



# BCLA Annual Report 2021/22

Education

Events

Community



Best practice

Learning

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[www.bcla.org.uk](http://www.bcla.org.uk)

## MESSAGE FROM CEO AND PRESIDENT



**What a challenging, busy and exciting year it has been! We have had little chance to do a reset since the start of the pandemic in 2019/2020, moving our entire educational programme online and even expanding on it with new podcasts and the certificate in myopia management.**

Following the success of the clinical conference in June 2021 we delivered another virtual event, BCLA Vision, in November to round off a busy year of events. We hoped to deliver this second event in person but regrettably the ongoing impacts and uncertainties meant we had to keep it online. This opened up the opportunity for new delegates to join, with something for everyone, including multiple lecture and peer discussion streams. It also featured the Pioneers Lecture from Dr Eric Papas. We are proud of the high levels of engagement achieved; it enabled us to attract a greater global audience than we have been able to otherwise.

We are even more pleased that the situation improved enough for us to deliver our first in-person event in three years. BCLA Focus, held in June 2022, has been a massive highlight from the previous 12 months. This is usually a 'national conference' year, but the event still attracted international attendance onsite – including Canada, Israel, Greece, Italy (to name a few). As a hybrid event we increased our global attendance even further and had participation from south east Asia and north America.

Our fantastic programme featured a range of topics with the latest research from world renowned specialists in this field. Seeing colleagues reconnect or meet for the first time was inspirational. Our exhibition was well attended, and delegates benefitted from learning about the latest products from our corporate partners. We were also able to recognise and reward new BCLA Fellows, certificate achievers in dry eye management and myopia management. It was also a special moment when we were finally able to award Professor James Wolffsohn the BCLA Medal in person. His contributions to the profession and the BCLA are beyond measure, and he received a well-deserved standing ovation.

As a thought leader in these acute areas of practice it is important for the BCLA to continue to reassert its important role. In addition to our world renowned events we also produce a scientific journal of high repute. CLAE continues to be a stalwart in research and is yet to reach its full potential. It is through this published research that the Association influences and shapes practice and standards, globally. It is through its findings (including BCLA CLEAR published in April 2021) that we can contribute to consultations and standards development – particularly here in the UK where the BCLA is based. We have contributed to numerous regulatory consultations that will impact on practice and improve eye health and patient safety.

## MESSAGE FROM CEO AND PRESIDENT

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Contact lenses are medical devices and the BCLA will continue to advocate for the role of ECPs in the provision of contact lenses to patients. Moreover, as a profession we need to battle against illegal and unsafe supply chains. Substitution remains a debated topic, but we were pleased to host a panel webinar on this during Love Your Lenses week which focused on the paper 'Not all soft contact lenses are equal'. This paper highlighted the various risks associated with lenses that are not suitable for the bio physiology of individuals' eyes and unique ocular surface needs.

We have a role to play as a profession and we will continue to support you in both your educational and professional needs. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss or raise any aspect of your support requirements.

It is important to recognise the tireless and important work of the BCLA council, committees, global ambassadors and office team. The BCLA is a small association with big aspirations and a large influence. We can only achieve this through the commitment and passion demonstrated by all of those that have made active contributions to our ambitious work programme. A huge thank you as well to our annual sponsors that have funded large parts of this programme.

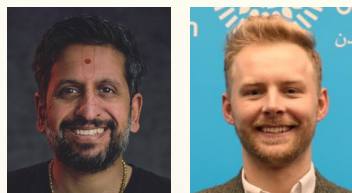
Lastly, we say thank you to our valued members. We look forward to networking with you at one of our upcoming events and are delighted to host our first in person international clinical conference in four years! If you have any feedback or opinions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**LUKE STEVENS-BURT**  
CEO

**NEIL RETALLIC**  
BCLA PRESIDENT

Webinar:

## Contact Lenses and Allergy-Fixing that itch



Dr Keyur Patel and Mr Zach Cairns

14 July 2021

Webinar:

