

AACLE 2026

AACLE is coming to Downers Grove, IL! Bring your teaching ideas and your competitive streak. CCO is hosting a meeting built around active learning in contact lens education, workshops, CE, and a few eye-conic contests! Expect Midwest summer vibes: easy access, big hospitality, and a very green campus. Stay tuned for more details!



Schools with AACLE representatives:



*2026 AACLE Workshop
Midwestern University
Chicago College of Optometry
Downers Grove, IL
June 4-7, 2026*

In this issue:

- Workshop Preview, p. 1
- Campus News, p. 2
- Other News, p. 4
- Industry News, p. 5

Workshop Preview – June 2026

CCO is actively preparing for the upcoming 2026 AOCLE conference led by Dr. Gialousakis and his team (Drs. Conroy, Deligio, and Nadarajah). Faculty and staff are collaborating to develop engaging presentations based on the theme of “Active Learning in Contact Lens Education.” They look forward to welcoming attendees to Downers Grove!



**CCO's AOCLE Planning Team (from L to R):
Drs. Nadarajah, Conroy, Gialousakis, and Deligio**

Here's a quick overview:

Thursday: Welcome barbeque/reception will be held at the Midwestern University campus patio.

Friday: There will be CE lectures in the morning on “Enhancing Clinical Decision-Making and Patient Care Through Evidence-Based Learning Strategies” by Drs. Modica and Gialousakis, followed by afternoon events: a campus tour, and active learning workshops in the form of an escape room, a flipped classroom, and a case investigation.

Saturday: The fun will continue with additional CE - “Strategies for Effective Clinical Teaching” by Dr. Esposito, a clinic tour, and an AOCLE business meeting. Afternoon networking options with sponsors will include a tour of the Morton

Arboretum, Great Big Game Show in Oakbrook, or flexible time for sponsor engagement and professional networking. The evening will conclude with dinner at Violi (modern Greek).

Campus News – Spring 2026

Midwestern University Chicago College of Optometry:

The Chicago College of Optometry has expanded its dry eye clinic by introducing the Equinox® Low-Level Light Therapy (LLLT) device, enhancing its ability to offer a range of treatment options for patients with ocular surface disease. This innovative technology uses targeted light energy to stimulate cellular function, improve meibomian gland activity, and reduce inflammation.

Dr. Vakishan Nadarajah has joined the AOCLE Communications team. He is very excited to be more involved with AOCLE!

Illinois College of Optometry:

The year is off to a strong note for ICO. They are pleased to welcome Dr. Diana Masolak (ICO '25) to the contact lens faculty in a part-time position after completing her residency at ICO.



Dr. Diana Masolak

ICO was well represented at GSLS, with 10 poster presentations and 3 featured presenters, highlighting the depth of their clinical and research expertise. In addition, Dr. Harthan and Dr. Sicks shared their expertise as lecturers at SECO. Meanwhile, the student leadership of the Cornea and Contact Lens Society, together with their faculty mentors, prepared an amazing Spring Contact Lens Symposium—an event that showcases education, collaboration, and student engagement.

Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University:

MCO's 50th Anniversary Gala was held on Saturday, March 28, at the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Nearly 200 friends, alumni, faculty, staff, and students celebrated together. They recognized MCO's first class of students and raised money for their Gold Scholarship Endowment. A live butterfly exhibit enabled participants to wander among a lovely garden as butterflies wafted to and fro!



**Dr. Daniel Taylor presents an award at MCO's
50th Anniversary Gala**

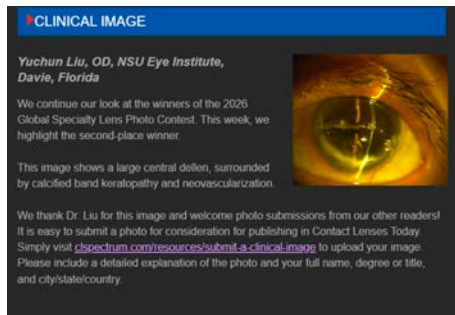
New England College of Optometry:

NECO is excited to be hosting both the 2026 GPLI Cornea and Contact Lens Resident Symposium and the GPLI Specialty Contact Lens Symposium this summer!

Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry:

At the conclusion of this academic year, Dr. Andrea Janoff will be stepping away from her AOCLE activities, including service on the Communications Committee and the LEJ Award Judging Committee, as she prepares for her retirement in early 2027. Andrea has greatly enjoyed collaborating with AOCLE members in many capacities over the years and will sincerely miss the friendships and connections she has built within the organization.

The Contact Lens Faculty at NSUCO is proud to highlight some accomplishments of their past and present Residents (Primary Care with Emphasis in Cornea & Contact Lenses). Dr. Yuchun (Katherine) Liu came in 2nd place in the GSLS Photo Contest.



Dr. Katherine Liu's award-winning photo

Former resident and current faculty member, Dr. Hsuan (Ariel) Chao, gave a lecture at the Asia Pacific Optometric Conference (APOC) in Korea titled "A Shield for the Ocular Surface: Restoring

Daily Comfort with Scleral Lenses in Post-LASIK Evaporative Dry Eye."



Dr. Ariel Chao at the APOC Meeting

Last but not least, Dr. Pooja Alloju is now a self-published author. Using a pseudonym, she published a children's book on Amazon titled "My Eyes Are Unique." Some members may remember Dr. Alloju from the 2022 AOCLE Meeting at NSUCO. She contributed greatly to the creation of the event brochure and other aspects of the program. The artistic streak continues!



Dr. Pooja Alloju's new children's book

Southern College of Optometry:

Dr. Fuller was recognized at the annual staff-faculty recognition awards ceremony for his 30 years of service to Southern College of Optometry. He announced that he will be stepping down as Chief of the Contact Lens Service and reducing his hours on the way toward retirement.



Dr. Daniel Fuller

University of California, Berkeley, Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science:

UC Berkeley's contact lens faculty is proud to announce Dr. Valery Medina as their newest contact lens faculty member. Dr. Medina was born and raised in Costa Mesa, California, graduated from San Diego State University, and then from the UC Berkeley School of Optometry in 2023. The following year, she completed a Fellowship in Medical Contact Lenses at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon, before returning to UC Berkeley as an Assistant Clinical Professor. Dr. Medina sees patients in our internal primary care, myopia control, advanced

cornea & contact lens, and dry eye clinics. She also teaches at the external Berkeley Outpatient Center run in partnership with UCSF. Additionally, she has served as a mentor for several on-campus contact lens workshops. In 2025, Dr. Medina became a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. When not working, she enjoys hiking with friends, kickboxing, tending her garden, fishing, and painting.



Dr. Valery Medina

University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry:

Dr. Vinita Henry, Clinical Professor and Associate Dean of Clinical Operations, will be retiring as of June 1, 2026. It has been a pleasure to work with all her friends and colleagues at AOCLE for 40+ years.



(from L to R): Drs. Katie Clore (UAB), Vinita Henry (UMSL), and the late Judy Perrigin (UHCO) at a past AOCLE meeting.

Dr. Julie DeKinder was awarded the 2026 Thomas J. “Tommy” Pham GPLI-NKCF Keratoconus Practitioner of the Year during the GPLI Rising Stars Reception in Las Vegas.



Dr. Julie DeKinder (left) and Mr. Tommy Pham

AAO CCLRT

The American Academy of Optometry’s Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies (CCLRT) Section is requesting that you please take about 5 minutes to complete [this short survey](#).

