

AACLE 2024

The Team at the Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) hosted us for the 41st Annual AACLE Workshop from June 6th – 9th, 2024. The theme of the meeting was “Managing Kids with Contact Lenses & More.”

To kick off the meeting on Thursday, the Executive Board met with Sponsors starting at 6:00pm. The rest of the attendees and hosts started the party/Welcome Reception, which went from 6:00-9:00pm across the street from the hotel at Beacon Corner Bar. There were plenty of snacks and adult beverages for this fun social time and attendees experienced the delicacy that is whitefish dip.

Friday's events were held at the MCO campus in Big Rapids, MI. Attendees enjoyed a scenic 1-hour coach bus ride to the school. Once on-site, we enjoyed breakfast, CE, sponsor presentations, and workshop rotations. We then rode back to Grand Rapids for dinner at Bistro Bella Vita.

Saturday began at Grand Rapids Community College a few blocks away from the hotel for CE, sponsor presentations, and the Educators' Business Meeting. Afternoon activities included Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, a trip to The Great Escape Room, or free time in Grand Rapids. Fun was had by all!

Schools with AACLE representatives:



2025 AACLE Workshop
*Southern California College of
Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum
University
Fullerton, CA
June 5-8, 2025*

The SCCO team looks forward to hosting us in sunny southern California for CE content, workshop rotations, food, fun and networking! Plan for flights into John Wayne/Santa Ana airport.

In this issue:

- Workshop Recap, p. 1-2
- Campus News, p. 2
- Other News, p. 5
- Industry News, p. 8

Workshop Recap – June 2024

The Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) welcomed attendees to the AOCLE Summer Workshop in Grand Rapids and Big Rapids, MI from Thursday, June 6th through Saturday, June 8th, 2024. This year's theme was "Managing Kids with Contact Lenses & More."

Attendees received MCO string bags including snacks and other goodies to make their stay at the Residence Inn Downtown Grand Rapids more comfortable. Having recently opened in 2020, this location and its various spaces offered a comfortable and enjoyable stay for attendees of this year's Workshop. Each room was spacious, containing a mini kitchenette and fridge.

The Welcome Reception was at Beacon Corner Bar, located directly across the street from the hotel. Everyone was able to join the party quickly after checking into their rooms and getting settled. The time at Beacon allowed attendees to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

The after-party was moved back across the street to the Residence Inn Downtown Grand Rapids on the main floor with a social space and a small outdoor patio. There were snacks, drinks, and square deep-dish Detroit-style pizza from Jet's, a Michigan staple.

Friday morning began early, as attendees spent the entire day at MCO in Big Rapids, an hour's drive from the hotel in Grand Rapids. Upon arrival at MCO, the group took its annual AOCLE photo and had breakfast in the MCO Atrium. After a short welcome in the lecture hall, the meeting started with COPE-approved continuing education from Samantha Rosen, OD (Helen DeVos Children's Hospital). Sponsors also kicked-off their presentations in ten-minute

rounds so participants were provided with the latest industry updates. Lunch was held in the MCO Atrium by Pere Marquette Catering and then everyone returned to the clinic and lab spaces for the Workshop's rotations.

There were breaks and snacks throughout the day. For the afternoon, attendees enjoyed a tour of MCO, and rotations working with the onsite biometry instruments, applying contact lenses on little ones, and performing anterior segment imaging. Following the afternoon events, attendees enjoyed a brief happy hour before traveling back to Grand Rapids.

Dinner on Friday was at Bistro Bella Vita – a farm-to-table restaurant boasting modern French & Italian cuisine, located just a short walk from the hotel. Participants enjoyed a family-style dinner to build up energy for Saturday's events and some even had a couple of drinks to cool off from the warm weather.