## The Tool is only as good as its user: "Getting the best images from your Slit Lamp



Dr Keyur Patel and Nicola Bennett

30 September 2021

Webinar:

## Optimising contact lens comfort for wearer success



Professor Philip Morgan

30 November 2021

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

## BCLA Vision Virtual Conference & Exhibition

- Virtual event
- 7 November 2021
- Programme featured the Pioneers Lecture presented by Prof Eric Papas and the Medal Address presented by Prof James Wolffsohn
- 361 attendees
- Exhibiting companies: 6

September 2021

## BCLA CLEAR Podcast series launched

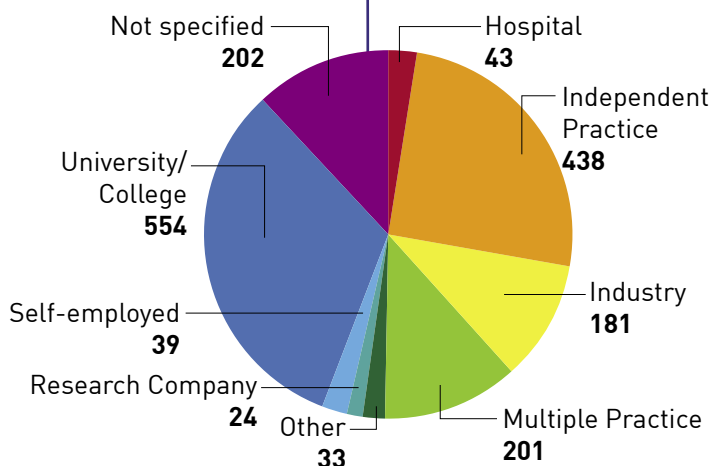
December 2021

## BCLA Membership stands at 1,582



9 students have achieved the Certificate in Dry Eye Management and Contact Lens Retention (between July 2021 – June 2022)

30 members have achieved the Certificate in Myopia Management



Webinar:

**Introduction to prosthetic lenses and patient case studies**



Andrew Jelly and Karen Hughes

**12 January 2022**

Webinar:

**Anterior OCT and It's Benefits in Optometric Practice**



Presented by Danielle Lee and supported by Nicola Bennett

**2 March 2022**

Webinar:

**Management of contact lens related keratitis**



Indy Sian

**26 April 2022**

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

**April 2022**

**ACLM Year Book available online**

**May 2022**

**BCLA Learning Platform launched**

**May 2022**

**BCLA webinars available to view on-demand**

**June 2022**

**BCLA runs Love Your Lenses Campaign**

**BCLA Focus Hybrid Conference & Exhibition**

- Hybrid event (venue: The Vox Conference Centre, Birmingham)
- 11 – 12 June 2022
- Attendance – 242
- Exhibiting companies: 12

Webinar:

**Optimising contact lens comfort for wearer success**



Presented by Professor James Wolffsohn, Neil Retallic, Serena Dunwoody and Indie Grewal

**14 June 2022**

Webinar:

**BCLA CLEAR**



Professor Jonathan Jackson and Professor James Wolffsohn

**15 June 2022**



## BCLA AWARDS

### BCLA MEDAL ADDRESS



● Professor James Wolffsohn

Professor James Wolffsohn was awarded the coveted BCLA Medal and received a standing ovation from a packed audience at the BCLA Focus conference in June 2022.

## BCLA FELLOWSHIP

**The number of BCLA Fellows, who have demonstrated their esteem in the field of contact lenses and/or the anterior eye, is continuing to grow steadily after the introduction of BCLA Fellowship in 2006.**

Following the latest round of awards at the BCLA Focus event in June 2022, more than 220 Fellows from across the world are now endowed and able to use the post-nominal letters, FBCLA.

