

## What is the AOCLÉ ?

The Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLÉ) is a non-profit organization of all the contact lens educators in the North American Schools and Colleges of Optometry (i.e. the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico). Its purpose is to provide a forum for exchange of information and communication between the contact lens educators.



Through twenty eight years, the AOCLÉ has maintained a continuous communications forum for its constituent schools and its individual members, well over 100 contact lens educators. The annual workshops, newsletter and other activities have

allowed an exchange of teaching methodologies and technologies, teaching aids, evaluation techniques, administrative expertise and countless other mutual concerns. No other group of clinical optometric educators have had the advantage of such a long and stable relationship. The benefits to the educators, to the industry partners and to the Schools and Colleges of Optometry have been immeasurable. The AOCLÉ continues to develop win-win programs with the cornea, contact lens and ocular pharmaceutical industry to further cornea-contact lens education.

## The AOCLÉ Mission Statement

The Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLÉ) has as its major objective enhanced communications between all the faculty involved in all aspects of the contact lens (CL) curriculum in the Schools and Colleges of Optometry in North America. To achieve these objectives, the Association has established the following goals:

- To enhance and foster the CL education at all the schools and colleges of optometry by providing an annual educational workshop to representatives of the association.
- To develop, refine and share new learning resources among schools and colleges.
- To present contemporary and future technologies that apply to the areas of anterior segment, cornea and contact lenses.
- To serve as a resource for communication between the AOCLÉ and various national and international organizations.
- To encourage a positive relationship between the contact lens educators and industry so that mutually beneficial projects and goals can be developed and achieved.
- To foster and demonstrate innovation and leadership in cornea and CL related education.
- To encourage the concept of post-doctoral training programs in the area of cornea and CL therapy and management.

## The Annual June Workshop

The AOCLÉ holds an annual 3-4 day workshop as a means to exchange ideas and share new teaching modalities in the field of cornea and contact lenses. This workshop is hosted by a different school each year. Topics of interest are identified and serve as a theme for the workshop. Two contact lens educators from each School of Optometry are active participants in the hands-on workshop along with representatives from our Industry partners. Each workshop also includes an update session, where the latest contact lens information is exchanged.

### AOCLÉ Workshops Themes

1983	UC Berkeley	Demonstrating & Teaching CL Related Research
1984	NEWENCO	Teaching Methodologies, CL Curriculum
1985	Ferris State	Computer Use in Education
1986	Pacific	Innovative Concepts in CL Education, Research Review
1987	Houston	Computer Applications, PMP & Clinical Simulations, Research Techniques
1988	Indiana	Ocular Microbiology Techniques, Statistics, Video Tapping of CL Fitting
1989	PCO	Clinical Assessment Techniques, Procedures in Diagnosis and Management
1990	UAB	Research Techniques, Computer Support Systems, Writing for Publication
1991	UMSL	Audio-Visual Aids, Development of Soft Lens Video Tapes
1992	TOSU	Clinical Teaching Methods, Student Evaluations, Teaching Specialty Lenses
1993	Montreal	Interactive Video, Specular Microscopy, Tear Analysis
1994	Waterloo	Interactive Educational Media, Computer Communications, Imaging & Teaching Tools
1995	SCCO	Teaching Clinical Problem Solving, Providing Effective Supervision to Students
1996	NSU	Therapeutic and Refractive Lasers, Theory and Hands-on Workshop
1997	ICO	Teaching Clinical Concepts in a Didactic Setting
1998	SCO	Enhanced Development of Multiple-Choice Examinations
1999	NOVA	Web Page Design and Distance Learning Course Design
2000	Waterloo	Advances in Technology for Clinical and Didactic Education
2001	Inter-American	Computer Assisted Teaching Tools
2002	SUNY	Residency Based Training



## AOCLÉ Living Library

The Living Library of Cornea and Contact Lens related topics is intended to be a reference source for practitioners, student clinicians and educators. It is a dynamic or "living" resource, continually being updated when new information or new or different treatment options occur. Each topic is written and edited by two separate contact lens educators, who continue to stay current on new developments in their particular area. Pages are updated continually as the need arises. All topics are peer-reviewed by two additional contact lens educators. The AOCLÉ Living Library can be found at the associations web site;