On Saturday morning, attendees walked off the dinner from Friday night by making their way through the construction-filled streets of downtown Grand Rapids. Upon arrival at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC), breakfast prepared by students in the GRCC's Sechia Institute for Culinary Education awaited attendees. Continuing education presentations from Lauren Fletcher-Morehouse, DO (Helen DeVos Children's Hospital) and Stephanie Ramdass, OD (EyeCademy) started the morning, followed by more sponsor presentations. After lunch, the educators attended the AOCLE Business Meeting, while the sponsors were excused. Everyone gathered again for activities afterward in the hotel lobby and began their travel to chosen destinations around the city: Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park or an Escape Room close to the hotel. Others spent time on their own to rest, shop, or enjoy Beer City, USA! There was some time to freshen up before the evening

networking event at Founders Brewing Co. The group enjoyed fresh brews and a taco bar while taking in the rooftop view of Grand Rapids.

Sunday was reserved for goodbyes!

Campus News – Spring 2024

Arizona College of Optometry - Midwestern University:

The Midwestern University Eye Institute has been under renovation since February 2024. The first floor was completed in July and features an updated optical, as well as check-in and waiting areas. The first-floor clinic space was renovated to include resident exam lanes, fourth-year exam lanes, an anterior segment imaging suite, four procedures rooms, a refractive surgery suite, a contact lens A&R room, and a large consultation room. Half of the second floor has completed renovations, including an expanded posterior segment imaging suite, an enlarged contact lens room, and resident offices. The last phase of renovation is currently underway with updates being made to faculty offices and the Eye Institute classroom, with anticipated completion by the end of November/beginning of December.



New refractive surgery suite at AZCOPT.

Wendy Huang, MD, is a fellowship-trained ophthalmologist in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus (2012) and Uveitis and Cornea (2023), who has been seeing patients at the Midwestern University Eye Institute (MWUEI), but officially joined the faculty in July 2024 as an Associate Professor. She has been performing corneal crosslinking, corneal transplants, cataract surgeries, and other anterior segment and strabismus surgeries. She works closely with another corneal specialist, contact lens faculty, and residents, as well as rotating fourth-year interns.



Wendy Huang, MD joins AZCOPT.

AZCOPT hosted the inaugural GPLI Specialty Contact Lens Symposium on October 18-20th. Thirty-three ocular disease and contact lens residents, faculty, and private practitioners attended from all over North America.

Chicago College of Optometry - Midwestern University:

The Midwestern University Eye Institute's Dry Eye department just acquired the LipiView II Ocular Surface Interferometer by TearScience to utilize with their dry eye patients to better assess their lipid layer thickness and blink quality.

Drs. Jessica Conroy and Daniel Deligio gave a CE lecture for Chicago College of Optometry titled "Painting with all the Colors of the Wind: A

Comprehensive Overview of Tinted Contact Lenses and Ocular Prosthetics" in August.

Dr. Vakishan Nadarajah's poster titled "The Effects of Low Dose Atropine Eye Drops on Axial Length Elongation in Real-World Setting" was presented at the International Myopia Conference held in Hainan, China in September.

CCO hosted the Externship Directors as well as the Clinic Directors & Administrators SIG Meetings at the end of September.

Illinois College of Optometry:

The ICO faculty welcomed Dr. Matt McGee this summer. Dr. McGee is a lifelong resident of the Chicago suburbs. He completed his OD degree at the Chicago College of Optometry and recently completed a cornea and contact lens residency at The Ohio State Havener Eye Institute.

ICO is also proud to have added a second residency slot this year, so they have welcomed two new CL residents to the clinic: Dr. Diana Masolak (ICO '24) and Dr. Joshua Normandeau (NECO '24).

Recent ICO CL residency graduate, Dr. Marin Nagelberg (SUNY '23), was named this year's American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) Dr. Stan Yamane Contact Lens Residency Award winner.

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry:

After a nationwide search, Northeastern State University selected Dr. Nathan Lighthizer as the dean for the NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry. Dr. Lighthizer officially took over his new position on July 1, having previously served as the Associate Dean of NSUOCO, where he

worked to promote the college at the local, state, and national levels. He worked with the Cherokee Nation, local leaders, the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians, and NSUOCO faculty and alumni to advance the scope of practice for optometrists nationwide. With the construction of a new home for NSUOCO underway in Tahlequah, Dr. Lighthizer will guide the transition upon the completion of the building. "We are so very excited about our new building project," he said. "We are slated to move into the new building at the start of the fall semester in 2025. We are expanding our offerings of clinical services, elevating the technology in the classroom and clinics, and will have the ability to hold more conferences and courses in Tahlequah with this state-of-the-art facility. We are so excited for the future of NSUOCO." Dr. Lighthizer earned a doctorate in optometry from Pacific University College of Optometry. Before joining the NSUOCO faculty in 2010, he completed a residency in family practice optometry with an emphasis in ocular disease through NSUOCO. "Dr. Lighthizer's dedication and vision have already made a significant impact on our institution, and we are confident that under his leadership, NSUOCO will continue to excel and innovate," said NSU President Rodney Hanley.



