

# Journal of CONTACT LENS RESEARCH & SCIENCE



## Proceedings of the International Forum on Scleral Lens Research

### INTRODUCTION

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The second annual international meeting dedicated exclusively to scleral contact lens (ScCL) **research** took place in Houston Texas, December 4, 2017. The explosively increased interest in this device necessitated the establishment of a meeting focused solely on ScCLs. We are pleased to report that the International Forum for Scleral Lens Research (IFSLR) was a sellout with interested practitioners from private practice and academia on stand by for a seat in the meeting hall!

The Mission Statement of the IFSLR summed up the intent of this gathering – *“To advance the discipline of scleral contact lens prescribing through the coordinated efforts of evidenced-based research and clinical practice.”* The University of Houston College of Optometry stood for the meeting logistics and the scientific content and organization was governed by a Scientific Executive Committee, consisting of Jan Bergmanson, Chair, Melissa Barnett, William Miller, Thomas Arnold, Muriel Schornack, and Ralph Stone. The industry advisory board consisted of David Bland, Martin Dalsing, Howard Purcell, and Jan Svochak. The IFSLR was supported by the experienced University

of Houston College of Optometry educational meeting administration led by Marcus Piccolo, Jennifer Ebert, Amanda Johnson, and Amanda Shaw.

The intent of this Forum was to take the temperature of ongoing research activities and to discuss known ScCL challenges. The ambition was to learn what is known and evidence based and to identify gaps in our knowledge. The ensuing discussions –occupying approximately half of the meeting time - will most likely help directing efforts to encourage research in specific areas, which will benefit lens performance and patient experience as well as manufacturing.

The IFSLR identified several clinically significant areas of interest for deliberation and discussion, which was only a few of all worthy topics to address related to this amazing medical device. **Perhaps the most important message to be communicated is the notion that there are many questions surrounding the use of scleral lenses that do need continued research and development to allow safe and optimal wear of the devices.** This special issue of JCLRS outlines some of the proceedings and topics discussed.