOCLE website ([www.aocle.org](http://www.aocle.org))

## First Time Attendee

It was a very good experience to attend the AOCLE meeting and I would like to share with you some of my impressions;

- 1- The lectures were so interesting covering updated topics in contact lenses, like new RGP fittings and custom soft lenses. I enjoyed the clinical pearls that some of the presenters had to share with the group.
- 2- This meeting was the first to introduce me to residency programs used in the States. I learned how to recruit students for such programs and how to implement these programs in our school. Lebanon follows a European model for optometry, nevertheless, a description of the US residency programs was helpful and made me realize that a similar program should be implemented into our educational system.
- 3- Through the experience of different educators, I learned how to enhance the management of CL labs and improve exposure to specialty CL fits. Some educators suggested dividing the students into different groups and ask each group to be responsible of finding one or more candidates for toric or bitoric RGPs and bring them to the school lab for fitting.
- 4- This meeting was an opportunity to meet other educators and to develop contacts for eventual educational exchanges between institutions.
- 5- Residency programs and continuing education programs are so interesting in the North American systems. The way they are following the results of the different optometry schools is amazing. This serves as an interesting model to use for comparisons across international institutions. What I have learned from data collected from different Optometry schools in North America is that there are varying degrees of experience with spherical, toric and bitoric RGP fitting and even specialty CL fitting. A CL practitioner must strive to continually enhance his/her CL knowledge and experience with new CL modalities.

Fady Geagea  
Lebanon



reported by E. Bitton

Photos for the 2002 workshop were submitted by B. Edmondson, E. van der Worp and E. Bitton

## Workshop Cycle Completed

The 2002 workshop at State University of New York, College of Optometry was the AOCLE's 20th workshop and SUNY became the final school to host a workshop. Except for Waterloo, which had two workshops in conjunction with the World Congress on Contact Lens Education in 1994 and 2000, all the schools and colleges of optometry have hosted one workshop.

As noted in my history of the AOCLE (AOCLE Newsletters 12, Fall 1997 and 13, Spring 1998), "at the annual meeting in Dallas in 1982, several members expressed disappointment with the association's progress and its limited involvement in improving contact lens education in the Schools and Colleges of Optometry. Paul White and Bob Mandell suggested that the association hold a workshop to discuss research and contact lens related problems. A resolution was passed to take steps to develop and plan such a workshop at one of the schools of optometry in the summer of 1983. Berkeley was chosen as the site for the first workshop and Bob Mandell, Michael Harris and Jim Paramore were appointed to the Workshop Committee with Paul White working on the funding, as he had done for other projects since the association's inception. Although a two week workshop was initially suggested, budget limitations resulted in a four day workshop. Funds were received from seven contact lens companies (American Hydron, American Optical, Bausch & Lomb, CIBA, Cooper Vision, Syntex) and in 1983, the first AOCLE Workshop was held at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry, with Contact Lens Research as the primary topic. Slides that had been submitted by the contact lens educators in attendance, for use at this meeting, were later duplicated and distributed to all the schools."

"As a result of the success of this first workshop, it was decided at the 1983 annual meeting in New York City that annual, three to four day workshops should be held, with every school eventually acting as host. Subject matter was to be determined by member recommendations and based on the particular strengths of the host institution. New England College of Optometry volunteered to host the second workshop in Boston in 1984. During the first few years of the workshops it was difficult to get schools to volunteer to be the host school, but by the late eighties, there was fierce competition for future sites. Some schools came prepared not only with school and university promotion materials, but also with brochures from their cities' Visitors

Bureaus." The attached chart lists the workshops, the host institutions and the main topics.

Excitement generated at the workshop was not always limited to the excellent programs, the valuable lines of communication that were established with colleagues and industry representatives and the always enjoyable social activities. Over the years several of the workshops became memorable from unplanned events, such as the hottest June ever in Forest Grove and the infamous Black Walnut Motel, the tornado in Big Rapids, the waterspout in Philadelphia, the mugging in St. Louis and the deluge in Anaheim ("it never rains in Southern California"), and the bus breakdown in Puerto Rico.

The next round of workshops will also begin on the west coast, but not in California. Pacific University, College of Optometry will be the host institution for the 2003 workshop.