**Dr. Lighthizer Named Dean of NSU
Oklahoma College of Optometry.**

Dr. Doug Penisten received his OD and subsequent PhD in physiological optics and visual sciences from Indiana University. He started teaching at NSUOCO in 1988, ultimately becoming Dean in 2009. His trailblazing work has impacted the lives of countless students, residents, peers, and patients all over the world; and NSUOCO has thrived under his leadership. In the summer of 2023, the college broke ground on a state-of-the-art facility that will increase learning and patient care opportunities. It's a dream realized thanks to years of hard work by many, including Penisten, who retired from his position as dean of NSUOCO on June 30, 2024. "It's been an extraordinary journey," Penisten said. "When I've been on the faculty for 36 years, that's when you know, you did something right." While they have no definitive plans for their retirement, Dr. Penisten and his wife, Alphie, look forward to having some more time to relax and travel.



Dr. Dean Penisten retires after 36 years.

Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry:

The faculty happily welcomed Hsuan Ariel Chao to an academic position in July. Ariel received a BA degree from UBC, an OD degree from SCO, with a certificate of residency from NSUCO (Primary Care with Emphasis in Cornea & Contact Lenses), Class of 2024. At work, she is

enjoying her role as a clinical preceptor in both primary care and contact lens services and is rapidly becoming a favorite team player, quick with a smile and an offer to help. At home, she's a new dog mommy to her miniature poodle Georgie, adopted from a dog rescue ranch.



Dr. Hsuan Ariel Chao now at NSUCO.

Salus at Drexel University, Pennsylvania College of Optometry:

Jeffrey L. Weaver, OD '85, MBA, MS, FAAO, FACHE, has been appointed interim dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), effective October 1, 2024. Salus University Provost Dr. Gerry O'Sullivan made the announcement.

Dr. Weaver, an accomplished clinician, researcher, and educator, returns to his alma mater with a diverse and distinguished career in optometry. His extensive experience has included roles such as principal investigator for Anterior Segment at The Eye Research Group in Erie, Pennsylvania, and optometry director at Cornerstone Care Community Health Centers in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. He has also served as

Clinical Practice and Advancement Group director at the American Optometric Association and was the Founding Executive Director of the American Board of Optometry, in which he achieved National Commission for Certifying Agencies accreditation.

Université de Montréal École d'optométrie:

The Université de Montréal welcomed two new residents, who began their internship on June 1. Maja Malinowska and Charlotte Monette are now supporting the team of lens clinicians in training their students and perfecting their skills in the area of specialty lenses.

University of Houston College of Optometry:

UHCO had some promotions effective September 1st: Dr. Janet Garza to the rank of Clinical Associate Professor, Dr. Eric Ritchey to Associate Professor with Tenure status, Dr. Anita Ticak to the rank of Clinical Professor, and Dr. David Berntsen to the rank of Professor. Congratulations to all!



Recipient of the 2024 AOA CLCS Dr. Donald R. Korb Award for Excellence.

University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry:

Dr. Ed Bennett, the GPLI's Executive Director since 1988, has announced his retirement effective the end of this year. His successor will be AOCLE member and ICO Professor Jennifer Harthan, OD, FAAO, FSLs, FNAP, Diplomate American Academy of Optometry CCLRT Section.

University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science:

The University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science renamed what was formerly called the "Cornea, Contact Lens and Myopia Control Clinic" to the "Advanced Contact Lens Service."

