



EUROPEAN CONTACT LENS SOCIETY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS (ECLSO)

HISTORY OF THE ECLSO

Celebrating 50 years

René Mély
Valmont, France



ECLSO 2024: April 26th & 27th



History of the ECLSO

René MÉLY

ECLSO Past President

Valmont (France)



EUROPEAN CONTACT LENS SOCIETY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS (ECLSO)

First discussions 1968

- First discussions concerning the creation of a european medical contact lens "club" were held in 1968 between Montague Ruben (UK) and Hanfried Laue (Germany)
- The International Contact Lens Council of Ophthalmology (ICLCO) already existed but was U.S. orientated and had no formal constitution.
- Montague Ruben preferred a more formal approach so together with Hanfried Laue (Germany), Paul Cochet (France) & Hermann Kemmetmüller (Austria) a constitution was drawn up and the ECLSO was registered in 1970 in Munich



First Congress in London 1971

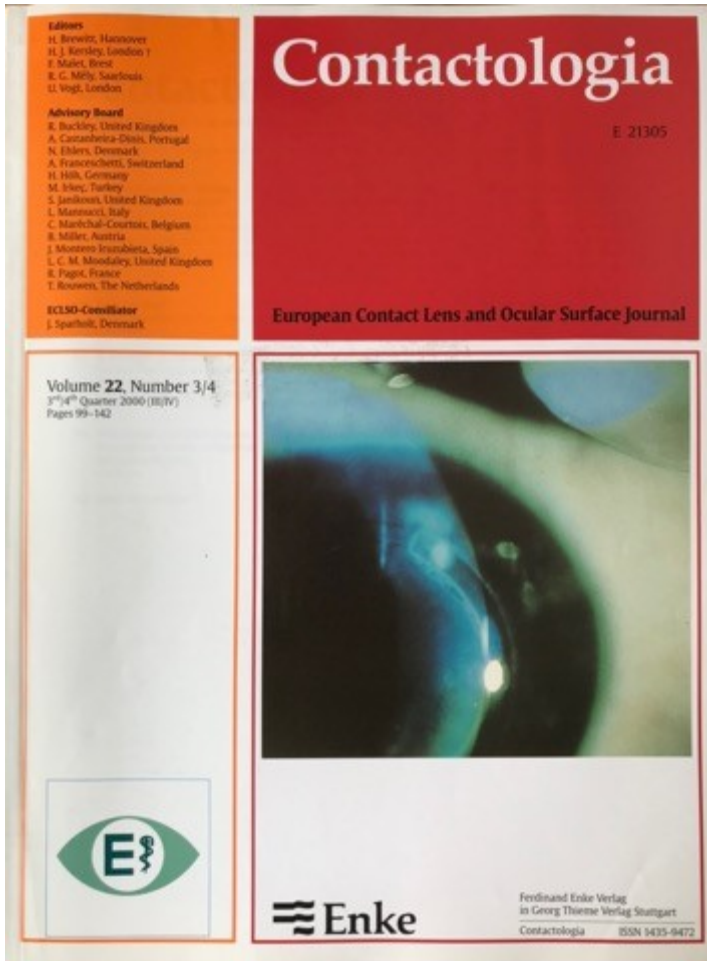
- After a few small meetings in Wiesbaden (with the Rhineland Ophthalmological Society) the concept of national membership emerged and National Representatives were invited to counsel the Praesidium
- The first real ECLSO Congress was held in London in 1971 at the Royal College of surgeons, presided over by Ruben and organised by Alan Higgitt, Michael O'Riordan & Michael Wilson. Prof. Jules François (Belgium) was Hon. President and was present in that capacity at this first Congress



Early days

- Jules François (Belgium), Paul Cochet (France), Jan Kiewiet de Jonge (Holland) and Mats Rydberg (Sweden) did much in the early days to establish Contact Lens Practice as a sub-speciality of ophthalmology
- An advisory panel was founded in 1983 so that, in difficult times, wise counsel could be sought, but the cost and logistics of assembling this group and the difficulties of keeping everyone informed of progress (with language difficulties, the absence of fax machines and email etc.) meant that it was seldom used. It was later replaced by the NR

Contactologia (1978-1980)



Contactologia, board of the
last edition vol. 22 (2000)



Wulf Ehrich & Robert Heitz

Contactologia was the unofficial journal
of the ECLSO co-founded by Wulf Ehrich
and Robert Heitz in 1978.

