Fellowship Program
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Introduction

The award of Fellowship of the Cornea & Contact Lens Society of Australia is the highest level of membership of the Society. It acknowledges the person to be a specialist in the field of contact lenses.

Candidates must have had at least three years post-graduate clinical and/or academic experience. A full and wide spectrum of knowledge over the whole of contact lens practice is expected.

Sixty four (64) CPD points will also be gained through achievement of a Fellowship (Australia only).

Candidacy for Fellowship of the CCLSA

A Fellow of the Society may add the letters FCCLSA after his or her name and use the Fellowship as an indicator of esteem, as provided below:

Clinical Candidates: are registered optometrists or ophthalmologists engaged in clinical practice who are current members of the CCLSA.

Scientific Candidates: are primarily involved in research relating to the vision sciences. They have published articles in peer-reviewed journals, and generally have an advanced degree in a vision-science area of discipline. Of the 65 points required from scientific candidates, at least three scientific publications (5 points per publication) are required.

Earning CCLSA Fellowship

CCLSA Fellowship is an earned distinction that requires demonstration of professional competence. Candidacy is a four-step process.

Step 1: Application Form

Complete the Application form and return with the application fee to the CCLSA offices (see Appendices A, B and C for further information).

It is essential that all requirements outlined in the application form be completed. The requisite candidate fees must accompany the form. Once the application has been processed, the candidate will receive an acknowledgement letter by e-mail that will include information on how to submit written work.
Fellowship applicants are provided with a useful start-up folder containing contact lens information, IER and Efron grading scales, parameter guides, web resources and the IACLE 10 disc computer contact lens resource series.

**Step 2: Mentor**

You will then be appointed a mentor(s). The mentors function is to guide you and answer any questions you may have regarding the journey through the Fellowship procedure. The purpose of the mentor is NOT to act as a tutor or to run through case records prior to submission.

**Step 3: Written Material**

Candidates for the Fellowship are required to complete four base level case reports. Once these case reports have been completed the candidate can then commence the requirements of the points system to complete the demonstration of their advanced skills.

A points system has been put in place to permit candidates with different avenues for demonstrating their advanced skills in the field of contact lenses. A combination of points, which must total **65 points**, is required to complete this stage of the Fellowship process. The following table summarises the combination of points each type of candidate may use to achieve 65 points. The points total must include the written slide examination and the clinical slide examination.

**Fellowship of the CCLSA (FCCLSA)**

A Fellow of the Society may add the letters FCCLSA after his or her name and use the Fellowship as an indicator of esteem, as provided below:

To gain a Fellowship of the CCLSA members of the Society (excluding student members) must be awarded 65 points by the academic faculty and subsequently satisfy the faculty of their contact lens and anterior eye credentials in an assessment based on evidence presented. Points can be awarded for any combination of the following achievements:

1. **Case record of an advanced contact lens fit.**
   
   There is no limit to how many can be submitted, but they must contain sufficient details and follow-up to allow evaluation. **[10 points]**

2. **Clinical slide examination – series of slides will be shown of various conditions and lens fits on which the candidate would be expected to discuss and pass comment.** **[15 points]**
3. Written examination – a 60 minute examination covering the entirety of contact lens practice generally in multiple choice format. (15 points).

4. Presentation of a paper or poster on contact lenses or the anterior eye at the ICCL or NZCCL. [5 points].
   Two presentations may be submitted and you do not have to be 1st author. Please provide a copy of the abstract from the published work.

5. Publication of a peer reviewed journal article on contact lenses or the anterior eye. Author only. [5 points]
   An additional 2 points will be awarded for publication in Clinical and Experimental Optometry.

6. Book chapter on Contact Lenses and/or anterior eye topics [10 points if 1st author or 5 points if 2nd author] or editorship [20 points].
   There is a limit of two book chapters but you do not have to be the first author. You cannot gain points from more than 2 chapters, or editorship and chapters in the same book.

