

AOCLE 2023 Meeting Recap

The team at Illinois College of Optometry excitedly hosted representatives from all the schools in June 2023 for the 40th Annual AOCLE Workshop. Here is a brief recap:

Illinois College of Optometry welcomed attendees in-person to the AOCLE Summer Workshop in Chicago from Thursday, June 1st through Saturday, June 4th, 2023. The theme was “Ocular Surface Updates.”

There were a ton of goodies in the welcome bag to make everyone's stay in the Residential Complex a comfortable one, including shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, snacks, and even a pair of shower sandals!

A rowdy reception kicked off Thursday night that took attendees down memory lane. They let loose and re-lived unforgettable college memories. It was the perfect time to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and have a blast.

The after-party continued in the Residential Complex lobby, where they played ping pong, darts, and lawn games while finishing off a keg of [Pollyanna Brewing](#) lager and ordering in Chicago-style deep-dish pizza. There was even some [Jeppson's Malört Liqueur](#) to sample.

Schools with AOCLE representatives:



NEXT AOCLC WORKSHOP

June 6-9, 2024

*Michigan College of Optometry
at Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI*

Arrivals: Thursday June 6, 2024

Departures: Sunday June 9, 2024

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Workshop Recap – June 2023

Friday morning breakfast and education was just a short jaunt across Indiana Avenue onto the ICO main campus Lecture Center. Customary group photos were taken followed by COPE-approved continuing education from Ellen Shorter OD ([University of Illinois at Chicago](#)) and Tiffany Andrzejewski, OD ([Chicago Cornea Consultants](#)). Sponsor presentations with the latest industry updates in ten-minute rounds led to lunch in the Courtyard and then more Workshop Rotations in the clinic and lab spaces.

Several breaks with snacks of favorite Chicago eats, including deep dish pizza, Wrigley's gum, Chicago Mix popcorn (cheese and caramel corn mixed up!), and local craft beer were incorporated throughout the meeting and the weekend.

Participants enjoyed a campus tour on Friday afternoon, along with rotations working with ICO's profilometry, low-level light therapy, and IPL devices. Some even experienced a free massage in the dry eye "spa"!

Dinner on Friday was at one of Chicago's local favorites, [Stix n Brix](#) - a wood-fired, brick oven pizzeria just 2 blocks from the Chicago White Sox at Guaranteed Rate Field. Pizzas, salads, sliders, mini meatballs and a variety of Italian desserts were enjoyed by all.

Continuing education presentations from Hannah Yoon, OD ([University of Illinois at Chicago](#)) and Asim Farooq, MD ([University of Chicago](#)) were some of the highlights of Saturday morning. More sponsor presentations continued throughout the day. With box lunches in hand, the educators attended the AOCLE Business Meeting. Everyone gathered again for activities after lunch, heading to either the [Chicago architecture boat tour](#) or the [Art Institute](#)

[of Chicago](#). The Saturday evening networking event was at the [Chicago Sports Museum](#). Trolleys departed from ICO and arrived at Water Tower Place on The Magnificent Mile. Named "a must-see sports attraction in Illinois" by the Chicago Tribune, the Sports Museum is also considered one of the "Coolest, Weirdest, and Best Museums in Chicago" by Thrillist. The adjacent Harry Caray's 7th Inning Stretch restaurant, named a Diner's Choice by Open Table for 2023, catered appetizers, dinner, and dessert.

The warm welcome by the ICO team to the Windy City was greatly appreciated. The deep dish pizza was hot, the blues were cool, and the skyline was breath-taking!

Campus News – Fall 2023

MCPHS University School of Optometry:

MCPHS is thrilled to announce that Jessica Walter, OD has joined their full-time faculty. Dr. Walter will be teaching the Contact Lens 1 and 2 courses as well as precepting in the Contact Lens and Primary Care clinics. All of Jess' MCPHS colleagues welcome her to the team!

Midwestern University - Chicago College of Optometry:

CCO's third-year CooperVision Student Ambassadors for the Student Contact Lens Leadership Society and Student Myopia Leadership Society for 2023-2024 are Reena Jacob and Denisa Suteu.