It was published quarterly by Enke
Verlag in French, German and English
Most publications were based on
presentations at the ECLSO congresses
and it included an ECLSO News Letter
For financial reasons Enke stopped it's
publication in 2000.



Jan Kiewiet de Jonge

- While in office as Secretary General, Jan Kiewiet de Jonge (NL) died suddenly in 1981. He had held the Society together for many years but kept little records
- To honour his memory, a lecture was named after him with funds from the Dutch society but later replaced by the Jonathan Kersley Lecture



Jan Kiewiet de Jonge
Secretary General 1975-1981

Jan Kiewit de Jonge Lecturers

Rolf Lund (Sweden)	1984	Estoril
Jean D'Haenens (Belgium)	1986	Taormina
H. Jonathan Kersley (Great Britain)	1988	Brussels
Horst Brewitt (Germany)	1990	Copenhagen
Jose Montero (Spain)	1992	Rome
Mauricio Rolando (Italy)	1994	Alicante
Jan Kok (The Netherlands)	1996	Ulm
Florence Malet (France)	1998	Amsterdam

First written records of the AGM in London 1980



EUROPEAN CONTACT LENS SOCIETY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS (ECLSO)

EUROPEAN CONTACT LENS SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS, INC.
SOCIÉTÉ EUROPÉENNE DES OPHTALMOLOGISTES CONTACTOLOGUES
EUROPÄISCHE CONTACTLINSEN-GESELLSCHAFT DER AUGENÄRZTE, E.V.



Member of the International Contact
Lens Council of Ophthalmology

Honorary Founding President
Mr MONTAGUE RUBEN, LONDON

Honorary President
Prof JULES FRANCOIS, GENT

Secretary General
J. KIEWIET DE JONGE
Oranje Nassaulaan 18
WARMOND
Phone: 01711-11034

Warmond, LONDON

General Assembly, 20-4-1980 at 11.30 hrs.

Present: 24 members and 5 members of the board.

The president, Mrs. Maréchal-Courtois welcomes those present and declares the meeting open.

The treasurer presents the annual budget which is accepted.

The secretary reads the minutes of the 1979 general assembly meeting at Munster. They are accepted and signed by the president and the secretary.

The 1981 ECLSO meeting will be staged in Amsterdam, Holland. The Dutch national representative comments on the organisation and set up.

The 1982 meeting will be held in Strasa Italy. The Italian national representative presented a budget and plans which were reviewed and accepted.

For 1983 no definite location has been decided on. Possibilities mentioned are Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Greece.

From the members a proposition is made to have meetings every other year. This is not acceptable since according to the bylaws a yearly assembly must be staged.

The secretary expresses the boards gratitude towards Mr. Jonathan Kersley, for his great efforts in making the London meeting such a succes.

The president thanks all present and closes the meeting.

Handwritten signatures and notes:
Pour certification des signatures de Madame
Christiane Courtois, pour Marechal et de Monsieur
Jan Kiewiet de Jonge et des autres affilés.
Stamps: A circular stamp with the text "WALTHAM" and "ECLSO" and a signature across it.

New constitution 1982

The then President Werner Claas together with Wulf Ehrlich revised the first constitution of the ECLSO.

There are two documents that control the Society:

- the Statutes which lay down the legal form and function of the Society
- the Rules that are more flexible and govern the day to day running of the Society.

Vice president Jonathan Kersley (UK) took on the mantle of Secretary General at the Congress in Stresa 1982.