A cross-disciplinary Waterloo team received media attention for developing a new contact lens material that could act as a bandage for corneal wounds while releasing drugs in a controlled manner to help the eye heal faster. A study outlining the researchers' work was recently [published](#) in the journal *Pharmaceutics*.



**Dr. Murchison Callender "for-real" retires
from the University of Waterloo.**

In August, a for-real retirement celebration was held for Dr. Murchison Callender, who formally retired in 1996 but remained an adjunct professor and part-time clinical supervisor, primarily in contact lens, until recently. He was one of the first Black faculty members at the University of Waterloo.

In June, Drs. Chelsea Bray and Sharon Qiu received EyePrintPro training from the team at EyePrint Prosthetics. This cutting-edge tool will be used to fit patients with severe corneal disease or highly irregular ocular surfaces where a traditional scleral lens fit may not have been optimal.

The Centre for Ocular Research & Education is hosting a series of scleral lens fitting workshops in October, in Toronto, Halifax, and Vancouver, led by Dr. Daddi Fadel.

Global Specialty Lens Symposium



www.GSLSymposium.com

The 2025 Global Specialty Lens Symposium (GSLs), the leading live international specialty contact lens conference in North America, will be held Jan. 15-18, 2025, at the Horseshoe Las Vegas. Hosted by *Contact Lens Spectrum*, GSLs is expecting attendees from around the world. This year's four-day conference theme, "It's Getting Personal: Customized Contact Lens Care," 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 2025 meeting will feature hot topics such as scleral lenses, specialty soft lenses, ortho-k, technology, myopia, ocular health, and regulatory guidelines. In addition, the meeting will kick off with two keynote presentations—from Fiona Stapleton, PhD and Lyndon Jones, DSc, PhD. Dr. Stapleton will be discussing 25 years of silicone hydrogels and what has been learned in specialty lenses. Dr. Jones will be looking into the future of contact lenses and the potential applications for these devices.



Registration and agenda details can be found on the GSLs website. Early bird rates end Friday, Nov. 22. Register today for the Innovations of Tomorrow!

IACLE

Contact lens educators from three countries — Guatemala, India, and Germany — receive prestigious awards from the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE) for their outstanding contributions to contact lens education.

IACLE announced the winners of its 2024 IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Award and the 2024 Travel Award to recognize achievement in contact lens education.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from CooperVision, three IACLE Award winners attended the Academy meeting and received

their awards during the International Reception hosted by CooperVision.



The International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE) celebrates the winners of the 2024 awards. Jo Underwood receives the IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Award during IACLE's 4th World Congress in Birmingham, UK (June 2023). L-R Neil Retallic, Jo Underwood, Juan Carlos Aragón and Philip Morgan.

The 2024 IACLE Contact Lens Educators of the Year are:

IACLE Americas Contact Lens Educator of the Year: **Dr. Aldo Ortiz** from Universidad Galileo Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

IACLE Asia Pacific Contact Lens Educator of the Year: **Madhumathi Subramanian** from Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, India

IACLE Europe/Africa/Middle East Contact Lens Educator of the Year: **Dr. Stefan Bandlitz** from Cologne School of Optometry, Cologne, Germany

Madhumathi Subramanian commented on winning her award, 'I am truly honored and thrilled to receive the IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Award for the Asia Pacific

region. This recognition is a dream come true for anyone in contact lens education. IACLE has been essential in expanding my knowledge and passion for teaching. Their meetings, conferences, and ongoing education platforms have greatly enhanced my expertise. I dedicate this award to my organizations, Sankara Nethralaya and the Elite School of Optometry, for providing me with a platform to grow and excel.'

'Inspiring future eye care professionals through supporting the academics who teach them is key to the IACLE Contact Lens Educator of the Year Award,' said Elizabeth Lumb, Director of Global Professional Affairs, Myopia, for CooperVision. 'We are proud to continue to sponsor these awards and congratulate the 2024 winners.'

Through the generous support of all IACLE partners (Alcon, CooperVision, Johnson & Johnson, Bausch + Lomb, Ophtecs, Menicon, and Euclid), Asad Ullah from Timergara Teaching Hospital, Pakistan, will travel to an international meeting in the upcoming months as the 2024 IACLE Travel Award winner.