[www.aocle.org](http://www.aocle.org)

### Goals of the Living Library;

To provide a concise, easily accessible resource for practitioners as to the presentation and management of various cornea and contact lens related topics

To be a dynamic reference, updated as new information surfaces, to always contain the most current, up to the minute information on each condition

To provide lists of key references, for those desiring more information

To contain more extensive reference lists for in depth research into these areas



## AOCLÉ Achievements

Probably the greatest achievement that AOCLÉ has accomplished is the sharing of knowledge between CL Educators. Via several outlets such as videos, CD-ROMs, newsletters, faculty development grants, and other programs, CL educators have been able to work with colleagues and benefit from the sharing and developing of educational tools for teaching contact lens and its related subjects in their respective environments.

- 1983 Debut of annual Workshops to enhance CL educational exchanges  
Bank of CL-related exam questions created and distributed to the schools (Berkeley)
- 1985 Contribution of numerous slides from many schools to the creation of a Video Disc
- 1991 Development of Soft Contact Lens Fitting Videocassette  
IACLE and AOCLÉ representatives at respective annual workshops to enhance CL education globally
- 1992 Case and Slide Compendium produced and given to each school for CL teaching support  
Debut of biannual AOCLÉ Newsletter
- 1994 Participation at the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress on CL Education (Waterloo workshop)
- 1996 Article Compendium (a disquette of frequently-referenced CL-related articles) (Chicago)
- 1996 Contact Lens Faculty Development Grant Program
- 1996 E-mail Listing appears in AOCLÉ Newsletter
- 1997 AOCLÉ Information Pamphlet
- 1998 Creation of Computer-based Patient Simulations on CD-ROM (Memphis)
- 1999 AOCLÉ Website ([www.aocle.org](http://www.aocle.org))
- 2000 Participation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress on CL Education (Waterloo)
- 2001 Living Library of Cornea and Contact Lens Related Topics
- 2002 Soft Toric Contact Lens Fitting CD-ROM



## The Communications Committee

The Communications committee is responsible for disseminating AOCLÉ information to contact lens educators and industry partners. In 1992 the AOCLÉ Newsletter was created to provide a vehicle for communication with all of the individuals who may be involved in contact lens education on their campuses. In addition, the newsletter has provided an effective summary of the educational programs and teaching materials available for use in contact lens education.

The AOCLÉ Newsletter has become a valuable and readily available resource for not only contact lens educators but other educators, administrators and industry people. Over 250 copies are distributed across the US, Canada, Puerto Rico and Australia. It contains information on the association's workshops, annual meetings, contact lens residencies, job opportunities, industry programs and products, web sites, internet addresses, membership addresses including phone numbers and e-mail addresses, a listing of industry resources and other informative articles. Dr. Etty Bitton (Montreal) and Dr. Jan Jurkus (ICO) are the current committee chairs.

## Industry Participants & Partners

Over the past 28 years, the faculty members of AOCLÉ has been able to enhance contact lens education in our Schools and Colleges of Optometry. Part of the success is due to the help and support of our partners in the Contact Lens and Pharmaceutical Industries. We would like to acknowledge the following companies who have worked with the Optometric Contact Lens Educators over the years;

### over 20 years

Bausch & Lomb (27)  
Ciba Vision (20)

### 10-15 years

Alcon (15)  
Allergan (14)  
Cooper Vision (14)  
Paragon (12)  
Wesley-Jessen (12)

Polymer Technology (11)  
Vistakon (11)  
Sunsoft (10)

### under 10 years

American Hydron (6)  
Barnes-Hind (6)  
Sola/Barnes-Hind (5)  
Specialty Ultravision (5)  
Pilkington Barnes-Hind (4)

Ocular Sciences (3)  
American Optical (2)  
Dow Corning (2)  
Syntex (2)  
CTL Labs (1)  
Fisons (1)  
Menicon (1)  
RGPLI (1)  
Summit Technology (1)  
X-Cel Contacts (1)