Werner CLAAS
President 1982-1986



European CL Society of Ophthalmologists

§ Name and Registration

The Association is named European Society of Contact Lens Ophthalmologists. It is based in Munich. It is registered with the Registry of Associations in Munich.

§ Objects of the Society

The object of the Society is to promote contact lens practise and the study of related areas both scientifically and professionally amongst Ophthalmologists in Europe.

§ 3 Membership

Only Ophthalmologists can become members of the society.



Statutes of the European Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists (ECLSO)

The ECLSO is a Society under Federal German law and registered with the Vereinsregister in Munich. Only the German version is contestable in law. This English translation is for information purposes only.

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3 - Membership

Only Ophthalmologists can become members of the society.

There are three classes of members:

- (a) Individual Members
- (b) National Group Members
- (c) Honorary members

The Præsidium may, upon written request of the Candidate and with the support of two (member) Ophthalmologists, accept individual Members from countries where no national group exists.

Memberships may be terminated by:

- (a) Resignation
- (b) Death
- (c) Expulsion

Resignation should be noticed in writing to the Præsidium with three months notice before the end of the attendant year. Death of a Member immediately terminates his membership.

A member who has committed a serious violation of the interests of the Society may be expelled by the Præsidium after the Member has been heard. Any individual Member (or National organisation) defaulting on payment of dues for two years is automatically expelled from the Society.

4 - Administration of the Society

The Administration of the Society shall rest with the following organs:

- (a) The « Vorstand »
- (b) The « Præsidium »
- (c) The « Annual General Meeting »



The Vorstand

Under the new Statutes of 1982 a new post of “Vorstand” was recognised.

The Vorstand has to guarantee the proper running of the ECLSO and is the legal representative of the Society in the German Courts (the Society being registered in Munich).



Prof. Wulf EHRICH (left)
First ECLSO Vorstand 1983-1997



The Praesidium

The structure of the Praesidium remained unchanged in the statutes:

- President
- Two vice presidents
- Secretary General
- Treasurer

The office of Past President has been created in our rules later for HJK



Fick-Kalt-Müller Award

- The Fick-Kalt-Müller Medal created in 1982 is the highest ECLSO award. This is to commemorate the three doctors who invented contact lenses in 1887-1888
- This scientific prize will be awarded every two years
- Individual achievements or significant collective work in the field of medical contactology will be honoured.
- The President of the ECLSO proposes the recipient of the award to the Præsidium and requests their approval



Penny Asbell
FKM Award 2024

Fick/Kalt/Müller Awards 1983-2001

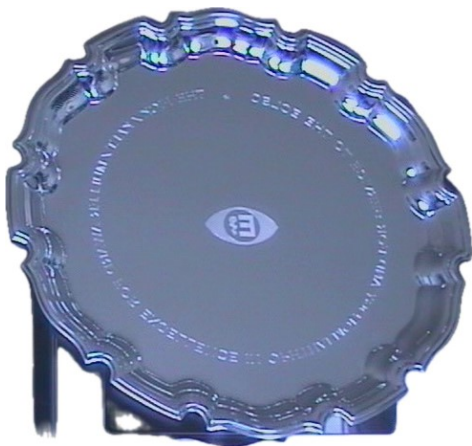
<i>R. Heitz</i>	1983	<i>H. Kandemir</i>	1993
<i>W. Ehrich</i>	1985	<i>P. Cochet</i>	1995
<i>I. Gyorffy</i>	1987	<i>H.-J. Kersley</i>	1997
<i>C. Maréchal- Courtois</i>	1989	<i>G. Elie</i>	1999
<i>H.-W. Roth</i>	1989	<i>B. Miller</i>	2001



Fick/Kalt/Müller Awards 2002-2020

<i>F. Smulders</i>	2002	<i>A. Kanpolat</i>	2012
<i>R. Fritsch</i>	2004	<i>L. Mannucci</i>	2014
<i>E. Dreisler</i>	2006	<i>B. Koffler</i>	2016
<i>A. Franceschetti</i>	2008	<i>F. Malet</i>	2018
<i>M. Vegh</i>	2010	<i>R. Mély</i>	2020