7. Presentation of a workshop on contact lenses or the anterior eye at the ICCL or NZCCL conferences. [5 points].

8. A postgraduate degree in contact lenses or anterior eye management such as PhD (15 points), MSc [10 points], DipCL [5 points], Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics [5 points]. Other postgraduate diplomas will be considered on an individual basis.
   Please provide a certified copy of the certificate and explain what was involved in gaining this award.

Explanation of the Point System

A point system has been put into place to allow candidates more options to meet the written requirements.

The deadline for submitting all required documentation for the written requirements of the admittance process occurs four months prior to the scheduled date set annually for the oral examination to be held. The Fellowship examination panel will set a time and a place annually. Dates are selected to coincide with major conferences in Australia to make it easier for candidates to schedule to attend.
Step 4: Oral Examination

Once the candidate has achieved **50 points**, he or she will be invited to sit for an oral examination at the next International Cornea & Contact Lens Society (ICCL), CCLSA AGM or the New Zealand Cornea & Contact Lens Society meeting. It is the candidate’s responsibility to provide their Fellowship Program Chair with any documentation requested before consideration for awarding points can be made, and it is the Fellowship Program Chair’s responsibility to assess whether or not the materials presented satisfy the intent of the category. The candidate will be examined on the basis of the credentials and written work submitted to the committee. Candidates who successfully complete the oral examination are expected to attend the Gala Dinner at whichever meeting the exam was held to be inducted as Fellows.

Responsibilities of Fellowship

Each person admitted to CCLSA Fellowship is expected to:

- Live up to the Membership Agreement, which is signed at the time of submitting the application (see Appendix A);
- Attend at least one AGM or bi-annual International CCLSA meeting every two years;
- Contribute to the work of the CCLSA by serving on a committee when requested, submitting papers, posters, and/or courses to the annual and/or International CCL Conference educational and scientific programs, encouraging research in optometry and being active in a CCLSA chapter, if one is available; and
- Sponsor additional candidates for Fellowship and serve as a mentor for candidates when invited.

Ongoing Fellowship Requirements

Once awarded, a Fellow will be expected to perform certain duties to retain their Fellowship. These will be along the lines of assisting applicants for Fellowship, assisting at the Annual AGM or International Conference etc.
Case Report Guidelines

Clinical Fellowship

To meet the case reports requirement, candidates must submit written case reports on a designated area of contact lens practice. The patient reported on should have been followed for at least twelve (12) months.

Candidates must prepare four base case reports on any of the following five topics:

1. A contact lens fitting for the correction of more than 8.00D of myopia utilising a rigid lens design.
2. A contact lens fitting for the correction of more the 5.00D of hyperopia utilising a rigid lens design.
3. A contact lens refitting in which at least one specific problem is solved by a significant design/material change. The following are examples of acceptable entities: corneal oedema, giant papillary conjunctivitis, infiltrative keratitis, ulcerative keratitis, superior limbic keratoconjunctivitis, significant corneal abrasion, corneal warpage, significant 3 and 9 staining, or severe allergic or toxic reaction related to the lens care system.
4. A contact lens fitting, in which a back surface toric or bitoric lens, utilising a rigid lens design, is used to fit an astigmatic cornea of more than 2.50D of toricity utilising a rigid lens design.
5. A contact lens fitting, to correct residual astigmatism utilising a toric front surface/spherical back optic curve rigid lens or soft toric lens.

Candidates may select from the following case report topics to fulfil the requirements of the points system.

1. A contact lens fitting of a keratoconic cornea utilising a rigid lens design.
2. A contact lens fitting following corneal surgery (i.e. refractive surgery, penetrating keratoplasty, repair of a corneal laceration or other significant corneal trauma).
3. A contact lens fitting for the correction of presbyopia utilising a bifocal lens design, rigid or soft.
4. A contact lens fitting to bring about a reduction in refractive error (i.e. Orthokeratology).
5. A cosmetic contact lens fitting for a congenital or acquired disfigurement.