CCO had its inaugural SCLERAL workshop during this summer quarter where new third-year

students were able to get hands-on training on scleral fitting. The event was hosted by The Scleral Lens Education Society and the GPLI.



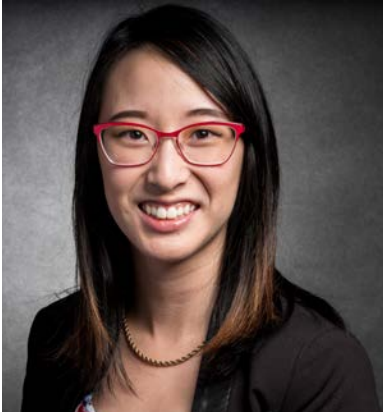
The first iCKC workshop at CCO, led by Dr. Clark Chang, was held during the summer quarter. Third year students were able to gain experience co-managing patients with keratoconus, pre- and post- crosslinking, etc. (see iCKC section on p.7).

Congratulations to Dr. Vakishan Nadarajah on becoming the Clinical Care Coordinator (Chief) of Contact Lens, Dry Eye, and Myopia Control.



Dr. Vakishan Nadarajah

Midwestern University, Chicago College of Optometry is pleased and excited to welcome Dr. Jenny Lau to their faculty. She specializes in dry eye and ocular disease.



Dr. Jenny Lau

The New England College of Optometry:

Haley Italia joined the New England College of Optometry faculty in September 2023. A graduate of Boston College and the New England College of Optometry (NECO), she went on to complete her residency at Massachusetts Eye and Ear where she received training in specialty contact lenses and diagnosis and management of ocular disease. In 2020, she joined the Mass Eye and Ear faculty as a Staff Optometrist and Instructor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. At NECO, Dr. Italia will be teaching the Contact Lens course and seeing patients in the Contact Lens Clinic. Her clinical interests include specialty contact lens fitting for corneal disease, dry eye management, myopia management, and primary eye care. Outside of work, Dr. Italia loves reading, baking, and spending time with her husband and dog.



Dr. Haley Italia

Jennifer Liao is the new Cornea and Contact Lens Residency coordinator at NECO.

NECO hosted BostonSight's FitAcademy™ program in September. FitAcademy is a yearly educational retreat for emerging clinicians in cornea and contact lens residencies and fellowships throughout the United States and Canada. The program, taught by experts in the scleral lens and ocular surface disease fields, includes both didactic and wet lab training. FitAcademy's intimate setting also provides residents with a unique opportunity to collaborate with fellow residents, strengthening their professional connections as they begin their careers.



Université De Montréal École d'Optometrie:

The U de M was honored to graduate Dr. Justin Cloutier after completing his contact lens residency. Dr Cloutier is a dedicated and brilliant clinician who will continue to work with the U de M team as a clinical lecturer. He will also be involved in clinical research. In addition, the University is heavily involved in clinical research projects: Drs. Michaud, Marcotte-Collard, and Simard recently completed a longitudinal study involving 150 children (8-12 years old) who were fitted with a new prototype contact lens for myopia control. Based on the preliminary results, this study has been extended and will continue next year. The research team is also working hard with partners to analyze the short-term response of the choroidal tissue when exposed to different optical stimuli. Finally, some work is being done on the effects of scleral lenses on ocular physiology and on the optics of scleral lenses.

The School of Optometry has recently acquired a new anterior segment OCT (Anterior) and a confocal microscope.

Dr Etty Bitton will be on sabbatical until June 2024. She will participate in research projects about dry eyes with collaborators in Australia and New Zealand.

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry:

Katherine Weise, OD, MBA, FAAO, UAB School of Optometry professor, has been accepted into the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee as an Expert in Myopia. She will help assess the current mechanistic understanding of myopia pathogenesis and causes of its increased

prevalence, to identify knowledge gaps and barriers to progress, and to develop a research agenda aimed at better understanding the biological and environmental factors that could explain its increasing incidence.



Dr. Katherine Weise

Terri Call, OD, was first author of a paper titled Real-Time Ocular Comfort Reporting in Monthly Replacement Contact Lens Wearers. The featured research is the first study to describe real-time contact lens comfort over the life of a monthly replacement contact lens.