IACLE President Professor Philip Morgan commented, 'I am delighted to announce this year's Educator of the Year and Travel Awards. These represent a tremendous achievement for the winners and reflect their commitment and enthusiasm for their contact lens teaching. We thank CooperVision for sponsoring the Educator of the Year awards and all our partners for supporting IACLE overall.'

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators was established in 1979 and is a non-profit, non-political association. Its membership comprises contact lens educators from all eye care professions including optometrists, ophthalmologists, opticians, and others, as well as industry representatives involved in education. IACLE has 962 active members in 82 countries (as of December 2023)

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 information resources essential to contact lens educators. IACLE is supported by leading global contact lens manufacturers: Platinum Sponsor Alcon, Gold Sponsor CooperVision, Silver Sponsor Johnson & Johnson Vision, Bronze Sponsors Bausch + Lomb, Ophtecs, and Menicon, and Donor Sponsor Euclid.

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

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 lifetimes.

The program features:

- Module 1: KC Detection, Diagnosis, Monitoring Progression, and Patient Education
- Module 2: Surgical Management of Keratoconus
- Module 3: Putting it all Together: Case-Based Journey of KC Patient Management

- Hands-on Workshops on Diagnostic/Surgical Technologies are available upon request

New in 2024, Dr. Clark Chang and Glaukos created a Keratoconus Eye Model as a dedicated clinical tool to support KC education for optometry students and patients. This KC eye model reimaged by Dr. Clark Chang includes various corneal inserts with corresponding topography patterns to demonstrate different stages of the disease state, including post-transplantation. It also features the ability to simulate potential visual symptoms experienced by KC patients. A QR code at the base of the eye model can also seamlessly provide connections to unbranded patient education content at <https://www.livingwithkeratoconus.com>. Supplies are limited and currently, one eye model is reserved for each of the U.S. schools and colleges of optometry.



Keratoconus Eye Model



Dr. Clark Chang presents the KC Eye Model to Dr. Lindsay Sicks and Dr. Jenn Harthan at ICO. Also pictured are Dr. Bill Tullo and Jason Brill who were onsite for their iCKC program.

For information to schedule any part(s) of the program, please contact Dr. Clark Chang or Ursula Lotzkat at info@iCKCeducation.com. The iCKC educational initiative is supported by Glaukos.

New Resource Available

[Anthony J. \(Tony\) Phillips](#), co-author of *Contact Lenses*, at Flinders University has been working on a compilation in app form that he's currently calling "The Optometrist's Companion." He would like to provide a free copy of the information within the app (formerly a book) for

AOCLE members' assessment. For more information, please contact Tony at tony.phillips@flinders.edu.au.

The GP Lens Institute (GPLI)



FIRST in Education

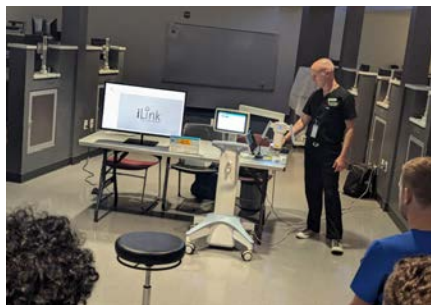
www.GPLI.info

The GP Lens Institute recently held its 26th annual Cornea and Contact Lens Residents Symposium, held in Big Rapids and Grand Rapids, MI August 15 - 17. Hosted by the Michigan College of Optometry, a total of 21 hours of online, didactic, and workshop education were provided in all specialty contact lens areas to the 32 attending residents and fellows. Sponsored by members of the Contact Lens Manufacturers Association (CLMA), and coordinated by GPLI Program Coordinator Ursula Lotzkat, the meeting was well organized and should help accelerate the advanced contact lens education of the attendees as they both manage specialty lens patients and serve as invaluable mentors and educators to students. The GPLI also hosted its first-ever GPLI Contact Lens Symposium for fellows and rising stars in the profession at the Arizona College of Optometry on October 18-20.

The GPLI will also be providing a "swag bag" of resources to all new student members. The membership is free and the items should be available by early October. For more



iCKC Workshop at ICO - Summer 2024



iCKC Workshop at ICO - Summer 2024

information, please contact Beth Anderzhon at beth@gpli.info.