Global Specialty Lens Symposium



www.GSLSymposium.com

After nearly two decades with the Global Specialty Lens Symposium (GSLs) Education Committee, Jason J. Nichols, OD, MPH, PhD, is stepping down as Chair. Jennifer S. Fogt, OD, MS, who joined as Vice Chair in 2025, will assume the role. As an Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University College of Optometry, she conducts research, serves in the Contact Lens Clinic, and is an Associate Editor of *Contact Lens Spectrum*.

GSLs will return to Paris Las Vegas on February 3–6, 2027. As a leading specialty contact lens meeting in North America, GSLs attracts eye care professionals and industry leaders worldwide and offers 40+ hours of CE, including workshops, poster sessions, and the latest in specialty lens advancements.

To learn more and sign up for updates, visit www.gslsymposium.com

IACLE

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators was established in 1979 and is a non-profit, non-political association. Its membership is comprised of contact lens educators from all eye care professions, including optometrists, ophthalmologists, opticians, and others, as well as industry representatives involved in education. IACLE has 1134 active members in 89 countries (as of December 2025) and welcomes contact lens educators from all eye care professions and related disciplines.

IACLE is dedicated to raising the standard of contact lens education and promoting the safe use of contact lenses worldwide. It is the leading provider of educational and informational resources essential to contact lens educators. IACLE is supported by leading global contact

lens manufacturers: Gold Sponsor Alcon, Silver Sponsors CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Vision, and Bronze Sponsors Bausch + Lomb, Menicon, Ophtecs, SEED, and Zeiss.

In 2025, IACLE launched an updated version of its Contact Lens Course, featuring contributions from over 90 experts. The year also marked the release of the 100th Research Update, as well as ongoing impact through IACLETOP, its digital learning platform supporting more than 9,000 active users worldwide.

IACLE continues to plan educational events throughout the year for members. Their 11th Virtual Conference was held on Saturday, May 16, and was chaired by IACLE Director and Professor Dr. Lyndon Jones. The theme of the meeting was “Advancing Ocular Surface Science: Insights from TFOS DEWS III.”

To join IACLE, please visit: <https://iacle.org/membership/>

introduced a five-year strategic plan focused on expanding educational impact, enhancing digital infrastructure, strengthening partnerships, growing membership, and ensuring financial stability. Planning is underway for the 2026 GPLI Resident and Specialty Contact Lens Symposia, set for August 5–9 at NECO. GPLI also launched its newest module, “There's a GP Lens Patient in My Chair,” offering a practical guide to supporting the GP patient journey from evaluation to long-term success. See gpli.info for more.



STAPLE Program

www.stapleprogram.com

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The STAPLE (Soft Toric and Presbyopic Lens Experience) program, a collaborative initiative led by Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision, and Johnson & Johnson, has presented over 700 workshops since its inception in 2012. The goal of these workshops is to provide second- and third-year optometry students with general soft contact lens education that will benefit them through a valuable lens-fitting experience in the soft toric and multifocal lens categories.

To schedule an event, contact program administrators, Ursula Lotzkat and/or Jill Lopa. Ursula and Jill look forward to working with you toward the common goal of increasing students' confidence and skills in fitting soft contact lenses!

The GP Lens Institute (GPLI)

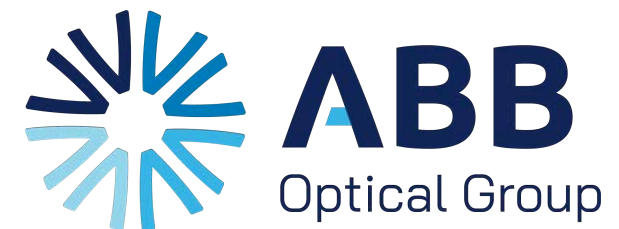


www.GPLI.info

The GP Lens Institute (GPLI) is off to a strong start this year, kicking off with its participation in the Global Specialty Lens Symposium (GSLs), where it also presented its annual awards. Congratulations to Dr. David Libassi, named Educator of the Year. The Board of Directors has



Industry News – Spring 2026



www.abboptical.com

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Cathy Truong - Senior Manager, Specialty and Soft Contact Lens Commercial Operations
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Scleral parameterization creating complications? Take control with DELTA Scleral, an innovative scleral lens with a simplified fitting system designed by Charley Creighton and Jason Jedlicka, OD, FAAO.