There were six attendees at the SUNY workshop who had participated in the first workshop and have been at most of the workshops since then. As pictured, they are Joel Silbert, Les Caplan, Jan Jurkus, Bill Edmondson, Michael Harris, and



Scott Steel. Who will still be there at the completion of the second cycle in 2021? I hope I'll also be invited to that one. After all, I'll only be 97 at the time !

submitted by Les Caplan  
Treasurer Emeritus

Year	Host School	Main Topics
1983	UC Berkeley	Demonstrating and Teaching Contact Lens Related Research
1984	NEWENCO	Teaching Methodologies, Contact Lens Curriculum (evaluating, comparing & improving)
1985	Ferris State	Computer Use in Education (Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Photog. etc.), Video-Discs
1986	Pacific	Innovative Concepts in Contact Lens Education, Research Review
1987	Houston	Computer Applications, PMP & Clinical Simulations, Research Techniques
1988	Indiana	Ocular Microbiology Techniques, Statistics, Video Taping Contact Lens Fitting
1989	PCO	Clinical Assessment Techniques, Procedures in Diagnosis and Management
1990	UAB	Research Techniques, Computer Support Systems, Writing for Publication
1991	UMSL	Audio-Visual Aids, Development of Soft Lens Video Tapes
1992	TOHU	Clinical Teaching Methods, Student Evaluations, Teaching Specialty Lenses
1993	Montreal	Interactive Video, Specular Microscopy, Tear Analysis
1994	Waterloo	First World Congress on Contact Lens Education
1995	SCCO	Teaching Clinical Problem Solving, Providing Effective Supervision to Sturudents
1996	NSU	Therapeutic and Refractive Lasers, Theory and Hands-on Workshop
1997	ICO	Teaching Clinical Concepts in a Didactic Setting
1998	SCO	Exam Writing Skills, Computer Based Patient, Simulations, Library Info. Retrieval Systems
1999	NOVA	Web-page Design, Distance Learning Course Design
2000	Waterloo	Second World Congress on Contact Lens Education
2001	Inter-American	Web-based Course Instructional Tools, Living Library Concepts
2002	SUNY	Residencies, Library Technology, Custom Soft Lenses, Ocular Prosthetics, Lab Manuals



## What's new at other CL organizations ?

### AOA CL & Cornea Section

New Officers were named at the AOA CL and Cornea Section;

Chair: Douglas H. Kay, O.D. (Davis, CA)

Chair-Elect: Carmen F. Castellano, O.D. (St. Louis, MO)

Vice Chair: David B. Seibel, O.D. (St. Louis, MO)

Secretary: Arthur B. Epstein, O.D. (Roslyn, NY)

Immediate Past Chair: P. Douglas Becherer, O.D. (Belleville, IL)

Council Members:

Jack L. Schaeffer, O.D. (Birmingham, AL)

Louise Sclafani, O.D. (Chicago, IL)

Manager: Lila J. Rickard (St. Louis, MO)

### RGPLI

The RGP Lens Institute (RGPLI) has introduced a "Correcting Presbyopia" Laminated Pocket Card which provides the following:

- \* Good GP Bifocal Candidates & Patient Selection
- \* Considerations for GP Bifocal Lens Selection
- \* GP Bifocal Fitting Pearls & Troubleshooting

In addition, our GP Bifocal Fitting and Troubleshooting CD, which is being produced at Indiana University under the direction of Dr. Pete Kollbaum is near completion and may be available by the end of this year.

Our website, [www.rgpli.org](http://www.rgpli.org), now has clinical modules; the first pertains to a comprehensive spherical GP case. This is a hypothetical case with multiple choice questions for the practitioner/student to complete. The goal is to provide opportunities to practice GP fitting and increase the users comfort level. New modules pertaining to GP multifocal and bifocal will be forthcoming soon.

The 4th annual CL resident weekend was held on August 17th and 18th at the University of Houston. This year 25 residents from 17 colleges participated in these two days of intense GP education. Speakers included Keith Ames, Tom Quinn, Ed Bennett and Pat Caroline. Residents also participated in on-eye-lens evaluation workshop stations which included patients wearing spheres, torics, bifocals,

keratoconus and post-surgical GP contact lens fittings.