Dr. Terri Call

University of Houston College of Optometry:

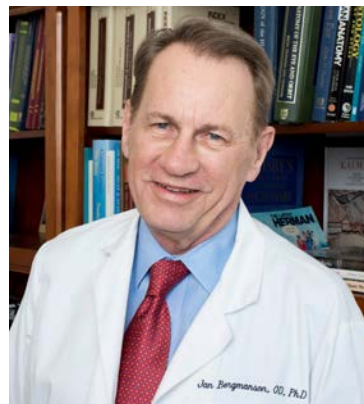
Eric Ritchey OD, PhD, FAAO and Anna-Kaye Logan OD, FAAO are heading up the UHCO Myopia Management Service.

Amber Gaume Giannoni received the Kevin McDade Professorship at UHCO which is the first Professorship awarded to a Non-Tenure Track Clinical Faculty Member at the University of Houston. Congratulations Dr. Gaume!

Anna-Kaye Logan was promoted to the rank of Clinical Associate Professor as of September 1, 2023. Congratulations Dr. Logan!

Amber Nichols, OD has joined the Cornea and Contact Lens Faculty at UHCO. She was a former Fellow of TERTC and the clinic and college are excited to have her!

Jan Bergmanson OD, PhD, PhD h.c, Dsc received the International Congress of Scleral Contacts Lifetime Achievement Award at this summer's International Congress of Scleral Contacts (ICSC) in recognition of his contributions to the field of scleral lenses. Congratulations Dr. Bergmanson!



Dr. Jan Bergmanson

UHCO's North Texas Clinics received the 2023 Health Grant Award from the Communities Foundation of Texas. This grant will assist in delivering comprehensive pediatric primary eye care services to uninsured and under-insured patients of the North Texas communities, focusing on medically necessary specialty contact lens services to correct reduced vision and treat ocular disease.

University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Optometry:

Dr. Don Egan was named Interim Dean of the college.

Dr. Renee Reeder was promoted to Assistant Dean of Curriculum and Assessment. Dr. Reeder is also the chair-elect for the AOA-CLCS.



AOA-CLCS Board with Dr. Reeder (center)

University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Sciences:

The Centre for Ocular Research & Education (CORE) at the University of Waterloo received the Public Education Award from the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO), which

honors members for outstanding contributions in public education and awareness campaigns and activities. CORE was specifically recognized for promoting eye health and safety, including providing scientifically sound information to consumers during the pandemic, and efforts to slow the progression of myopia through myopia control methods.

CORE was given an award from the University of Montreal School of Optometry in December 2022 for its numerous contributions to contact lens and ocular research, education, and the advancement of Canadian Optometry. It was presented at the 10th Canadian Optometry School Research Conference in Montreal.

The Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) named Professor Debbie Jones as its recipient of the 2023 President's Award. The organization's highest honor was conferred in recognition of her significant contributions to pediatric vision care, myopia control, and optometry education. Dr. Jones is a clinical professor at the School of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Waterloo, and a lead clinical scientist with CORE. Dr. Harry Bohnsack, CAO president, and Dr. Michael Nelson, CAO past president, presented the award during the 2023 CAO Congress opening ceremony in Quebec City. Organizers noted Dr. Jones' leadership in children's eye health spanning 25 years, including widespread acknowledgment as a key opinion leader, and in-demand conference speaker.



CAO 2023 President's Award with Dr. Jones (center)

IACLE

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE) has announced the opening of registration for its 2023 Fellowship Exam, taking place in November 2023. The exam will be held virtually via their Teaching Online Platform – IACLETOP – in English, Chinese, Spanish, Korean and Bahasa. IACLE members who receive a successful outcome of the exam become eligible to apply for Fellow of IACLE (FIACLE) status. More details can be found [here](#).

In June 2023, IACLE hosted its 4th World Congress on "Contact Lens Education for the Practitioner of the Future" at Conference Aston in Birmingham, UK. The congress immediately preceded the 2023 British Contact Lens Association (BCLA) Clinical Conference & Exhibition. In addition to providing exposure to the latest computer-based and handheld device teaching technology, the congress brought together contact lens educators from all parts of the world – with varying degrees of experience and access to information and/or resources – to meet with key opinion leaders. Presenters provided valuable information that delegates can apply today, next semester, and next year. As well as the didactic and hands-on components of the program, delegates networked with other educators, professionals, and industry representatives to build long-lasting collaborations and friendships.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from CooperVision, and co-sponsorship from the BCLA, three IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Award winners attended the BCLA's Clinical Conference & Exhibition, and received their awards during the Gala Dinner at IACLE's 4th World Congress on Contact Lens Education.