Finally, Dr. Ed Bennett, the GPLI's Executive Director since 1988, has announced his retirement effective the end of this year. He is excited to announce that his successor will be Dr. Jennifer Harthan.



GPLI's Cornea and Contact Lens Residents Symposium at MCO



GPLI's Specialty Contact Lens Symposium at AZCOPT

STAPLE Program

www.stapleprogram.com

Ursula Lotzkat

ursula@winkproductions.com

Jill Lopa

jill@winkproductions.com

The STAPLE (Soft Toric and Presbyopic Lens Experience) program, a collaborative initiative on the part of Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision, and Johnson & Johnson, has presented over 600 workshops since its beginning in 2012. The goal of these workshops is to provide second and third-year optometry students with generic 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 level and skill when fitting soft contact lenses!

Industry News – Fall 2024



ABB
Optical Group

www.abboptical.com

Andy Jackson - Director, Specialty Contact Lenses

ajackson@abboptical.com

Dede Reyes, FCLSA - Manager, Consultation & Education - Specialty Vision Products

dreyes@abboptical.com

ABB Optical Group is proud to announce its 35th anniversary of supporting eye care professionals. The company was founded in 1989 to empower eye care professionals (ECPs) with the tools and knowledge necessary to be more competitive, grow their practices, and

maintain the highest-quality patient care. ABB invites the optical industry to join in the celebration by visiting <https://info.abboptical.com/celebrating35years>.



ABB will host its annual Optometry Student Challenge live virtual meeting on December 11, where finalists will present their posters. Attendees who join the event will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite posters and scores will be incorporated in the overall judging of the winners. To learn more, please visit <https://abboptical.com/OptometryStudentChallenge>.



www.accumens.com

Elissa Masler - Vice President, Sales & Marketing

elissa@accumens.com

AccuLens has launched NewVision, a new corneal scleral orthoK lens, designed exclusively from Contamac Infinite material. The large-diameter design utilizes 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 best fit for each patient.

The lenses are created exclusively with Medmonth, Eaglet ESP, and Pentacam CSP bi-elevation data. All patient files are directly uploaded into the Acculens CAD/CAM design software. This new technology results in improved comfort and greater patient satisfaction.



Maxim 3D lenses are now available with HOA correction by OVITZ. Contact consultation to add this feature on Maxim3D lenses.

THE OVITZ DIFFERENCE

What distinguishes our solutions from other existing options?

Complete Ocular Higher-Order Aberration Measurement
Simply measuring corneal HOA does not provide the data needed to create an effective contact lens. With the OVITZ wave system we measure the entire visual system to create an effective contact lens.

Proprietary HOA Lens Design Algorithm
Simply using the measured HOA data to create a lens is not enough. Our proprietary algorithm uses a patient's HOA profile and other eye related data to create an enhanced custom HOA lens design.

Precise Vision Correction on the Accurate Axis
Submillimeter differences can make the vision worse. The OVITZ wave system provides precise correction done on the exact axis of a patient's eye for an outstanding visual outcome.



www.alcon.com

Chad Zscherny - Director - Academic Development U.S. Vision Care
chad.zscherny@alcon.com

Anita Malone - Associate Director Academic Development - East
anita.malone@alcon.com

Rich Smith - Academy Development Manager - West
richard.smith@alcon.com

Alcon, the world's largest eye care company, was proud to host over 250 3rd and 4th Year Optometry Students over 4 sessions at their Fort Worth, Texas headquarters this past spring. The Alcon Experience Academy (AEA) is an educational weekend consisting of Key Opinion Leader clinical presentations, hands-on learning workshops, and networking with fellow student peers. The students were also able to tour the Alcon facilities and experience Alcon's wide variety of products for themselves. The program will continue in 2025 and dates will be released shortly. Keep an eye out for more information on registration details for next year's student attendees.



