A field trip to Visser Contact Lens Practice in The Netherlands during optometry school turned on Eef van der Worp, BOptom, PhD, to the potential of scleral lenses: “I was stunned, amazed and shocked, first, at the great impact these lenses can have on people’s lives and, second, how relatively unknown this modality was to many practitioners.”

Since that time, Dr. van der Worp’s interest in scleral lenses has not waned. As an educator and researcher, he continues to be an advocate for scleral lenses, as evidenced by his recently published book, “A Guide to Scleral Lens Fitting.” Supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Bausch + Lomb, the guide is the culmination of a year’s work, during which Dr. van der Worp scoured the literature, gathered data and, importantly, observed and interviewed the most experienced scleral lens fitters from around the world. The editorial board of the guide reads like a “Who’s Who” of scleral lens experts. “I was fortunate to be able to bring together so many of the pioneers in this area to share their expertise,” he said. “Their clinical photographs are out of this world, and it is clear that I would never have been able to write this book without their excellent input.”

During his field work, Dr. van der Worp visited numerous large scleral lens practices to observe the various fitting techniques. “It was a great way for me to explore what people do and how they do it,” he said. “I learned there are many ways to fit a scleral lens, and it was a challenge to integrate the different fitting approaches. Indications for scleral lens fitting do not differ very much, but how to achieve a proper fit may be substantially different, depending on the practitioner. As an educator, I wanted this book to be an objective, neutral guide for all kinds of lenses that rest at least partly on the sclera. Therefore, I tried to find common ground among all the fitting philosophies.”

In addition to differing fitting philosophies, Dr. van der Worp found there are many ways to describe a scleral lens. In fact, one of the early challenges in writing the guide was to standardize the terminology. Another challenge was the lack of information on scleral lenses in the literature. According to Dr. van der Worp, much of what has been published describes clinical impressions; however, he noted, these impressions are now being validated by diagnostic tools, such as optical coherence tomography (OCT).

“My colleagues and I at Pacific University collaborated on a research project using OCT to learn more about the limbal and anterior scleral shape,” he explained. “We were stunned by the outcome: In the majority of cases, the limbal transition appeared to be straight in shape, and the anterior sclera appeared to be non-rotationally symmetric in many ways. This information formed the basis of A Guide to Scleral Lens Fitting, and it is the subject of an entire chapter in the guide.” In addition to describing the anatomy of the sclera, scleral lens design and a five-step fitting approach, the guide includes a chapter on managing scleral lens wear.

The purpose of the guide, according to Dr. van der Worp, is not to make every contact lens practitioner an expert scleral lens fitter. Rather, his goal was to present a well-researched, accessible, standardized work, so practitioners can become more familiar with scleral lenses and what they can do for patients. “In every country around the world, there is almost certainly a place for scleral lenses, and there are many people who could benefit from them,” Dr. van der Worp said.

An educator, researcher, writer and lecturer, Dr. van der Worp is editor and publisher of the e-newsletter I-Site and an adjunct assistant professor at Pacific University College of Optometry.

The 66-page “A Guide to Scleral Lens Fitting,” complete with full-color clinical photographs, illustrations and diagrams is available as a free download from the Pacific University website at http://commons.pacificu.edu/mono/4. The guide is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Bausch + Lomb.
Spotlight on Pat Murphy, Technical Services Manager, Global Lab Channel Business

Please tell us about your background, education and experiences before joining Bausch + Lomb?

I was born and raised in a small coastal community of about 2,000 inhabitants on the south coast of Ireland. My dad spent many years at sea, working on oil tankers. When he wasn’t at sea, he was at home in his workshop, working on woodwork or metalwork projects. It was during these years I believe my interest in engineering developed.

I hold a diploma in mechanical engineering and a bachelor’s degree in manufacturing engineering. Prior to joining B+L, I was a process engineer in the automotive industry, providing technical support for high-volume CNC machining cells that produced components for internal combustion engine turbo chargers. As you may know, the automotive industry is a fast-paced, lean environment. It was a great opportunity to put into practice many Lean Six Sigma concepts. I also spent a number of years working as a mechanical designer, offering bespoke solutions for the petrochemical and mining industry, where I designed storage tanks, pressure vessels and conveyors to meet customers’ demands. In addition to working in the petrochemical, mining, medical device and automotive industries, I also gained valuable experience at Waterford Crystal Ltd., where I helped develop and deliver customized technical training courses to all levels of personnel who had equipment- or process-specific training needs.

What are your responsibilities in your new position?

I will provide technical support to GP and custom soft lens manufacturers worldwide to enhance the quality and performance of Boston products and other custom contact lens products sold through the B+L Boston channel. I will achieve this goal through written and verbal communication and on-site visits to evaluate processes and advise personnel. My other key objectives are to assist with the transfer of manufacturing technology and to validate the outcome.

What is your vision for the future?

Technological advancements will always have a major role in the GP business. They are part of an inevitable evolution of the business and of manufacturing in general. To fully capitalize on technology, GP lens manufacturers will need to adopt many of the process improvement concepts that have helped high-volume manufacturers, such as soft lens daily disposable manufacturing and automotive component manufacturing, reduce costs and improve quality.

How will your past manufacturing experience help in your current role?