Experience exceptional value with HydroPure Multi-Purpose Solution and HydroPure Lubricating Eye Drops, purposefully developed to elevate professional practice, available exclusively from ABB Optical Group.



Congratulations to the 11th Optometry Student Challenge winners: Kaitlyn Nguyen, Heimraj Resaul, and Vincent Vu. Click [here](#) to learn more about their presentations.

Details on the 2026 Optometry Student Challenge are coming soon, including a chance to win a travel grant to Global Specialty Lens Symposium (GSLs) in Las Vegas and the honor of presenting a poster. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Acuity Polymers

www.acuitypolymers.com

Dan Meinert - Commercial Business Manager, Americas
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Acuity Polymers continues to build company awareness amongst specialty contact lens practitioners through ongoing education with doctors, staff, and optometry schools in 2026. Please contact dan.meinert@acuitypolymers.com to set up a time for a training and education session this year.



Acuity 200 remains in a category of its own for scleral lens practitioners, offering the world's first 200 Dk. Acuity 200's unique chemistry and manufacturing process results in a GP material with excellent wettability, durability, and overall flexure resistance. The product pipeline remains strong through R&D, with many projects in the works that will help change the landscape of the GP material space in the years to come.

Alcon

SEE BRILLIANTLY

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Alcon is proud to announce another year of immersive educational programming through the Alcon Experience Academy (AEA) at its global headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas. AEA continues to welcome approximately 500 optometry students annually for hands-on learning and exposure to Alcon's commitment to vision care. Expanding its reach, Alcon will introduce dedicated AEA programs for school faculty and residents in fall 2026. The Resident program will be held in Fort Worth November 13–14, followed by the Faculty program on November 14–15. These experiences reinforce Alcon's ongoing investment in education, collaboration, and the future of eye care. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to Chad Zscherny directly (chad.zscherny@alcon.com) if they or their residents are interested in attending.



www.artoptical.com

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Art Optical continues to advance contact lens education through meaningful, hands-on engagement. The team recently supported specialty lens workshops at Indiana University and the University of Missouri–St. Louis, while also connecting virtually with students at Midwestern University in Arizona. Their commitment to rising leaders includes five travel grants awarded at the American Academy of Optometry meeting, plus six additional grants supporting residents and a new OD at GSLS. To learn more about travel grants, visit artoptical.com/travelgrant. With ongoing investment in emerging talent, Art Optical is dedicated to shaping the future of specialty lenses and supporting tomorrow's contact lens leaders. They also welcome ideas for collaboration and look forward to connecting in 2026.



Dr. Bruce Morgan and Bethany Peebles with the student travel grant recipients at AAO in November 2025.



Erik Anderson with UHCO Cornea and Contact Lens Resident, and travel grant recipient, Dr. Luis Ramirez at GSLS in January 2026.



Bethany Peebles observes students during a specialty lens workshop at IU in November 2025.

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Bausch + Lomb has launched two new products in the United States. PreserVision AREDS3™ supplements contain the most advanced PreserVision formula yet, combining a unique B-vitamin complex with the clinically proven AREDS2 nutrients that are recommended by the National Eye Institute to help reduce the risk of moderate-to-advanced AMD progression.* The formula for getting triple action support.*

Also now available are Blink® Triple Care Preservative Free Lubricating Eye Drops. Made with the same clinically proven formula as Blink Triple Care eye drops, they provide instant, long-lasting relief for dry eyes – up to 10 hours. Learn more at www.bausch.com.