CL Residents in Houston (photo provided by U. Lotzkat)

#### GP Product Directory

The new issue of the GP Product Directory is out with the October 2002 issue of Contact Lens Spectrum. The most notable change is the name transformation from the RGP Contact Lens, Material and Solution Guide to the GP Product Directory. The name change supports our efforts to change the terminology to reflect the new innovative materials and designs available today. Our goal is to drop the "R" and confusing terms such as "rigid and gas" wherever possible and refer to the current materials as GP (Oxygen Permeable) contact lenses. Additionally, we have included a list of GP accessories. This page lists the brand name of these products, their use (removal, polishing etc.) and color availability.

### AAO- Cornea and CL Section

There are many benefits for AOCLE members as Diplomates of the Cornea and Contact lens Section of the American Academy of Optometry. The process is challenging yet very rewarding. It allows you to enjoy professional growth and goal achievement, recognition of

expanded knowledge and skill in Cornea and Contact Lenses, participation in referral network of qualified colleagues, and camaraderie and fellowship with leaders in our field. Recently several of our colleagues have become Diplomates including Vinita Henry, Jennifer Smythe, and Jan Jurkus.

The clinical diplomate program essentially has five stages: Case Reports, written examination, slide examination, practical, and oral examination. All five processes must be completed successfully to become a diplomate in the Cornea and Contact Lens Section. A more comprehensive overview of these and the other examination requirements are provided in the Candidate's Guide which has recently been revised and is available on the website ([www.aaopt.org](http://www.aaopt.org)) or by contacting Ed Bennett (EBennett@umsl.edu or 314-516-6258). The case reports subchair is Tim Edrington (tedrington@scco.edu); the written examination subchair is Tim McMahon (timomcma@uic.edu); the slide examination subchair is Loretta Szczotka (lbs6@po.cwru.edu), and the practical examination subchair is Joel Silbert (joel@pco.edu).

We might add that the Research Diplomate program has also been quite successful for those individuals who contribute significantly to the field of cornea and contact lenses but who are not in clinical practice and do not provide patient care of any kind and, thus, are unable to meet the qualifications of the clinical diplomate program. This process includes authoring a lengthy scientific paper accompanied by an oral examination. Both the clinical and research tracks are challenging but quite fulfilling.

The section has several activities planned in San Diego to including a reception on Saturday evening (Dec. 14th) from 6:30 to 8:00 (Red Circle Cafe, 420 E. Street, San Diego, CA). Trolleys will run from the Marriott.

Other highlights at the upcoming AAO meeting in San Diego will include the Cornea and CL Section Awards. This year's recipients are;

CL Founder's Award: Robert J. Morrison, OD and Melvin Remba, OD

Max Schapero Award: Des Fonn, Dip. Optom, M. Optom

Congratulations to this year's recipients !

## IACLE

### Accreditation Exam

The latest IACLE Accreditation Examination was held on Friday October 11, 2002 at 53 sites globally and administered in seven different languages to approximately 266 candidates. In addition to English, the exam was available in Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Spanish, Indonesian, Korean and French. The results should be available in November.

Terry Scheid (SUNY) wrote the exam and writes; "The exam was well constructed testing academic and clinical knowledge. There were 150 questions including color images of CL fits and CL and anterior segment complications. The time allotted was more than ample. Read the IACLE modules and rely on your clinical knowledge. Taking the exam is a worthwhile experience."

### Student Trial Exam

The IACLE Student Trial Exam is an intermediate level examination, which is intended to serve as a good trial exercise for students before sitting for their final exams.

The trial exam consists of 100 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), from the following categories:

1. Anatomy and Physiology of the Anterior Eye
2. Design and Management of Contact Lenses
3. Principles of Contact Lens Fitting
4. Patient Examination and Delivery of Contact Lenses
5. Care and Maintenance of Contact Lenses
6. Ocular Responses to Contact Lenses
7. Complications resulting from Contact Lens Wear

Thirty of these 100 questions are Visual Recognition Identification Case Studies (VRICS) questions. These questions, also in multiple-choice form, require the student to recognise/identify a certain type of lens fit or eye condition. A final score of 50% or more for the examination is considered a satisfactory knowledge level.

The confidential results assist students in assessing their areas of expertise, as well as identifying any areas where further study is required. As well, the educators are provided with an indication of the students' weak subject areas allowing them to tailor their teaching accordingly.