## 2022 Fellows

Dr Carmen Abesamis Dichoso  
 Roxanne Achong-Coan  
 Fakhruddin Barodawala  
 Chithra Dhananalan  
 Sarah Farrant  
 Robert Gerowitz  
 Neil Harvey  
 Karin Van Hees-Teuben  
 Samir Jivanjee  
 Debbie Jones  
 Jason Ki Kit Lau  
 Rabia Mobeen  
 Ian Sexton  
 Bhavin Shah  
 Tomasz Sulinski  
 Sonia Trave Huarte



## CONTACT LENS AND ANTERIOR EYE

**Contact Lens and Anterior Eye (CLAE) is a peer reviewed journal covering all aspects of contact lens theory and clinical practice and related anterior eye topics. CLAE is an important journal in the ophthalmic field and is one of only two peer reviewed journals specialising in contact lenses that has an impact factor (ranked journals). The impact factor is an important measure for a peer reviewed journal. In July 2022 the 2021 impact factors were released and CLAE saw a 30% rise on its previous impact factor, now standing at 3.946 and remaining firmly in the 2nd quartile of ophthalmic related peer reviewed journals. CLAE is now ranked 20 out of the list of 61 ranked ophthalmology journals and 2nd out of optometry peer reviewed journals, only 0.046 of a point behind the leading optometry journal.**

The journal is owned by the BCLA and published by Elsevier and has a truly international feel to it with global readership, international authors and editorial panel members from all over the world. The Editor-in-Chief is Shehzad Naroo (UK) and there are four Associate Editors: Robin L Chalmers (USA); Pauline Cho (Hong Kong); Eric Papas (Australia); and Stephen Vincent (Australia). In 2022 one themed issue was delivered on the topic of 'Long-term effects of CL wear', with guest editors Dr Maria Jesus Gonzalez Garcia (Spain) and Dr Nicola Carnt (Australia). A themed issue is planned for 2023 on the topic of specialist contact lenses, and for 2024 a new BCLA CLEAR issue is being planned on the topic of presbyopia. This issue will collate all the evidence on this topic, gathered by global experts and presented in one concise issue of CLAE. In 2019 CLAE had 325 new submissions to the journal and in 2020 there were 543, this dropped to 468 in 2021. In 2022 it seems the numbers are more like they were pre-pandemic.



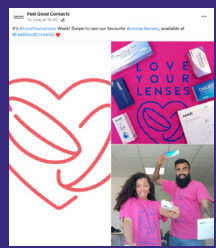
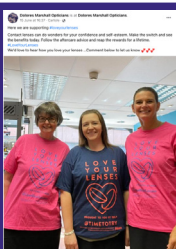
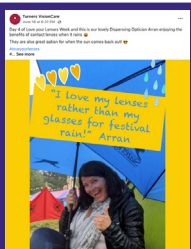
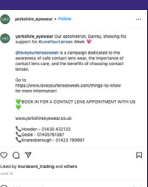
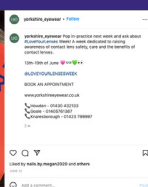
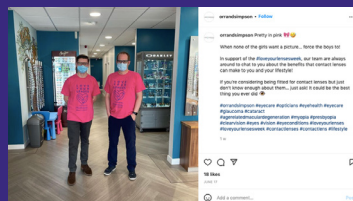
The editorial board of CLAE met once in November 2021 (virtually), although the same meeting was held twice on the same day to allow for the many different time zones of the editorial panel. The meeting was well attended and strategies for taking CLAE forward were discussed. Separate discussions were held with the publishers Elsevier and the BCLA throughout the year. CLAE would like to thank the BCLA Council for their continued support of their journal and an enormous thanks to the authors and reviewers who work tirelessly putting manuscripts together for publication in CLAE.

**SHEHZAD A. NAROO**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## LOVE YOUR LENSES

The BCLA was proud to once again launch Love Your Lenses week in 2022, with wide support from across the profession and industry for a campaign that raises awareness of safe contact lens wear and the benefits of wearing contact lenses.