*This statement has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

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www.contamac.com/Practitioners/

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The Clinical Guide for Scleral Lens Success Second Edition by Daddi Fadel and Melissa Barnett is now available! The second edition includes new, exclusive video content to visually demonstrate clinical practice and patient education, and new chapters addressing topics such as edema and scleral lenses, considerations for fitting lenses post-keratoplasty, and more. This updated resource provides a practical and educational tool to refine scleral lens success for both new and experienced practitioners. The guide can be downloaded at scleralsuccess.com or complimentary copies for students can be requested by contacting either John Hibbs (johnh@contamac.com) or Jess Labriola (jess@contamac.com).



Clinical Guide for Scleral Lens Success
Available from Contamac



CooperVision®
Live Brightly.®

www.coopervision.com

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CooperVision introduced its new MADE BETTER™ Promise, a global sustainability platform designed to support more responsible choices across the contact lens lifecycle. The initiative launches with the MyDay® daily disposable family and includes use of ISCC PLUS-certified packaging materials, lower-carbon manufacturing processes, and participation in CooperVision's net plastic neutrality program. By integrating sustainability into product design and production, CooperVision aims to support eye care professionals and students who are increasingly focused on long-term patient health, innovation, and environmental responsibility.





www.euclidsys.com

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Euclid has recently launched the Be Free® Day daily disposable, silicone hydrogel lens for myopia. Powered by technology from the Brien Holden Vision Institute, its unique multistep optical design and biomimetic surface material provides a unique platform as a component of myopia management. Visionary Optics continues to support optometry schools through tailored workshops, scleral and profilometry education. Medmont released the Meridia Vantage with scleral profilometry, anterior segment imaging and an integrated dry eye suite. Learn more about [Be Free® Day](#) (Jackson.lau@euclidsys.com), [Visionary Optics](#) (Lynette.Johns@visionary-optics.com), and [Medmont Meridia Vantage](#).



Be Free® Day Lens - Euclid's new silicone hydrogel daily disposable for myopia

Johnson & Johnson

www.jnjvisionpro.com

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Dr. Erin Rueff

Johnson & Johnson is excited to welcome **Dr. Erin Rueff** as **Associate Director, North America Professional Education**.

Dr. Rueff completed her OD degree, cornea and contact lens residency, and PhD in Vision Science at the Ohio State University. Her

research explored the relationship between visual disorders and contact lens discomfort. She served as Chief of the cornea and contact lens service at the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University while teaching in contact lens and basic science courses. She is a Diplomate in the American Academy of Optometry's Cornea, Contact Lens, and Refractive Surgery Section. Her experiences in research, academia, professional education, and leadership add to the breadth of experience in J&J's Professional Affairs group.



www.metro-optics.com

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Metro Optics is a leading custom contact lens manufacturer that has delivered intelligently designed soft, corneal GP, and scleral lenses since 1973. Over its 53-year history, the company has built trusted relationships with customers across the United States. The team at Metro Optics is dedicated to creating rapid success for every custom contact lens patient. From normal to highly irregular corneas, the company designs, delivers, and supports one of the most diverse portfolios of custom lenses available. Metro Optics is committed to providing the expertise and care needed to help practices build a strong base of satisfied contact lens

patients. Additional information can be found at www.metro-optics.com.



www.oculususa.com

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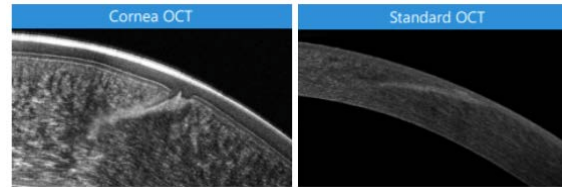
Brittania Murray - Vice President of Contact Lens Operations
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Oculus Inc. and Wave Eye Care support the next generation of optometrists through the SCLERAL Program, led by the Scleral Lens Education Society. Students are trained using advanced diagnostic devices and innovative scleral lens designs through lectures and hands-on workshops. EyePrint has also contributed to learning at Berkeley's CLEAR club by providing lectures and workshop materials.