In 2001, 685 students in 9 countries sat for the exam, which

was offered in English, Spanish, Chinese, Indonesian and Korean. To date in 2002, 709 students in 10 countries have written the exam with several more administrations planned over the next couple of months. It is encouraging to learn that many of the institutions used the results from the 2001 exams to modify their curriculums and noticed a marked improvement in this year's scores.

IACLE encourages all members to make use of this valuable educational tool. For further information regarding the IACLE Student Trial Exam, please contact the IACLE Secretariat at [iacle@iacle.org](mailto:iacle@iacle.org).

## FDA notification: Cosmetic CL

Recent news stories have implied that the U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) is considering deregulation of cosmetic tinted contact lenses in the same category as mascara and other over-the-counter preparations. The Web notification is available at; [www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/declensenorx.html](http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/declensenorx.html)

Organizations have made representations to the FDA expressing their respective concerns towards the deregulation of plano cosmetic contact lenses, including the American Optometric Association CL and Cornea Section. An excerpt of their press release follows;

Despite many advances, CL are medical devices that require professional care and supervision for safe and effective application. Proper patient selection is critical for the safety of the patient's ocular tissue that can be damaged by lack of oxygen and mechanical disturbance. Not everyone can wear CL. Deregulation bypasses the crucial identification process of the appropriate CL patient. An absence of prescription power does not decrease the risk associated with CL wear.

Modern lens technology and materials provide a wealth of options that allow trained prescribers to precisely fit patients to maximize benefit and minimize risk. Continued federal regulation and enforcement of CL as medical devices is an essential element in protecting the health of our patients.

AOCLE needs to make appropriate representation at regional, state, national and international levels concerning this notification.

## An updated educational tool

The Silicone Hydrogels Website ([www.siliconehydrogels.org](http://www.siliconehydrogels.org)) has a new look!

The elimination of the log-in procedure and the new format will provide our users with easier access to all current and past information. A new feature we have added is the Quick Vote, which asks a question each month pertaining to the editorial. Results can be viewed immediately.

Users are encouraged to submit their comments and questions regarding the website to the Administrator by using the form found by clicking on Contact Us. For those users who wish to submit a question to the moderator, please use the form found in the Q&A section.

## CL Meeting Schedule

As a service to the AOCLE faculty members and friends, we will be happy to make all members aware of Cornea/Contact Lens related meetings throughout the world. Please send your information to the editor.

December 2002:	AAO-Cornea and CL Section Symposium (in conjunction with the AAO annual meeting) (San Deigo, CA)
Jan 23-26, 2003:	The Contact Lens & Eyecare Symposium (CLES), Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando FL ( <a href="http://www.cles.info">www.cles.info</a> )
June 6-8, 2003:	British Contact Lens Association's (BCLA) Annual Clinical Conference (Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel, Brighton, UK)
May 29-June 1, 2003:	AOCLE Annual Workshop hosted by Pacific University (Forest Grove, Oregon)
June 18-22, 2003	AOA-CL and Cornea Section (in conjunction with the AOA annual meeting) (San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA)
Aug. 7-10, 2003	Second Annual Global Orthokeratology Symposium (Sheraton Center, Toronto, Canada)

## Business Meeting

The AOCLE business meeting was held in conjunction with the annual workshop in NYC. Reports from the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Committee were presented to the group.

## Communications Committee

Etty Bitton (Montreal) reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. An electronic address list has been in effect since January 2002 and continues to be a useful resource tool for educators. The list is updated continually and sent to AOCLE every few weeks as well as to the website.

In an attempt to improve even further the exchange amongst educators, abbreviations will be after the person's name on the address list. These abbreviations will identify whether the person is involved in clinic (C), labs (L), didactic courses (D) and research (R). We hope that this will promote more effective communications and collaborations across institutions.

Back issues of the AOCLE Newsletters (#14-17) are now archived on the AOCLE website ([www.aocle.org](http://www.aocle.org)) and can be downloaded as PDF files.

Future newsletter will be completely electronic. (This is the first electronic version!) This will be more cost effective and circulation will be faster than in hard copy. Additional features will include color photographs, video clips and will be in more interactive format. The newsletter has been a valuable resource to AOCLE and other faculty members at varying institutions and organizations. We ask that you help promote this electronic version by forwarding it to your faculty members, administrators, residents and students.

