

SCLERAL LENSES ARE BOOMING



Highlights from the 2019 International Congress of Scleral Contacts.

BY MELISSA BARNETT, OD, FAAO, FSLs, FBCLA

The interest in scleral lenses from a global perspective is tremendous. I am still invigorated from the 2019 International Congress of Scleral Contacts (ICSC) meeting, which took place at the end of July in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This meeting was truly inspirational and international. Each year, the ICSC welcomes both scleral lens experts and beginners and features leading experts in the field. This year, delegates from 15 countries participated in the only 2-day meeting devoted solely to scleral lenses.

THE MEETING, IN A SNAPSHOT

Key opinion leaders from all over the world, including scleral lens visionaries Donald F. Ezekiel, AM, Dip Opt (WA), DCLP, FACLp, FAAO, and Kenneth W. Pullum, BSc, FCOptom, DipCLP, presented lectures that generated informative, interactive follow-up discussions. Many fascinating topics were discussed, such as fenestrations and channels in scleral lenses, quadrant-specific base curves within the scleral lens optic zone, bevacizumab (Avastin, Genentech) for the treatment of corneal neovascularization, and incorporating higher-order aberrations into scleral lenses.

Latin America was well represented, and, in anticipation of this, the entire meeting was translated live into Spanish. A special session, “Esclerales Universales/Universal Sclerals,” which highlighted the recent global growth of scleral lenses, was presented in Spanish with English translation.

Another highly informative session was on marketing a scleral lens practice. Alan Glazier, OD, shared tips and tricks on how to grow a specialty contact lens practice.



Meeting attendees practiced new skills during a wet lab session.



ICSC Co-Chairs Melissa Barnett, OD, FAAO, FSLs, FBCLA, and Tom Arnold, OD, FSLs, bookend scleral lens legends Kenneth W. Pullum, BSc, FCOptom, DipCLP, (middle left) and Donald F. Ezekiel, AM, Dip Opt (WA), DCLP, FACLp, FAAO (middle right).

As an added bonus, several hands-on workshops were provided by valuable sponsors to expand the knowledge and skills of attendees and to expose them to a variety of products and fitting philosophies.

BE A PART OF ICSC 2020

The popularity of scleral lenses is colossal and continues to grow. As demonstrated each year at ICSC, the passion, expertise, and interest of scleral lens practitioners, and the future of scleral lenses, are extraordinary. We are in a historic phase of scleral lens growth. The 2019 ICSC meeting was top-notch and offered best practices for patients, practitioners, and industry. My co-chair Tom Arnold, OD, FSLs, and I personally invite you to participate in ICSC 2020.

Wishing you continued scleral lens success! ■

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