IACLE announced the [winners of the 2023 IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Awards](#) to recognize and reward achievement in contact lens education.



Educators from three countries – Colombia, India, and Jordan – receive awards from the IACLE for their outstanding contributions to contact lens education.

The 2023 IACLE Contact Lens Educators of the Year are:

IACLE Americas Contact Lens Educator of the Year

Dr Myriam Teresa Mayorga
La Salle University
Bogotá, Colombia

IACLE Asia Pacific Contact Lens Educator of the Year

Isha Dave
Lotus College of Optometry
Mumbai, India

IACLE Europe/Africa/Middle East Contact Lens Educator of the Year

Dr. May Bakkar

Jordan University of Science and Technology,
Ar-Ramtha, Jordan

IACLE 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. As of January 2021, IACLE has had over 2,700 educators hold membership. Since November 2021, they have 869 active members, 624 of whom teach at academic institutes, from 79 countries worldwide.

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

The GP Lens Institute (GPLI)

www.GPLI.info



On August 10th – 12th, the GP Lens Institute (GPLI) hosted 38 cornea and contact lens residents and fellows for a three-day educational symposium with workshops. The residents received over 30 hours of education, including several online courses and a three-hour clinical

program the week before. The symposium included workshops pertaining to GP scleral, irregular cornea, spherical, toric, multifocal, and orthokeratology lens designs. Presentations on these important specialty lens designs were given and accompanied by a career panel. In addition, lectures on effective writing, speaking, and being a good clinical preceptor were presented. This program was hosted by Dr. Nicky Lai and The Ohio State University College of Optometry and coordinated by Ursula Lotzkat and Wink Productions. Sponsored by CLMA member laboratories with Contamac as the Global sponsor, the 2023 program was very special as it represented the 25th annual symposium. This was celebrated by inviting back all past attending residents, including many of today's leaders and influencers. Fifty-five made the trip to join in the festivities on Saturday. This included a COPE-approved educational program on Saturday afternoon on the future of contact lenses which was moderated by Craig Norman FCLSA, with a panel of experts that included Contact Lens Spectrum Editor-In-Chief, Jason Nichols OD, PhD. A gala event held Saturday evening included entertainment from GPLI Associate Director Tom Quinn OD, MS, many past residents, and a performance by the CLMA ambassadors.

The GPLI is also introducing a free student membership which would allow all students to receive the same benefits as an eye care professional member. More information is forthcoming. Please contact Beth Anderzhon at beth@gpli.info for help signing up any students.

Global Specialty Lens Symposium

www.GSLSymposium.com

The 2024 Global Specialty Lens Symposium (GSLs), the leading live international contact lens conference in North America, will be held from January 17-20, 2024, at the Horseshoe Las Vegas.

Brought to you by *Contact Lens Spectrum*, GSLs is expecting attendees from dozens of countries. This year's four-day conference focuses on the successful management of ocular conditions using today's specialty contact lenses through interactive educational platforms including expert panel discussions, breakout lecture sessions, and clinical workshops.

The 2024 meeting will feature hot topics such as scleral lenses, specialty soft lenses, orthokeratology, technology and myopia, ocular health, and regulatory guidelines. In addition, the meeting will kick off with a Keynote address given by Nathan Efron, AC, DSc, PhD, BScOptom. During the lecture, Professor Efron will discuss the inherent ocular inflammation found with contact lens wear and how that inflammation impacts specialty contact lens fitting.



Professor Nathan Efron

Following the Keynote Address, Drs. Efron and Bennett will debate the legacies of GP and soft contact lenses. This highly interactive debate will

delve into topics ranging from safety and efficacy to comfort and vision. Who will emerge as the victor? Only time will tell.



Ed Bennett, OD, MSEd

Registration and agenda details can now be found on the GSLS [website](#).