The editors welcome articles and reports from educators and industry representatives. Please share educational tools, CD-ROMS, books, experiences with workshops, etc, with your colleagues. Furthermore, let us know what you think of the new format!

## New CL Database

The Centre for Contact Lens Research (CCLR), in collaboration with Bausch & Lomb, announce the full launch of the "World's Largest Free Online Vision Science Reference Database." The CCLR is a semi-autonomous unit within the School of Optometry at the University of Waterloo, established in 1987.

It is very difficult for practitioners and researchers to keep entirely up to date on the ongoing, rapid changes that occur in the field of contact lenses and external ocular disease management since many the publications that provide useful clinical information are not abstracted by medical databases such as Medline.

In an attempt to provide a comprehensive web-based means of obtaining up-to-the minute information on contact lenses, refractive surgical techniques and external eye disease management the CCLR and Bausch & Lomb have joined forces to jointly develop the "**Vision Science Reference Database**". This project, which has taken two years to complete, provides a priceless resource for clinicians and researchers that will aid in the ongoing challenge of keeping up to date with the continuous advancements in eyecare. The database can be accessed through the homepage for Bausch & Lomb at [www.bausch.com](http://www.bausch.com), under the section for Eye-Care Professionals. Once logged into the Vision Science Reference Database new users will register a username and password and subsequently login using these parameters.

Access to the web-based database, which primarily contains articles published since 1986, is entirely free. The database contains over 30,000 references from over 150 journals, many of which are not abstracted in Medline or any other such database and is updated monthly by a dedicated support team. The custom-written software allows users to produce customized searches, save searches in various collections and can output references directly to database programs such as Reference Manager™ and EndNote™, allowing researchers to use the information when publishing articles or for future reference. The tremendous hard work that was put into creating this database is available to eye-care professionals, educational institutions and vision science researchers worldwide.

-submitted by Lyndon Jones, Associate Director of the CCLR

## Job Opportunities

As a service to the AOCLE faculty members, we will be happy to make all members aware of professional opportunities in the cornea and CL area. We encourage schools/colleges and industry to let us know about professional opportunities and submit them to the newsletter editors. We typically publish the newsletter twice a year.

### Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry Faculty 12-month Tenure Track

The successful applicant will assume duties in patient care and teaching in the clinic, classroom, and laboratories in the area of Cornea/Contact Lenses. Other faculty responsibilities will include scholarly activity, service, and counseling of students. Faculty members have professional responsibilities that may include advising students, orientation, registration of students, participation in University committees, keeping regular posted office hours (which are scheduled at times convenient for students), and participation in traditional functions which have academic significance. Faculty members may be required to teach off-campus.

**Required Qualifications:** Applicants must hold the Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree, have or obtain a Michigan optometry license with TPA certification and be eligible for appointment to the clinical staff of the college. Applicants must also have completed a residency or fellowship program in Cornea/Contact Lenses or have comparable advanced training or experience.

**Preferred Qualifications:** It is important for the candidate to demonstrate a potential to work within a team teaching environment and be willing to develop in the areas of patient care, teaching, scholarly/professional activities, and leadership. In addition, prior teaching experience and an interest and ability in the teaching of optics is strongly preferred.

Send Application Materials to:  
James E. Paramore, OD, FAAO  
Chair, Faculty Recruitment Committee  
Michigan College of Optometry  
1310 Cramer Circle, PEN 402, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Phone: 231-591-3706  
[paramorj@ferris.edu](mailto:paramorj@ferris.edu)

## ***In Memorium***

**I**t is with great sadness that AOCLE has learned that Duane Tracy passed away.

Duane Tracy was an early and a long term supporter of Contact Lens education & AOCLE. Most of us new him first as Director of Professional Services at Conforma Contact Lenses & Dow Corning Ophthalmics with the early silicon elastomer lenses. Later he was in Professional Services at Paragon Ophthalmics. Joe Barr worked with him at Dow Corning.

Donation in lieu of flowers can be sent to:  
Khedive Temple Greenbrier  
645 Woodlake Dr  
Chesapeake, VA 23320  
(757) 420-4950

Cards should go to:  
Priscilla Tracy  
5205 Carolanne Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 53462-3601  
Home: +1 (757) 518-8050

The AOCLE Communications Committee thanks Bill Edmondson (NSU) for relaying this information.