SCLERAL Program at University of Waterloo

The Pentacam® Cornea OCT has received FDA clearance, marking a major advancement in anterior segment imaging. This system combines two diagnostic modalities to deliver detailed corneal imaging for improved clinical decision-making and patient care.



Jay Wollack - Senior Sales & Marketing Manager
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Meridia™ Classic + Pro Corneal Topographers Meridia™ Vantage Corneal + Scleral Topographer



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The Medmont Meridia™ series is the advanced successor to the industry-standard E300, offering an all-in-one diagnostic platform. Each model is built on gold-standard topography with added clinical functionality to meet varying practice needs. The **Classic** delivers high-performance corneal data for specialty lens fitting. The **Professional** expands capabilities with tools for ocular surface and dry eye management. The **Vantage**, the flagship model, uniquely combines corneal and scleral topography to support advanced specialty care.

Learn more about the Meridia™ family of corneal and scleral topographers by visiting: <https://usa.nidek.com/meridia>.

Or contact Nidek directly at (877) 335-9280 or info@nidek.com

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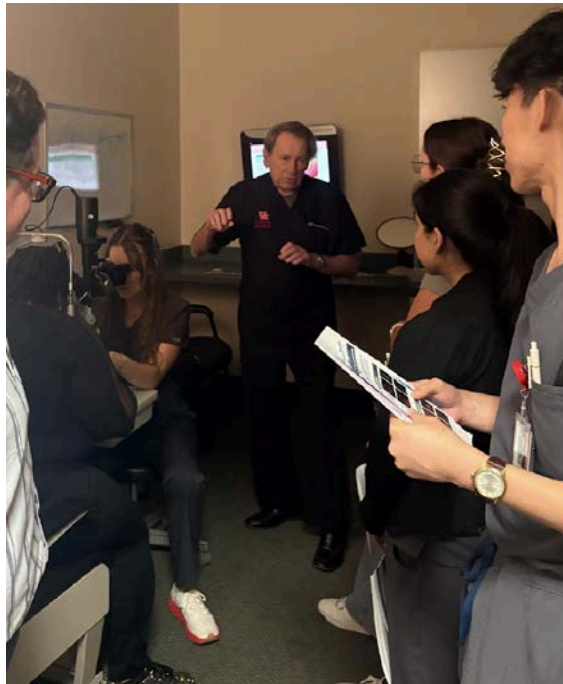


www.tfoptics.com/

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George Mera, NCLE-AC - Fitting Consultant & School Liaison
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TruForm has recently launched their updated website with many resources available for the ECP community. TruForm Optics is a proud 2026 sponsor for the AOCLE meeting in Downers Grove. In their effort to support specialty lens education, TruForm has recently sponsored SCLERAL Program workshops at UHCO, UCB, and NECO as well as a Lunch and Learn at AZCOPT. TruForm is always happy to provide workshop lenses on a case-by-case basis to the schools of optometry. Consultation is always available to faculty and students to answer questions about any of TruForm Optics' specialty lens designs.



SCLERAL Program at UHCO



www.valleycontax.com/

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Jennifer Conklin - Schools Coordinator
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Valley Contax has appointed Dr Carl Kramer as their Professional Relations Director. Dr Kramer brings extensive expertise in specialty contact lenses, combining years of being in private practice and 5 years of teaching at UMSL. Reach out at DrKramer@valleycontax.com.



Valley Contax is pleased to announce that Custom Stable Scleral lenses, made with Optimum materials, have received official approval for use in Canada. Manufactured in Oregon and trusted globally, these lenses now offer Canadian practitioners a new option for their patients.



Valley Contax is proud to introduce **Blink Collective**, a new podcast supporting students. Powered by next-generation ODs, it is a platform for student-led conversations. They are always on the lookout for contributors. Use the following [link to apply](#).



Executive Board

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