I have worked 10 years as an engineer in the highly competitive world of high-speed, high-volume cast mold lenses. My main projects were in automation equipment design and installation. Working in high-volume production disciplines, you must adopt a work ethic of making decisions based on data and analysis. I believe the tools and skills needed to operate effectively in high-volume manufacturing can be leveraged successfully to support GP lens manufacturing.

What do you think is the most significant recent advance in the specialty lens industry?

What I see as very exciting in the lab channel’s custom lens business is the development and application of new products, such as the Bausch + Lomb KeraSoft™ IC lens. This is a great example of the innovation that exists within the industry. After all, new products are essential to the future growth of the business.

For back issues of Boston Update, and to join our mailing list, visit us at: www.bausch.com/boston

For newsletter information:

Bausch & Lomb Incorporated
Wilmington Facility
100 Research Drive
Wilmington, MA 01887 USA
Phone 1-978-658-6111
boston@bausch.com
**What are your thoughts on changes in lens processing in the lab environment?**

Having come from high-volume manufacturing in the medical device industry and the automotive industry, I have seen firsthand the benefits of Lean Six Sigma and how it transformed businesses. These concepts and methodologies can make significant improvements to existing processes with existing technologies. Also, I believe our lab partners should start thinking of themselves as manufacturing facilities rather than labs. I believe this mindset change is important as it helps manufacturers focus on process excellence and improvement.

**Tell us about your life outside the office. How do you like to spend your leisure time?**

In June this year, I moved from Ireland to Toronto with my family. Serena and I have four children, Abbie and Ethan, 12-year-old twins, Jake, 6 years old, and Ben, 2 years old. As you can imagine, outside of family life, my spare time is limited and precious. However, I do find time to mountain bike and run. My greatest achievement to date as a runner was completing the 2009 Dublin marathon in 3 hours, 30 minutes. Another consuming passion is pistol target shooting. The highlight of my shooting career was qualifying to shoot on the Irish Team in the 2007 European Championships. Once I’m settled in Canada, I plan to compete again.

**Market Facts**

**Presbyopia**

- Only 26% of presbyopes are familiar with the term presbyopia
- BUT
- 94% know near vision gets worse

**How do these patients become aware of the condition of presbyopia?**

- 78% by their eye care professional
- 53% by family
- 44% by friends and coworkers
- 22% by the media
- 7% by the internet

*Source: B+L survey of 538 presbyopes, conducted by the Wagner Group in August, 2007*

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**Jim Lunkley Receives Industry Enhancement Award**

James W. Lunkley, who recently retired from Bausch + Lomb, received the CLMA’s Industry Enhancement Award for his efforts and hard work in bringing enhancements to lab processes, improving efficiency in production and helping support quality products.
Craig Norman Receives CLMA’s Highest Honor

Recognized for outstanding contributions to the industry.

Craig W. Norman, FCLSA, long-time consultant to Bausch + Lomb, was honored by the CLMA at its Awards Gala held during the 50th Annual Meeting and Exhibition in La Jolla, Calif. Mr. Norman received the Dr. Josef Dallos Award for outstanding contributions to the development and advancement of the contact lens industry and for service to humanity. Edward S. Bennett, OD, MSEd, executive director of the GP Lens Institute, recapped some of the highlights of Mr. Norman’s career as a contact lens practitioner and educator and a former lab owner, praising his ability to communicate the manufacturing and fitting aspects of GP lenses.

“Craig is well known through his consultant role with B+L, where he works with the educational institutions,” Dr. Bennett said. “He is also an adjunct clinical faculty member at the Michigan College of Optometry. For 34 years, he has been the director of the Contact Lens Section for the South Bend Clinic Department of Ophthalmology.”

Mr. Norman has more than 100 publications, including chapters in six textbooks. He is a contributing editor for Contact Lens Spectrum and Refractive Eyecare for Ophthalmologists. “Craig’s Prescribing for Presbyopia columns in Contact Lens Spectrum are especially noteworthy for the clinical pearls they provide to practitioners,” Dr. Bennett said. “All of these contributions would make Craig a very deserving candidate for this prestigious award, but in addition, it was his vision that resulted in the Global Specialty Lens Symposium, which is attended by 400 to 600 practitioners annually, making it one of the best—if not the finest—contact lens symposia in the world.”

Past recipients of the Dr. Josef Dallos Award include Prof. Brien Holden, Drs. William J. “Joe” Benjamin, Donald R. Korb, Joseph T. Barr, Irvin M. Borish, Neal J. Bailey, Robert B. Mandell and Newton K. Wesley. “Our 2011 recipient is highly deserving to join this illustrious group,” Dr. Bennett said.

Boston™ Products Symposia in China

At a seminar hosted by Autek Lab (owner Dr. Tom Tao is in the front row, second from right) and held at the Military Hotel in Lanzhou, China, Prof. Helen Swarbrick (front row center) discussed her work in orthokeratology.

Craig Norman (front row, fifth from right) was the featured speaker at a Boston Products seminar hosted by E & E Lab in Harbin, China. Addison Cheung (front row, sixth from right) represented E & E Lab.

Oculus, represented by Michael Tan (fourth from right) hosted a Boston Products seminar in Wenzhou, China. Craig Norman (third from left), David Bland (fourth from left) and Charles di Natale (third from right) represented the Boston Products Group.