STAPLE Program

www.stapleprogram.com

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Jill Lopa

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The STAPLE (Soft Toric and Presbyopic Lens Experience) program, a collaborative initiative on the part of Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision, and Johnson & Johnson Vision, has presented over 500 workshops since its beginning in 2012. The goal of these workshops is to provide 2nd and/or 3rd-year optometry students with generic education that will benefit them through a valuable lens fitting experience in the soft toric and multifocal lens categories.

To schedule an event, contact the 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 levels and skills when fitting soft contact lenses.

iCKC Program



The iCKC program is an educational initiative to help optometry students bridge didactic knowledge with the evolving standard of care to optimize keratoconus management. Attendees learn about the continuum of treatment spectrum available to customize optometric care for these patients over their lifetime.

We are excited to announce the 2024 expansion to include a new Module 3 showcasing keratoconus patient cases, which will demonstrate to learners the real-world clinical applications of the management concepts presented in Modules 1 and 2.

Module 1:

KC Detection, Diagnosis, Monitoring
Progression, and Patient Education

Module 2:

Surgical Management of Keratoconus

Module 3:

Case-Based Journey of KC Patient
Management

In addition, there is a Technology Workshop with details available upon request.

For information or to schedule an event, contact Dr. Clark Chang or Ursula Lotzkat at info@iCKCeducation.com. This educational initiative is supported by Glaukos.

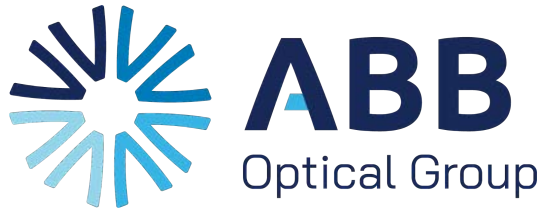


Technology Workshop at CCO in August 2023



At CCO in August 2023 (starting at bottom left to right) with Dr. John Gialousakis, Matthew Carver, Jason Brill, Dr. Angelica Scanzera, Dr. Susan Gromacki, Dr. Clark Chang, Dr. Elizabeth Wickware, Dr. Marsha Malooley, Dr. Daniel Deligio, Dr. Vakishan Nadarajah, Dr. Bill Tullo)

Industry News – Fall 2023



www.abboptical.com

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ABB continues to support student education with the 9th annual Optometry Student Challenge. The student challenge gives third and fourth-year optometry students eligibility to win a \$1,500 travel grant to the 2024 Global Specialty Lens Symposium (GSLs) in Las Vegas and the honor of presenting their poster. Students can register at [2023 Optometry Student Challenge | ABB Optical Group](#). Deadline for abstract submissions is October 13, 2023.



In August, the ABB Specialty Vision Consultation Team gathered at ABB's lab in Kansas City, MO for the first time in 3 years.

The weekend was spent on hours of education and training to ensure that the team is the most well-rounded and educated in the industry. ABB thanks all of those who attended and contributed to further enhance the team's expertise!



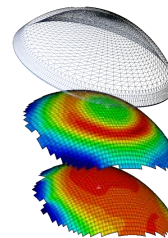
www.acculens.com

Elissa Masler - Vice President, Sales & Marketing
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AccuLens has launched NewVision, a new FDA-cleared corneo-scleral orthoK lens, designed exclusively from Contamac Infinite material. The large diameter design utilized four zones to provide wear-time flexibility and to create a comfortable cornea-scleral lens for daily wear. All parameters of the lens can be adjusted independently of each other to ensure optimum comfort and the best fit for each patient.



No fitting set is required, and all patient files are directly uploaded into the AccuLens CAD/CAM design software. The lenses are created exclusively with Medmont, Eaglet ESP, and Pentacam CSP bi-elevation data. This new technology results in improved comfort and greater patient satisfaction. To be a certified fitter of NewVision, an Eaglet ESP, Medmont, or Pentacam CSP is required.



www.alcon.com

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Anita Malone



Rich Lankenau

Alcon is excited to announce the expansion of their Academic Development team to include two new members. Anita Malone, Associate Director Academic Development and Rich Lankenau, Manager Academic Development officially joined the team in July and are both long-time Alcon veterans. Anita will lead the program execution for the schools and colleges in the East while Rich will lead the efforts in the West.