The campaign, held in June, inspired eye care professionals to get talking about contact lenses and encourage their patients to consider giving them a try.



The campaign saw a rise of 20% compared to 2021 with a total of 273 registrations from practices across the UK (and some from around the world who took part digitally) while the #LoveYourLenses hashtag had a reach of 441,000.

The first 250 practices to register received a printed resource pack including t-shirts, posters, pens, stickers and other promotional materials while an online resource pack contained social media graphics and posts, a press release template, downloadable posters and other digital resources. Love Your Lenses, which attracted sponsorship from CooperVision, AOS, Eyes are the story, Hakim Group, Menicon, Bausch + Lomb, Johnson and Johnson plus support from ACLM, AOP, ABDO, FODO and received funding from the Central Optical Fund. The campaign was well-received by those who took part and plans are in place to stage it once again in September 2023.

# LOVE YOUR LENSES



## BCLA GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

**Our network of global ambassadors extends the worldwide reach of the BCLA and galvanises its vision to bring the international contact lens and anterior eye health community closer together than ever before.**

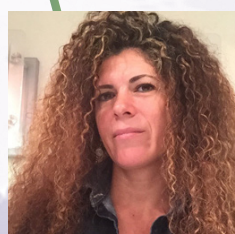
**The global ambassadors play a key role in amplifying the BCLA's commitment to global knowledge sharing, education and networking.**



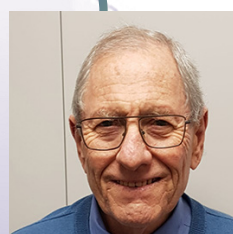
Amod Gogate



Dr. Melissa Barnett



Daddi Fadel



David Berkow



Dr. Fernando J  
Fernández-Velázquez



Fabrizio Zeri



Bridgitte Shen Lee



Jacinto Santodomingo



Dr. Joserine Samson



Assoc  
Prof Jennifer Craig



Dr. Karen G.  
Carrasquillo



Kurt Moody



Prof. Pauline Cho



Dr Nicole Carnt

## BCLA COUNCIL 2021 - 2022

### PRESIDENT

Neil Retallic

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Rakesh Kapoor

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Indie Grewal

### MEMBERS

Ankur Barua  
Anthony Blackman  
Debarun Dutta  
Corrina McElduff  
Lisa Goldsmith (Lay member)  
Sarah Farrant  
Byki Huntjens  
Jonathan Jackson  
Rebecca Stoner

### BCLA CONSULTANTS

Professor James Wolffsohn, Chair of Academic Committee, Chair of Conference Scientific Programme  
Dr Shehzad Naroo, CLAE Journal Editor-in-Chief  
Daniel Owens, Communications Consultant  
Marc Bennett, Financial Consultant

### BCLA STAFF

Luke Stevens-Burt, Chief Executive Officer  
Jashan Bahia, Marketing & Communications Manager  
Cilia Launay, Events Manager  
Nicola Andrews, CPD & Events Assistant  
Jayne Stevens-Burt, Membership Coordinator





## SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

### Group Statement of Financial Activities

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Income &amp; Endowments from:</b>		
Conference, exhibition, journal and other income	550,319	336,533
Investment income	88	575
Tax Recovery	-	3,661
<b>Total income &amp; endowments</b>	<b>550,407</b>	<b>340,769</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>		
Conferences & exhibitions	367,731	248,372
Member services including journal	195,252	184,809
Seminars & courses	35,033	31,555
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>598,016</b>	<b>464,736</b>
<b>Net surplus/(expenditure) for the year &amp; movement in funds</b>	<b>(47,609)</b>	<b>(123,967)</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2021	248,194	372,161
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>200,585</b>	<b>48,194</b>

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

### Group Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets		171		1,409
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	68,927		195,627	
Cash at bank and in hand	344,557		346,743	
	413,484		542,370	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	168,626		245,585	
Net current assets		244,858		296,785
		245,029		298,194
<b>Creditors amounts falling due after more than 1 year</b>		44,444		50,000
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>200,585</b>		<b>248,194</b>
<b>Income funds</b>				
Unrestricted funds		200,585		248,194

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 5 September 2022.