René Fritsch (right)
receiving the FKM Award
2004 in Budapest



Florence Malet (left)
receiving the FKM Award
2018 in Mandelieu



Jonathan Kersley

(1939-2000)

Jonathan Kersley has played a major role in the ECLSO for over 2 decades but he was also very active in several national and international CL Societies:

- MCLOSA 1974 -1981
- BCLA 1978-1981
- ECLSO 1978 - 2000
- ICLCO 1981-1994
- ICLSO 1995-2000





HJK receiving an ICLSO award from Oliver Dabiezies (US)

Kersley Lectureship

- HJK died in 2000 and soon after it was decided to replace the **Kiewiet de Jonge Lectureship** by the **Kersley Lectureship**.
- Once every two years, alternating with the Fick-Kalt-Müller Medal, a member of the Society will be invited to present a paper at the Annual Scientific Congress. The member should have already presented a paper to the Society which was of good scientific content and which would merit a further presentation.
- The Secretary General will invite suggestions from the National Representatives 18 months before the date of presentation. The Præsidium will select the speaker from these suggestions.





Jonathan Kersley & Jane Sparholt
at his last Praesidium meeting in London 1999

Kersley Lectures 2003-2024

- **Nicolas PESCOLIDO** (Rom, 2003)
- **Roger BUCKLEY** (London, 2005)
- **Anna Maria AMBROZIAK** (Antwerp 2007)
- **Omür UCAKHAN-GUNDUZ** (Paris 2009)
- **Christina GRUPCHEVA** (Istanbul, 2011)
- **Andrena McELVANEY** (Munich 2013)
- **Ahmet ÖZMEN** (Izmir, 2015)
- **Stephen TUFT** (London, 2017)
- **Ebru TOKER** (Paris, 2022)
- **Chris HAMMOND** (Istanbul, 2024)





43rd ECLSO

European Contact Lens and Ocular Surface Congress




MUNICH

Germany - Holiday Inn Centre Hotel
October 25-26, 2013

Preliminary topics:

- Ocular Surface & Speciality Lenses: New Diagnostic and Treatment Strategies
- Controversies in Paediatric Contactology: Aphakia and Anisometropia in Infants Contact Lenses and Myopia Control
- Basic educational contact lens course in German language

Registration, accommodation and call for abstracts available on www.eclso.eu
For any information, please contact: insc-eclso@europa-organisation.com
For accommodation, please contact: ebs@europa-organisation.com

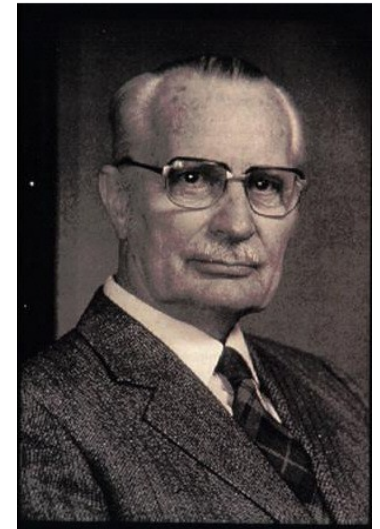



Andrena McElvaney
Kersley Lecture Munich 2013



Honorary Membership

- The Præsidium can confer the title of **Honorary Membership** on the proposal of a member of the Præsidium.
- The proposal is submitted in writing to the Secretary General, who includes it on the agenda for the next meeting of the Præsidium. A recommendation of the colleague concerned is to be attached.
- If the Præsidium votes in favour of an honorary membership, the final decision will be taken by the next General Assembly



Istvan Györffy
(1912-1999)