Chad Zscherny will remain as the Director of Academic Development but will shift his focus to strategy, execution, and partnership enhancements.

Alcon is pleased to demonstrate their continued commitment to optometric education as the needs of the students, faculty, and staff rapidly evolve.



www.artoptical.com

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Bruce Morgan, OD, FAAO - Executive Director of Research & Clinical Support
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Bethany Peebles, FAAO, NCLE-AC, ABOC - Executive Director of Consultation Services
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Art Optical would like to thank the AOCLE planning team for another great event this summer! Since the meeting, they have presented the MOONLENS® Ortho-K design at MCO and Ampleye® was introduced at CCO as part of the scleral lens workshop hosted by the SLES and the GPLI. They look forward to upcoming student sessions this fall at IU, NSUCO, and UMSL.

A microvault customization option was recently introduced in the Ampleye lens – learn more [here](#).

A reminder that Art Optical is accepting 2024 travel grant submissions from current residents, and 3rd & 4th year students. Details and applications are available [here](#).



Bethany Peebles and Bruce Morgan enjoy a laugh courtesy of Photoshop® during the June AOCLE meeting



Erik Anderson and Consultant Aimee Zebell at the SCLERAL workshop at CCO

BAUSCH + LOMB

See better. Live better.

www.bausch.com

Mia Jones, OD - Manager, Medical Affairs, Global Vision Care
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Bausch + Lomb has launched several new products. Bausch + Lomb INFUSE® Multifocal silicone hydrogel contact lenses address the dynamic vision needs of today's presbyopes by delivering clear vision with seamless transitions across near, intermediate and distance while helping to minimize contact lens dryness. Biotrue® Hydration Boost Contact Lens Rehydrating drops, which offer up to eight hours of moisture for dry lenses*, are the first and only preservative-free rehydrating drop in a multi-dose bottle that lubricate and rewet all types of soft contact lenses. MIEBO™ (perfluorohexyloctane ophthalmic solution) is the first and only prescription eye drop that directly targets tear evaporation, the leading cause of dry eye disease. For more information, visit www.bausch.com.





www.coopervision.com

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As part of its ongoing commitment to support the education and advancement of future cornea and contact lens experts, CooperVision sponsored the annual American Optometry Association (AOA) Contact Lens & Cornea Section Residency Forum. The Forum provides incoming contact lens and pediatric residents throughout the country an opportunity to come together for a day of camaraderie, education, and networking. The residents learned about clinical decision-making, the importance of continued industry learning, professional networking, and the importance of the AOA's role in protecting the profession of optometry.

"I felt incredibly fortunate to be invited back as an alum to speak to current residents at the AOA Contact Lens & Cornea Section conference this year. The conference has once again been a great opportunity to see real-life applications of different specialty contact lenses in real-world settings," shared Julie Song, OD.



www.contamac.com/Practitioners/

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Global Insight, Contamac's bi-monthly newsletter, includes insights, case studies and updates from the optometry and specialty contact lens world. Featuring a combination of in-house and guest articles and case studies from across the globe, Global Insight provides an international perspective on emerging industry trends, treatment options for various eye conditions, and interviews with Contamac staff. So far this year, there have been 15 published updates, with a range of topics including keratoconus, irregular cornea, myopia, scleral lenses, soft lenses, education specials, event reviews, and much more.

To continue to provide insightful updates to the industry, submissions for articles and case studies are always open! Get in touch today to find out more: comms@contamac.co.uk.



Visionary Optics
uniquely specialized contact lenses

www.euclidsys.com

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Euclid and Visionary Optics are offering six resident scholarships for excellence in myopia management or scleral contact lenses.

Professors Mark Bullimore and Maria Liu report on the "Efficacy of the Euclid orthokeratology lens in slowing axial elongation." Euclid is shown to be the world's most researched Ortho-K lens for myopia – studied more than twice as much as any other lens while demonstrating excellent efficacy for patients worldwide. Scan the QR code for an Open Access download.



Visionary Optics provides one-on-one sessions with Dr. Lynette Johns for students and residents to learn about scleral lenses and troubleshoot difficult cases. Sessions can be scheduled through this link:

<https://www.visionary-optics.com/learning-with-lynette/>.



www.jnjvisionpro.com

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Dr. Kate McClure

Johnson & Johnson Vision is excited to announce the addition of Dr. Kate McClure as the North America Professional Education Lead, Myopia.