6. A scleral contact lens fitting (? Define scleral – includes miniscleral?).

7. The treatment and management of an anterior eye condition utilising a therapeutic contact lens.

8. The treatment and management of an anterior eye condition utilising therapeutic agents.

Candidates may substitute an article, paper, or chapter in a textbook of which they are the principal author, in place of a written case report. The article or paper must have been published in a refereed journal. A maximum of four substitutions are allowed. The paper must relate to the area of a contact lens fitting addressed in the requirement for which the paper is being submitted. The Case Reports Chair and his/her referees will decide whether or not a published article/paper is acceptable and meets the substitution requirements.

Case reports should be typed with double-spacing one A4 paper. An original and two copies should be submitted. Pages should be numbered and stapled together in the left hand corner. Reports should not be bound.

The candidate’s name and address should appear only on the cover letter and not on the case reports. The Case Reports Chairperson will assign each report a coded number and will forward the reports to two examiners, who are Fellows of the Cornea and Contact Lens Society of Australia. This is to ensure that the examiners do not know the author of the report they are grading and guards against any individual bias.

The first two case reports should be written as if it were submitted to a refereed journal for publication. All case reports must contain the following information:

1. **Patient information**: initials, age, sex, occupation and hobbies. Dates of all visits.

2. **Patient history** (including familial): Visual and ocular history with details relating to contact lenses. Ocular injuries and surgeries should be detailed in full. Describe visual requirements and reasons for desiring contact lenses. Include a general history with complete list of diseases and medications.
3. **Diagnostic testing**, including the following areas:–
   a. External examination, including lids and other adnexa
   b. Ophthalmoscopy
   c. Measurement of corneal shape, either keratometry or videokeratometry
   d. Manifest refraction
   e. Visual acuities distance and near, aided and unaided
   f. Biomicroscopy (detailing all structures examined)
   g. Any other indicated tests

4. **Diagnosis**

5. **Treatment options**: 
   a. Complete discussion of all treatment options for this patient, delineating advantages and disadvantages
   b. Description of course of treatment and justification for this patient
   c. Please include information that you shared with the patient and the patient’s response

6. **Diagnostic contact lens fitting**: 
   a. Full descriptions of fitting philosophy and techniques. Justify the choice of each parameter
   b. Complete diagnostic lens specifications
   c. Evaluation of lens performance including fluorescein patterns for rigid lenses, centration, movement, visual acuities, and over-refraction for all diagnostic lenses, centration, movement, visual acuities, and over-refraction for all diagnostic lenses
   d. Include reasons for final lens selection, calculation of lens power and complete specifications of final lens design ordered

7. **Dispensing**: 
   a. Evaluation of lens performance
   b. Visual acuities and over-refraction
   c. Modification or alterations, if necessary
   d. Instructions to patients, including wearing schedule, lens maintenance and handling, importance of regular follow-up, etc.
8. **After-care visits**: at least two must be described in detail:
   
a. Dates, wearing, times
b. History, symptoms, spectacle blur, etc
c. VA with contact lenses, over-refraction and spectacle refraction upon lens removal
d. Evaluation of fit
e. Biomicroscopy with and without contact lenses, including lens performance, condition of cornea
f. Modifications to contact lens prescription and why they are needed
g. Advice to patient and plan

9. **Discussion**, summary and conclusions

10. **References** should be cited where necessary to justify a clinical decision

Each case report should include a general discussion on the lenses selected and the fitting philosophy that was used for this patient. Candidates should also elaborate on the types of problems that may or may not be encountered with this type of fitting as well as outlining what other fitting strategies could have been considered for this patient. The inclusion of topography plots and digital photos is encouraged.

Case reports progress is required before proceeding to the other examination parts. Candidates must have at least two case reports (not substituted published papers) accepted before they will be allowed to attempt the other parts of the examination process.