Honorary Members



- Maximilian DREIFUS (Switzerland)
- Istvan GYORFFY (Hungary)
- Montague RUBEN (Great Britain)
- Paul COCHET (France)
- Emilio GIL DEL RIO (Spain)
- Peter HALBERG (USA)
- Abraham SCHLOSSMAN (USA)
- Gabriel ELIE (France)
- Wulf EHRICH (Germany)
- Hermann KEMMETMÜLLER (Austria)
- Hikmet KANDEMIR (Turkey)
- Bruno MILLER (Austria)
- René FRITSCH (France)
- Hans Walter ROTH (Germany)
- Robert HEITZ (France)



ECLSO Member Countries

At its summit the ECLSO gathered over 20 countries with some 2500 members. At the present time only a dozen countries are paying their contribution

- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- France
- Germany
- Slovenia
- UK
- Iran
- Latvia
- Romania
- Serbia
- Turkey
- Tunesia



ECLSO Former Member Countries

The interest of ophthalmologists in CL is decreasing in many European countries and as result many countries have left our society or did not pay their contribution in the last years

- The Netherlands
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Israel
- Island
- Algeria
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Finland
- Portugal
- Italy
- Czech Republic
- Bulgaria
- Morocco
- Hungary



Individual Membership

- **§ 3 of the statutes: Ophthalmologists** wishing to become **individual members** (§ 3 of the Statutes) must send their application to the Secretary General
- **According to §3.3 of the rules amended in 2019 Optometrists and other eye care professionals** can apply for **associate membership** on an individual basis. However, to be compliant with the statutes, they are not eligible to participate in the duties and functions of the Praesidium, nor can they vote at the Annual General Assembly
- The fee for individual membership is 30 €



ECLSO Congresses

The ECLSO has organised 50 congresses in various European countries
Some of them were very active and have organised several meetings:

• France	10	• Italy	4
• Turkey	5	• Spain	3
• UK	5	• Belgium	3
• Germany	4	• Hungary	2
• The Netherlands	4	• Croatia	2



HJK and VGE, Clermont Ferrand 1995

ECLSO Congresses

Other countries have just organized a single meeting:

- Austria (1975)
- Switzerland (1999)
- Sweden (1983)
- Poland (2010)
- Lithuania (2008)
- Finland (1997)
- Portugal (1984)



Antwerp 2007

ECLSO and the world



- In 1994 it was decided to form a new International Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists (ICLSO) with a real constitution This ICLSO, represented the ECLSO, CLAO (USA), SOBLEC (South America), CLAOI (India) and JCLS (Japan).
- In 2004 the ICLSO and the older ICLCO decided to join and to establish a new international society called International Medical Contact Lens Council (IMCLC) representing the four major medical contact lens societies of the world. The IMCLC organises biannual symposia as part of the World Congresses of Ophthalmology (WOC)





ECLSO at CLAO/CLES Meeting in Florida 2004





WOC Berlin 2010



ECLSO Symposia at international meetings

- SOE; EVER
- ICO/WOC
- CLAO/ECLA
- SOBLEC
- BCLA
- National societies




ECLSO at SOE Meeting Istanbul 2004



Other ECLSO activities

- EBO (diploma exams)
- Lobbying activities in the EU in cooperation with the UEMS and EUROMCONTACT
 - Position papers on Fluorecein strips
 - Legislation on coloured lenses



 Ref. Ares(2022)271416 - 14/01/2022



Brussels, XXX
[...](2022) XXX draft

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../...

of XXX

laying down common specifications for the groups of products without an intended medical purpose listed in Annex XVI to Regulation (EU) 2017/745 of the European Parliament and of the Council on medical devices

(Text with EEA relevance)

This draft has not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.



Conclusion

- ECLSO has a long and rich history. From a small exclusive club of ophthalmologists we moved to a modern and opened society
- Thanks to our cooperation with optometry leaders our congresses are now a unique forum where both professions can share their expertise to provide excellent education in CLs and dry eye
- The decreased interest of ophthalmologists in CLs is a major threat for the future of our Society
- **Please support us and do not (dis) miss the ECLSO**