Dr. McClure completed her Doctor of Optometry degree at OSU College of Optometry. She continued her education at Ohio State earning a Master of Science degree in Vision Science while completing a two-year Advanced Practice Fellowship in Cornea and Contact Lens.

Before joining JJV, Dr. McClure was integral in instituting her multi-location private practice's successful myopia management clinic in Columbus, OH. Her clinical practice focused on specialty contact lenses and myopia management. Dr. McClure also served on the faculty at The Ohio State University College of Optometry as an Assistant Clinical Professor.



www.metro-optics.com

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Metro Optics, a custom contact lens manufacturer based in Austin, Texas, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary! Founded in 1973 by Jim Webb, his goal was to give eye care professionals across the country the ability to source high-quality custom contact lenses for even the most difficult-to-fit eye conditions. The company has remained focused on providing innovative and effective lens designs throughout its history by working closely with leading eye care professionals to ensure its products are the best in class. Today, the product portfolio features a wide array of custom soft, corneal GP, and scleral lens designs that cover a range of vision corrections. Visit www.metro-optics.com and follow the company on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for company updates.



<http://usa.nidek.com>

Jay Wollack - Senior Sales & Marketing Manager
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NIDEK Inc., in partnership with Medmont, is excited to offer the Medmont meridia™ Pro and Classic Advanced Corneal Topographer models to U.S. eye care professionals.

The Medmont meridia™ raises the bar on Medmont's 20-year legacy of precision and performance that began with the company's E300 corneal topographer. The meridia™ extends the E300 performance by combining it with premium anterior, fluorescein imaging and videos, including OrthoK NaFI Video. Other new features include scleral lens simulation, an array of dry eye evaluation options, and detailed meibography. The versatile Professional model allows a user to access proven dry eye grading scales and insightful patient reports.



Learn more about the meridia™ Pro and Classic corneal topographers by visiting:
<https://usa.nidek.com/meridia>



www.oculususa.com

Michael Wolber - President and CEO
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As a partner of optometry education, OCULUS, Inc. wishes to award two scholarships to third- and fourth-year optometry students who best demonstrate clinical excellence in *Anterior Segment Diagnostic Technologies*. Winning recipients will also earn the following device for their College of Optometry.

- 1st Place: OCULUS Myopia Master®
- 2nd Place: OCULUS Easyfield®

OCULUS looks forward to supporting the students and College of Optometry each year, and is excited to offer a sneak peek at this year's topics:

1. How has the Pentacam® improved your patient care?

2. How has the Keratograph® 5M helped you care for dry eye patients?
3. How has OCULUS technology improved your patient care or your patients' quality of life?

Visit the OCULUS optometry scholarship [website](#) to stay up to date.



www.altiusvision.com

Alan W. Reichow, OD, MEd, FAAO
<https://altiusvision.com/contact/>

Performance Vision Technologies is entering its official launch phase of ALTIUS contact lenses. Recent clinical data suggest ALTIUS lenses filter 100% UV and 99% blue light and may benefit light-sensitive patients. ALTIUS lenses are worn by USA National Water Polo, NFL, and MLB athletes to enhance their visual performance. ALTIUS lenses provide eyecare providers the opportunity to differentiate themselves and their practice.

Rich Jeffries, President and CCO, shares, "It's exciting to partner with current and future Optometry professionals to meet unmet medical and visual needs of their patients in order to enhance their quality of life."

PVTI has expanded its team to include top education, practice management, and eyecare support specialists. To learn more, please visit the [website](#).