### **GEORGE W. MERTZ, O.D., F.A.A.O., F.I.A.C.L.E.**



We are saddened to report the sudden passing of Dr. George W. Mertz, world renowned optometric researcher and Director of Academic Affairs for VISTAKON, Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. Dr. Mertz passed away on Saturday, September 14, 2002 in Jacksonville, Florida. He was 56 years old.

Dr. Mertz is survived by Jill,

his wife of 21 years; Dr. James Mertz, a younger brother who is a nephrologist in Kansas City, Kansas; and Eileen Leininger, a younger sister who is a teacher in Sheldon, Missouri.

Dr. Mertz graduated from the University of Kansas in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering. He was employed by the Standard Oil Company of California (Chevron) for nearly three years before pursuing optometry as a career.

Dr. Mertz received his Bachelor of Science in Optometry degree (Honors) in 1974 and Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1975. He has been involved in clinical research and professional education programs in the contact lens industry for over 25 years. During his career, Dr. Mertz has held executive management positions at several contact lens manufacturing companies. In 1980, he worked at the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit, University of New South Wales, in Sydney, Australia, where he was involved in landmark research on the ocular physiological response to extended wear soft contact lenses.

Dr. Mertz joined VISTAKON, Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., in 1990 as Manager of Clinical Research/Product Analysis in the Research and Development Division. He had been Director of Academic Affairs in the Professional Affairs Division at VISTAKON Americas for almost 10 years with responsibilities for the company's programs at academic institutions involved in the training of future Eye Care Professionals.

Dr. Mertz was a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Diplomate in its Cornea and Contact Lens Section. He was a charter member of the International Society for Contact Lens Research and participated as a member of numerous other professional organizations. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Optometric Foundation and was currently serving as president of the Foundation. He has published over 25 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has lectured throughout the world on a variety of contact lens-related topics.

-provided by Dr. Stan Yamane

As you probably know George was a very dear friend of AOCLE and he will be missed by so many because he was such a wonderful person and good for our profession. Over the years, George built very close relationships with many contact lens educators. He will be sadly missed.

George loved contact lens education and research. It would be fitting to honor him in a significant way. To that end, a fund is being put together in his honour on behalf of the AOCLE. Ron Watanabe (NEWENCO and Treasurer of AOCLE) has accepted to manage the collection for this fund. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please email your commitment to Ron Watanabe.

Furthermore, at this year's AOCLE poster presented at the AAO meeting in San Diego in December, there will be a mosaic of pictures honoring George.

## ***Erratum***

**I**n the last AOCLE Newsletter (#17, page 1-2), a column was written about the retirement of a founding member, Dr. Les Caplan. It was incorrectly reported that Dr. Caplan was a founding member. The AOCLE began in 1974 and Dr. Caplan attended his first meeting 8 years later. Dr. Caplan has written histories of the AOCLE and the Vision Care Section of APHA (American Public Health Association). It was incorrectly reported that he had written the history of the Association of Clinic Directors and Administrators of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (now an ASCO SIG). The editors of the AOCLE Newsletter apologize for the error.

## ***AOCLE at AAO 2002***

**O**nce again, AOCLE will be presenting a poster at the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Meeting in San Diego (Dec 2002). The presentation is entitled "The AOCLE: Collaborative Efforts in Contact Lens Education" and is scheduled for Thursday (poster board #40). We encourage all to stop by.

### Bausch & Lomb

Jane Beeman left B & L at the end of October 2002 to join a private practice in Rochester. She has enjoyed thirteen wonderful challenging years as a research associate at Polymer Technology/B & L. AOCLE has had a long and close relationship with Jane and we wish her all the best in her practice and we look forward to seeing her in future professional meetings.



B&L is committed to continue mutually beneficial academic programs with the schools and colleges of optometry under the new supervision of newly appointed Director of Professional Relations, Chuck Hess. He can be reached at [chuck.hess@bausch.com](mailto:chuck.hess@bausch.com) or at Tel. 800 338-6000.

### CLMA

The Board of Directors of the Contact Lens Manufacturers Association (CLMA) approved a resolution to revise the name of RGP custom contact lenses because it is often misunderstood in today's contact lens practices. The CLMA believes there is a need to change the terminology to reflect the new innovative materials and designs available today. "We have dropped the confusing terms "rigid and gas" and will now refer to the current materials as GP (Oxygen Permeable) contact lenses. By making an industry-wide, unified effort to consistently use the new terminology, the Association can promote a clear message to both patients and lens care professionals who desire a superior visual and healthier modality for visual correction. For more information on GP (Oxygen Permeable) contact lenses, visit the CLMA website at [www.clma.net](http://www.clma.net).