**Academic Fellowship**

Academic Fellowship is available to those individuals who contribute significantly to the field of contact lens practice but who are not in clinical practice. In view of the fact that candidates for Academic Fellowship are not directly involved in patient care, the case reports requirement is replaced by a requirement that will enable the candidate to demonstrate their understanding of the principles of scientific research as well as their knowledge of the latest developments in the field of contact lens research.

To meet this requirement, candidates are required to prepare two (2) scientific papers, each of about 5–10,000 words in length, on the topics related to contact lens practice which will be agreed upon by the examining committee and the candidate.
Candidates should first submit five topics appropriate for a scientific paper of approximately 5–10,000 words. The Fellowship Committee will rule out any unacceptable topics and the candidate may then write the two papers on any of the remaining topics. Co-authored papers will not be accepted and the candidate will retain all publishing rights to both papers.

Once a suitable topic is agreed upon for both papers, the candidate must submit three copies of an outline of the proposed papers to the Fellowship Committee. Upon acceptance of the outline, the candidate, may then write and submit, in triplicate, the two papers.

Following acceptance of the papers, applicants may then proceed directly to the Clinical Slide Examination, Written and Oral examinations.

**Clinical Slide Examination**

The aim of the examination is to test and evaluate the candidate’s knowledge and skill in the fitting and management of contact lenses, and the related areas of corneal physiology and pathology.

Questions refer to projected slides and relate to the following topics:

- Soft contact lenses
- RGP contact lenses
- Speciality contact lenses
- Tinted/prosthetic lenses
- Solutions
- Cornea/Lids
- Contact lens related pathology
- Corneal topography maps
- Fluorescein studies
- Miscellaneous

Eligibility: Candidates become eligible to take the Slide exam after the first 2 Case Reports have been accepted.

Examination: 1 hour duration

- No repeats
- Test paper to contain written “case history”, questions and answer form

Grading: 75% required for pass
Written Examination

This will consist of a 60 minute examination and may cover the entirety of contact lens practice. Questions are generally in multiple choice formats.

Oral Examination

This will be the final component of the examination process, after the case studies, slide examination, written examination, and practical examination have all been successfully completed. The oral examination:

1. Clarifies issues from the earlier components (essentially literature, materials, designs, fitting, complications, speciality lenses).

2. Expands on selected topics, ranging from basic sciences, current literature, materials, designs, fitting, complications, and speciality lenses.

These topics will be approached with a clinical emphasis.

The examination will last up to two hours. There will be three examiners appointed from current Fellows, and being normally two practising clinicians and one educator.
Suggested Reading List

Fellowship candidates are encouraged to consider rejoining their university library as an alumni member to facilitate economical access to a broad range of the latest resources.


Larke JR


Candidates are also encouraged to regularly consult the following journals:

- Optometry Contact Lens Spectrum
- Contact Lens and Anterior Eye
- Clinical and Experimental Optometry
- Journal of the American Optometric Association
- Optometry and Vision Science
- Review of Optometry
- Eye and Contact Lens
- Cornea
Internet Resources

Information from tertiary sources such as textbooks might be years old by the time they go to print while information from journals may be only days or weeks old if hot off the press. The following are free searchable databases of journal articles:

AOA Clinical Practice Guideline – Care of the Contact Lens Patient

Cochrane Library
http://www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/cochrane_search_fs.html

Contact Lenses
http://www.siliconehydrogels.org

Google Scholar
http://www.scholar.google.com

Optical Visualisation of CL Design
http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/projects/optical/suite.html#Contact_Lens_Design

Pubmed Medline

Science Direct
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/alerts

Online journals
Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists
http://www.clao.org
http://www.bcla.org.uk
http://www.bcla.org.uk
http://www.clspectrum.com
http://www.optometrists.asn.au/ceo/ceo.html
http://www.revoptom.com
http://www.thelancet.com