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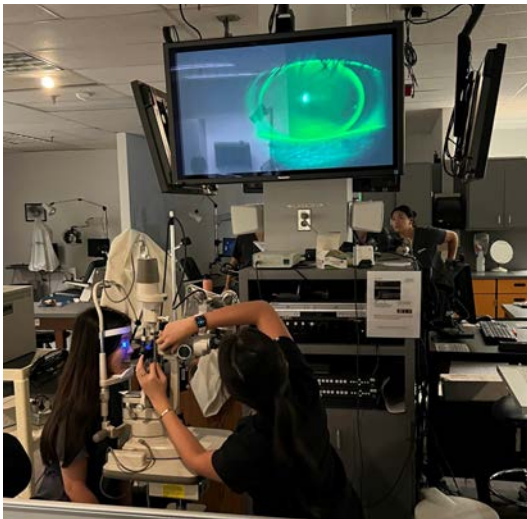
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Third-year students enjoying the hands-on Scleral Workshop in Pikeville.

TruForm Optics has been active with hands-on workshops (scleral and multifocal lenses) at several Schools of Optometry, including ICO, KYCO, UHCO, NSUCO, and CCO. TruForm is available to participate in workshops for the schools and colleges of optometry and encourages faculty members to reach out to schedule.

For Fall 2023, TruForm Optics was found exhibiting at Vision by Design in Schaumburg and Academy in New Orleans. They hope to see friends and familiar faces at GSLS 2024 in Las Vegas! Consultation is always available to faculty and students to answer questions about any of TruForm Optics' specialty lens designs.



Students at UHCO learning about TruForm segmented MF lenses.



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Valley Contax had the pleasure of hosting its 10th Annual Residency Summit in July. They invited the 22-23 Cornea & Contact Lens Residents to join them for a weekend of education and fun in Oregon. Valley looks forward to the 11th Annual Residency Summit to reconnect and welcome the current residents.



In partnership with Contamac, Valley Contax is proud to support students with 3 travel grants each year—their next travel grant is to GSLS 2024. Students from the Class of '24 or '25 can apply by visiting the [student page](#) on their website.



Valley is pleased to announce they supplied over 400 graduates from the Class of 2023 with a free CS Elite Fitting Set. These sets are valuable tools that offer new grads a jumpstart on their career. Entries for the Class of 2024 will open in March.

In Memoriam:
Lester Caplan, OD, M.Ed, FAAO,
Professor Emeritus



<https://memorials.sollevinson.com/lester-caplan/4412921/>

Excerpt from [UAB School of Optometry website](#):

The AOCLE membership was saddened by the passing of Lester Caplan, OD, M.Ed, FAAO, professor emeritus, and pioneer of clinical contact lens research, on December 2, 2022, at the age of 98.

Born in 1924, Caplan began his optometric career in 1950 in private practice in Baltimore, MD. During this time, he also served as a part-time consultant to the director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). His involvement and accomplishments in incorporating optometry into the IHS earned him the title "Father of Indian Health Service Optometry."

At the age of 55, Caplan was looking for a change and decided to pursue his dream of entering academia. He said he was aided in that pursuit by contacts he had made with schools of optometry during his longtime optometry services recruitment work with the Indian Health Service. He received five offers and chose UAB.

Caplan joined the faculty of the UAB School of Optometry in 1979. In his associations at the School over the years, he served as chief of Contact Lens Services, assistant dean for Clinical Services, and director of the Externship Program—which he founded in the 1980s. He was presented with the Melvin Waxman Award for his long-term dedication to the profession of optometry. Though he retired from UABSO in 2002, he remained active in various areas of the School for many years.

Caplan stood out as an example of how the commitment and expertise of a researcher in a given area also could benefit the students taught by that researcher.

He taught at UABSO when there were few soft contact lenses on the market. There would be students who would express gratitude to Caplan for drilling into them the basics of contact lenses. He had his students learn every single lens, its parameters, how much oxygen each allowed, and the water content of each.

During his optometric career, Caplan served as the senior consultant to the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, consultant

to the Clinic Directors/Administrators Special Interest Group (SIG), and the Externship Directors SIG. He also co-founded the Association of Clinic Directors of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. His awards include the Optometrist of the Year Award presented by the American Optometric Association, the Carel C. Koch Memorial Award, the Life Fellowship Award presented by the American Academy of Optometry and the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators' first Lifetime Achievement Award.

Caplan dedicated his career to advancing the optometric profession at all levels and will be remembered fondly as an excellent clinician, instructor, researcher, and public health advocate.



Dr. Caplan received the first-ever AOCLE Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2009 AOCLE Summer Workshop at UHCO (presenter: Dr. R. Watanabe).



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