### NEWENCO

Myhanh Nguyen has joined the faculty at NEWENCO. She is currently involved in Contact Lens and Primary Care clinics, as well as CL labs and lecture. She has also been recently appointed as workshop program coordinator.

Ron Watanabe has also recently received his tenure at NEWENCO. Congratulations !

### ALCON

Opti-Free Express multi-purpose disinfecting solution earned two new labeling claims from the FDA. First, Alcon will add the words "Lasting Comfort" to its labeling, and second, users will be instructed that they

no longer have to rinse their lenses after soaking for at least 6 hours. Opti-Free Express contains Tetricon 1304, which has been proven to attract moisture to the hydrophobic as well as hydrophilic sites on the lens surface. Tetricon 1304 remains on the lens for 24 hours, allowing it to stay comfortable longer. In addition, rinsing after soaking is now an optional step in the contact lens care process. This labeling change gives eye care professionals the flexibility to omit the second rinse if they desire and the reassurance that the product will perform effectively.

### CON-CISE Contact Lens Co.

Con-Cise Contact Lens Co. is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Robert B. Mandell as Director of Research and Development. Dr. Mandell retired recently from the University of California following a distinguished career of teaching and research.

Dr. Mandell has been a consultant to Con-Cise and instrumental in developing many specialty lenses, including the recently introduced Mandell Seamless Bifocal. His broad understanding of all phases of contact lenses, from manufacturing to fitting, will be a great asset to Con-Cise in maintaining its position as the leader in modern contact lens technology.

### BERKELEY

Michael Harris was interviewed by ABC News with Peter Jennings in August on contact lenses and contact lens prescriptions. Michael Harris also recently stepped down as CL clinic chief. John Corzine is now the new CL clinic chief.

### AMO

Advanced Medical Optics Inc. (AMO) was born as a spin off of Allergan's Surgical and Contact Lens Care businesses. The separation of specialty pharmaceuticals from medical device products will enable each company to better address its specific business building strategies and provide resources accordingly. The AMO portfolio includes key brands such as Complete, UltraCare and Lens Plus.

### EyeMagination

The latest in animations for the eye have been added to an already full compendium of ocular animations. Thirteen new refractive surgery animations were added recently to the EyeMagination software. For more information on these

updates, contact Stephen Rosenbaum (e-mail [stephen@eyemaginations.com](mailto:stephen@eyemaginations.com)). Eyemaginations also introduces a new website : [3D-Eye.com](http://3D-Eye.com). Numerous animated videoclips, explanations and treatments are easily explained and can be a valuable teaching tool for students, personnel and patients.

### X-CEL CONTACTS

Linda Glover, Optometry School Liaison for X-Cel Contacts, reminds CL educators of the workshops/presentations available on single vision, multifocal and toric RGP lenses.

### UMSL

Ed Bennet has been promoted to Director of Student Affairs. Vinita Henry has served as Chair of the Faculty as well as Director of the Contact Lens Residency Program.

### CIBA

Dwight Akerman, OD, was promoted to Medical Director and Head of Global Medical Marketing in Switzerland. He is the first optometrist to hold this position. Congratulations Dwight!

CIBA will have a special session at the upcoming AAO meeting which will discuss the latest in research developments and patient management techniques in the area of single-use contact lenses. A panel of experienced practitioners and researchers will look at the newest contact lens technologies with a special emphasis on what it means to your practice and patients. Look for it at the AAO meeting.

### PARAGON

Participation in the Captain Paragon's Treasure Hunt, featuring the HDS Technology family of products, far exceeded expectations and Paragon wishes to thank everyone for their hard work and participation. Paragon HDS 100 and Paragon HDS®, the featured materials of the promotion, are the primary materials of Paragon CRT®. Paragon CRT is the first and only product to receive FDA approval for overnight contact lens corneal reshaping, Corneal Refractive Therapy or CRT. The FDA approval for Paragon CRT was granted in June 2002.

Paragon is launching CRT across the US, and Canada and are planning limited expansion to global markets in 2003.