**History of Contact Lenses and Contact Lens Materials**

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**Abstract:**

The global contact lenses market was at $7.2 billion in 2018 and is expected to grow to $9.2 billion in 2023 at 4.9% rate of growth. The four largest contact lens producers are all US-based - Johnson and Johnson, Alcon, CooperVision and Bausch + Lomb - accounting for over 90% of global market share. In this seminar, Charlie will present of history of contact lens and contact lens materials. He will also discuss the future of the contact lens technologies.

 **Biography:**

Charlie is currently Principal Scientist for 3D Resins Solutions at SDC Technologies, located in Rapid City. Prior to joining SDC Technologies, he worked for 12 years as Senior Scientist, Principal Scientist and Research Fellow at CooperVision Inc., Pleasanton, CA. In his career at CooperVision, Charlie played a significant role in developing silicone hydrogel soft contact lens products, Biofinity™, Avaira™ and MyDay™. These contact lens products became global brands that brought financial success in CooperVision Inc.

Charlie has worked for 25 years in industrial polymer research and development, including applications in electronic, medical, ophthalmic and consumer industries, and has authored over 40 US patents. Charlie holds a Ph.D. in Polymer Science from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ; a M.S. in Physical Chemistry and a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China.

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**When: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 4:00 pm**

**Where: EP 252**