Alcon hosts optometry students at Fort Worth campus



www.artoptical.com

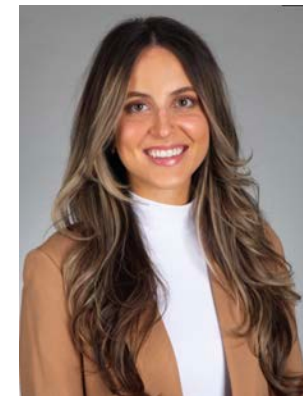
Erik Anderson, MBA, NCLEC - Executive Director of Professional Relations
eanderson@artoptical.com

Bruce Morgan, OD, FAAO - Executive Director of Research & Clinical Support
bmorgan@artoptical.com

Bethany Peebles, FAAO, NCLE-AC, ABOC - Executive Director of Consultation Services
bpeebles@artoptical.com

In partnership with Michigan College of Optometry, Art Optical is proud to welcome Dr. Dominika Bizub to the laboratory each week. As part of her Residency training, Dr. Bizub will work with Bethany Peebles, FAAO, ABOC, NCLE-AC, Executive Director of Consultation, to refine her skills in the art of specialty lens fitting, adjustments, and troubleshooting. The experience at Art Optical has been part of the MCO CCL Residency since 2013, making Dr. Bizub the 20th Resident to benefit from participating in the fit of over 500 specialty lens cases utilizing all types of designs, from corneal GPs to irregular cornea fits, scleral lenses, and orthokeratology. Art Optical enjoys supporting these special providers as they make their way into their careers!

Don't forget about the [travel grant program](#) for students, residents and new ODs!



Dominika Bizub, OD is the current Cornea & Contact Lens resident at MCO.

BAUSCH + LOMB

See better. Live better.

www.bausch.com

Mia Jones, OD - Manager, Medical Affairs, Global Vision Care
mia.jones@bausch.com

Bausch + Lomb Academic Consulting Experts (ACEs) continue to discuss the practical approach to caring for presbyopic patients with optometry students, faculty, and residents across AOCLE member institutions. The events have been well received to date, and now include a new presbyopic supplement as part of the discussions - [Vision and Lifestyle for the Modern Presbyopic Patient](#). Because of the recent launch of Bausch + Lomb INFUSE® for Astigmatism lenses, ACE events will soon feature a discussion on caring for astigmatic patients using real-world experiences. For more information on the ACE program, to schedule an ACE event, or to order printed copies of the new presbyopic supplement, contact Mia Jones, OD: mia.jones@bausch.com.



ACE doctor, Ryan Corte, OD, discusses Bausch + Lomb INFUSE® Multifocal contact lenses and how they can help presbyopic patients during an event at NOVA SE.



CooperVision®
Live Brightly.®

www.coopervision.com

Steven F. Rosinski, OD - Senior Manager, Professional & Academic Affairs - East
srosinski@coopervision.com
Arti Shah, OD, FAAO - Senior Manager, Professional & Academic Affairs - West
ashah@coopervision.com

Tara C. Vaz, OD, FAAO - Senior Manager, Professional & Academic Affairs - Central
tvaz@coopervision.com

The Myopia Collective, the groundbreaking partnership between the American Optometric Association (AOA) and CooperVision®, aims to rally the optometry profession and its allies to shift the focus on myopia from mere correction to comprehensive treatment. Launched earlier this year, the initiative invites every member of the optometric profession, regardless of their role or credentials, to join as a member. Membership reflects a shared commitment to advancing the standard of care for children with myopia in practices and communities, with access to specialized resources, opportunities, and marketing tools. For more details, and to be part of the change, join the Collective at www.myopiainitiative.org.



Visionary Optics
uniquely specialized contact lenses

medmont

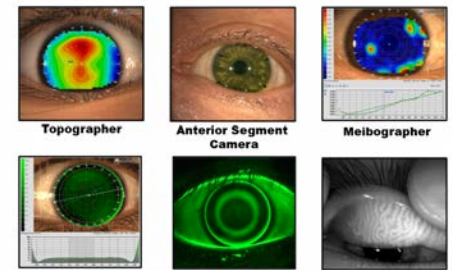
www.euclidsys.com

Jackson Lau, OD, FAAO, FSLs - Clinical & Scientific Affairs Manager
jackson.lau@euclidsys.com

