Michael Ward, MMSc, COMT, FCLSA(H)

A noted lecturer, Mr. Ward is a Past President of the Contact Lens Society of America. He is a recipient of the CLAO Honor Award, the JCAHPO Faculty Award, the Beverly Myers Achievement Award and the Calhoun Medal. Mr. Ward achieved his Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from the University of Washington with an undergraduate thesis in ocular microbiology. He earned his Master of Medical Science degree from Emory University. He conducted ophthalmic research at the University of Washington and the University of Chicago prior to joining the Emory University School of Medicine faculty. He is a Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist, a Licensed Dispensing Optician, an Honored Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America, a Fellow of the Cornea, Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies section of the American Academy of Optometry and member of the Contact Lens and Cornea Section of the American Optometric Association. Mr. Ward is a consultant to industry, a frequent national and international speaker, and an author of many publications. Areas of interest include ocular microbiology, contact lens care products, keratoconus and specialty lens fitting. Michael recently retired as Director of the Contact Lens Service and an Instructor in Ophthalmology at the Emory University School of Medicine.

Understanding the Ocular Surface and Dry Eye 8:00 - 9:00
1 Credit

Dry eye is now considered a multifactorial disease with an inflammatory component. This course will present a comprehensive view of OSD. Concepts in the roles of infection and non-infectious inflammations in creating and exacerbating ocular surface disease as well as management modalities will be discussed.

Contact Lens Associated Complications 9:00 - 10:00
1 Credit

This course will categorically outline potential contact lens related ocular inflammations and complications. Lens care product incompatibilities, fitting challenges, metabolic pathologies and structural/functional complications will be presented. Case reports examples will be used to highlight topics.

Bugs: Friend or Foe 10:10 - 12:10
2 Credits

We have more bacterial cells in our bodies than human cells. Microbes educate our immune system and help to protect us. However, if they get into the wrong place (eg gut bacteria in the eye) they can cause serious pathology. This course will review basic ocular microbiology, including normal ocular flora, ocular defense mechanisms and inflammatory processes will be presented. Techniques for infection prevention and control will be discussed.
Evolution of Silicone Contact Lens Technology  
1 Credit  
This course will present the science behind Silicone Hydrogel materials, their benefits and detractors, and their promises and realities: the good, the bad and the ugly. CL fitting principles pearls of Si-Hy vs HEMA will be presented. Lens materials, specialty lens designs and lens care controversies will also be discussed.

Recognizing and Handling Unusual Contact Lens Problems  
2 Credits  
This course will categorically outline potential contact lens related ocular inflammations and complications. Lens care product incompatibilities, fitting challenges, metabolic pathologies and structural/functional complications will be presented. Subjective and objective observations and various corneal staining patterns will be presented. Case report examples will be used to highlight topics.