Links pages
Eye diseases
http://www.mic.ki.se/Diseases/C11.html

Optometry related sites
http://www.healthweb.org
Associations

American Academy of Optometry http://www.aaopt.org
Association of Contact Lens Manufacturers http://www.aclm.org.uk
British Contact Lens Society http://www.bcla.org.uk
Contact Lens Council http://www.mycontactlenses.org
Contact Lens Society of America http://www.clsa.info
Cornea & Contact Lens Society New Zealand http://www.contactlens.org.nz
Cornea & Contact Lens Society of Australia http://www.cclsa.org.au
GP Lens Institute http://www.gpli.info
NZ Optics http://www.nzoptics.co.nz
Optometrists Association Australia http://www.optometrists.asn.au

Manufacturers & suppliers of contact lenses & lens care products

Abbott Medical Optics http://www.amo-inc.com
Acuvue http://www.acuvue.com.au
Alcon Laboratories http://www.alconlabs.com
Allergan http://www.allergan.com
Bausch & Lomb http://www.bausch.com
CIBA Vision http://www.cibavision.com
http://www.focuscontacts.com/products.html
Contact lens manufacturers association http://www.clma.net
CooperVision http://www.coopervision.com.au
Corneal Lens Corporation, New Zealand http://www.corneal-lens.co.nz
Gelflex Laboratories http://www1.gelflex.com
Innovative Contacts http://www.innovativecontacts.com.au
Johnson & Johnson  http://www.jnjvision.com
Menicon  http://www.menicon.com
Polymer Technology  http://www.polymer.com
UltraVision Capricornia  http://www.ultravision.com.au

**Keratoconus**
American  http://www.nkcf.org
Australian  http://www.keratoconus.asn.au
Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus  
https://vrcc.wustl.edu/clekarchive/

**Ortho K**

http://www.osa.net.au
http://www.ortho-k.net
http://www.beretainer.com
http://www.paragoncrt.com

**Patient orientated sites**
Contact lenses or Laser Surgery?  http://www.surgicaleyes.org
Contact lenses or spectacles?  http://www.contactlenses.org/clsglasses.htm
http://www.allaboutvision.com
http://www.contactlenses.org

**Equipment**
Bloominators  http://www.slitlamp.com/ProductList.htm

**Free subscription resources**
http://www.cltoday.com
Dry eye

http://www.dryeyinfo.org

More general

http://www.allaboutvision.com
http://www.ophthalmic.hyperguides.com
http://www.osnsupersite.com
http://www.pconsupersite.com

Independent review of therapeutics http://australianprescriber.com

http://cancerweb.ncl.ac.uk/omd

Downloadable Lectures http://www.cclsnzlectures.org.nz
Appendix A – Application Form
CANDIDATE FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Date of Application ____________________________

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Title (Prof, Dr, Mr, Mrs, Ms, etc.) _______________ Surname _______________

Given Name __________________ Date of Birth _______________ Sex □ M □ F

Postal Address

Suburb __________________ State ___________ Postcode ___________

Home Phone __________________ Practice Phone __________________

Mobile __________________ Practice Fax __________________

Email __________________ OAA Membership No. _______________

Optometry School __________________ Year of Graduation _______________

PAYMENT

☐ I enclose the initial registration fee of $350

Payment Method (please tick)

☐ Cheque payment enclosed (please make cheque payable to “Cornea & Contact Lens Society of Australia”)

☐ Credit card authorisation

Card type □ Visa □ MasterCard □ American Express

Card number □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Expiry date □□ / □□

Cardholder Name __________________ Signature __________________

DECLARATION

I, __________________ (full name) do hereby make application to become a candidate for Fellowship of the Cornea & Contact Lens Society of Australia.

☐ I confirm that I have been a graduate for more than three (3) years

Signature __________________ Date __________________
Appendix B –
Fees for the Fellowship Program

Registration & Examination of Clinical Case Records Section ...................$350
Written & Slide Examination........................................................................$600
Oral Examination .......................................................................................$600

PLEASE NOTE

All fees must be paid PRIOR to the taking of each section
No refunds are possible once a section has been commenced
Appendix C –
Contact Addresses

Mr Luke Arundel
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