Company Registration No. 01336067

## BCLA AGM MINUTES 2021

The meeting was formally opened with a thanks to all members for attending the event. The audience attracted international attendance which was greatly appreciated and showed the continued benefits of the digital approach.

### 1. Report of the Council (see 2020 Annual Report)

All the details of the BCLA's activities in 2020 can be found in the annual reports held on the website. President, Indie Grewal, and, CEO, Luke Stevens-Burt, delivered a presentation to attendees that reflected on the year just past and the years ahead.

### 2. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 September 2020

Minutes were approved (83 votes cast; 75 in favour, 1 against, 7 abstentions). Proposer: David Webley. Seconder: Byki Huntjens.

### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising were proposed prior to the meeting or raised during the meeting.

### 4. To consider and receive the accounts and balance sheet of the Association for the period 1 January to 31 December 2020

Accounts were approved (84 votes cast; 74 in favour, 2 against, 8 abstentions). Proposer: Neil Retallic; Seconder: Indie Grewal.

A short overview of the Association's finances were presented by the BCLA's financial consultant, Marc Bennett. The information is all available in the reports and accounts for the BCLA.

### 5. To appoint HW Fisher & Co as auditors of the Association for the financial year ending 21 December 2021 and until the next AGM; and to authorise the Council to determine their remuneration

Appointment was approved (84 votes cast; 76 in favour, 1 against, 7 abstentions). Proposer: Rakesh Kapoor; seconder: Catherine Chisholm.

### 6. Special resolutions

- Special resolution 1: Inclusion of a clause to allow online attendance at the AGM either through a hybrid meeting or purely online (84 votes cast; 82 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention)
- Special resolution 2: To formalise electronic ballots to conduct AGM and other general meetings in the Articles (84 votes cast; 81 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions)
- Special resolution 3: Inclusion of a clause to allow Council meetings either through a hybrid meeting or purely online (83 votes cast; 80 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention)
- Special resolution 4: General corrections to the language and updates for accuracy and to be more inclusive

(84 votes cast; 80 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstention)

All special resolutions were approved. Proposer: Jonathon Bench; Seconder: Catherine Chisholm

### 7. To appoint new directors

As a result of retirements and council terms ending an election process was held. New members of council were appointed:

- Debarun Dutta, Lecturer, Aston University
- Corrina McElduff, Professional Services Consultant, CooperVision
- Anthony Blackman, CLO and Director of Training, Leightons Opticians and Insight Optical Training
- Lisa Goldsmith, Independent Digital and Data Protection Director/Consultant (lay representative)

### 8. To report the composition of the 2021-2022 BCLA Council

The Presidential Chain of Office was formally handed over to Neil Retallic. Rakesh Kapoor was announced as President-elect.

Current members of BCLA Council:

Neil Retallic (President)  
Rakesh Kapoor (President-elect)  
Indie Grewal (Immediate past President)  
Byki Huntjens  
Rebecca Stoner  
Sarah Farrant  
Ankur Barua  
Andrew Jonathon Jackson  
Debarun Dutta  
Corrina McElduff  
Anthony Blackman  
Lisa Goldsmith (lay member representative)

Thanks was given to those who had stepped down from their council roles:

Nick Howard  
Josie Barlow  
Jonathon Bench  
Philip Deja  
Eleanor Hill  
Christine Purslow

### 9. AOB

No other business or queries were brought to the meeting.

Thanks was given to the BCLA Council (including those retired) and the BCLA office team for arranging the event. The AGM was formally closed at 19:00.

Please address all communications to:

**membership@bcla.org.uk**

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