Lynette Johns, OD, FAAO, FSLs, FBCLA - Director of Clinical & Scientific Affairs
lynette.johns@visionary-optics.com

Medmont has joined the Euclid and Visionary Optics family, marking an exciting collaboration between industry leaders in eye care technology. With Randy Kojima continuing to lead educational initiatives, Medmont remains a gold standard in corneal topography, offering advanced anterior segment imaging and diagnostic dry eye capabilities. Contact jon.hudson@euclidsys.com to explore exclusive educator discounts and customized educational resources, covering everything from basic topography capture to advanced troubleshooting analysis. This partnership underscores a shared commitment to advancing knowledge and providing top-tier solutions in eye care from the Euclid Vision Group.

Medmont Meridia Pro - Many Instruments in One





<http://usa.nidek.com>

Jay Wollack - Senior Sales & Marketing Manager

jay_wollack@nidek.com

NIDEK, Inc., in partnership with Medmont, is excited to offer the Medmont meridia™ Pro and meridia™ Classic Advanced Corneal Topographer models to U.S. eyecare 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 this performance by combining it with premium anterior, fluorescein imaging and videos, including OrthoK, and NaFI Video. Other new features include 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.tfoptics.com/

Don Dixon - General Manager

dondixon@tfoptics.com

George Mera, NCLE-AC - Fitting Consultant & School Liaison

george_mera@tfoptics.com

TruForm Optics has been active with hands-on workshops (scleral and multifocal lenses) at several schools of optometry, including UHCO and KYCO. TruForm is available to participate in workshops for the schools and colleges of optometry and encourages faculty members to reach out to schedule. TruForm is also happy to provide workshop lenses on a case-by-case basis to the schools of optometry.

For Summer 2024 TruForm Optics was proud to sponsor the annual GPLI Cornea and Contact Lens Residents' Symposium and in the Fall they saw many familiar faces at the American Academy of Optometry meeting in Indianapolis! Consultation is always available to faculty and students to answer questions about any of TruFrom Optics' specialty lens designs.



Segmented Multifocal Workshop at UHCO



valleycontax

custom contact lenses

www.valleycontax.com/

Josh Adams, NCLEC - Vice President

josh@valleycontax.com

Adeline Bauer, OD, FAAO, FSLs - Professional Relations Director

drbauer@valleycontax.com

Jennifer Conklin - Schools Coordinator

jennifer@valleycontax.com

Valley Contax is pleased to announce the expansion of its scleral lens lineup with its newest lens, posEYEdon. The posEYEdon scleral lens is designed for patients with normal eyes and works well for a high Rx, astigmatism, dry eyes, and more. Additionally, the posEYEdon is available in a multifocal. Do not hesitate to reach out to learn more or to schedule education.



Valley Contax has launched a new series of lectures tailored to Optometry Students. [Click here](#) to view the complete lineup of lectures or to schedule.



With the support of Contamac and EYEXY, Valley Contax hosted its 11th Annual Residency Summit in Oregon. The event welcomed the outgoing cornea and contact lens residents for a celebratory weekend to conclude their residency. Valley is looking forward to celebrating at the 12th Annual Summit in July 2025!



Executive Board

Chair: Dawn Lam, MSc, OD
Southern California College of Optometry at
Marshall B. Ketchum University
dlam@ketchum.edu

Immediate Past Chair: Julie Ott DeKinder, OD
University of Missouri - St. Louis
College of Optometry
dekinderj@umsl.edu

Vice-Chair: Pam Satjawatcharaphong, OD
University of California Berkeley
Herbert Wertheim School of
Optometry and Vision Science
psatjawat@berkeley.edu

Secretary: Nicky Lai, OD, MS
The Ohio State University College of Optometry
lai.102@osu.edu

Treasurer: Latricia Pack, OD
Northeastern State University
Oklahoma College of Optometry
packl@nsuok.edu

Communications Committee

Andrea Janoff, OD – janoffa@nova.edu
Lindsay A. Sicks, OD – lsicks@ico.edu
Dorcas Tsang, OD – dtsang@westernu.edu
Florencia Yeh, OD – fyeh@midwestern.edu