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CLINICAL ROTATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Todd Robert, O.D.

2021 Preceptor of the Year

Dr. Todd Robert received his doctorate in 1985 from the University of Houston, College of Optometry. After working in private practice for almost 30 years, he joined Vision Source and founded Midwest Eye in Downers Grove, IL. He works with patients of all ages, and especially enjoys fitting contact lenses, with a certification in Ortho-K.

He began his first precepting with the Chicago College of Optometry during the 2020-2021 school year, and has shown himself to be not only an experienced preceptor, but also a preceptor appreciated by all of our students who rotated through his site. It is because of his willingness and exceptional work ethic that he was selected for our 2021 Preceptor of the Year Award. Here were just some of the heartfelt words expressed about him:

“Dr. Robert is always glass half full. He is an incredible servant and very humble. The way his patients are so loyal is enough to make me know that he is someone I should listen to...Cannot say enough how fortunate I was to work with Dr. Robert.”

“Dr. Robert was very invested in my education in all aspects of his practice including comprehensive examinations, co-management care with his ophthalmologist, and the business management side of the practice. Dr. Robert observed and scribed while I performed exams and gave me constructive critique if needed.”

“He is always willing to explain treatment methods or reasons for testing. He makes you feel confident about anything you are doing and gives a wonderful example of how to treat your patients with compassion while maintaining a professional nature.”

“I considered myself lucky to have a great mentor like Dr. Robert. I hope to one day be as good of a doctor as he is. He is very passionate about helping patients and optometry.”

Please join us in giving our whole-hearted congratulations to Dr. Todd Robert.



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DISTINGUISHED PRECEPTORS

We had many nominations for our Preceptor of the Year Award, and though we can only honor one preceptor, we also wanted to bring attention to two of our runners-up—Dr. Nicole Albright of Moses Eye Care in Indiana and Dr. Christopher Bugajski of the St. Joseph County VA Indiana Health Care System; both first time preceptors.

Dr. Nicole Albright earned her Doctor of Optometry from Indiana University School of Optometry in 2008, and completed her residency in ocular disease at Bennett and Bloom Eye Centers in Louisville, Kentucky. Her students said the following about her:

“She was always very professional and encouraged me to practice my patient education with her before I went in the room with the patient so I would gain confidence. She always encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone - which I know helped me gain skills and confidence.”

“Dr. Albright treats everyone with respect and loves teaching. She challenges all the student externs and always remembers that their end goal is being a doctor on their own.”

“She is a leader in the community and everyone turns to Dr. Albright with any medical question.”

Dr. Christopher J. Bugajski earned his Doctor of Optometry from Illinois College of Optometry in 2011, and completed his residency in ocular disease at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. He has since continued his optometric journey in Veteran Affairs facilities and is now a staff optometrist at the St. Joseph County VA Clinic. This is what his students had to say about him:

“Dr. Bugajski forces you to make tough decisions before you have to make them after graduation. This rotation was so valuable to me gaining independence and confidence to become a doctor... I learned the importance of diagnosing and treating problems based on studies and clinical research instead of based off of solely recommendations made by other practitioners. I will forever be grateful for the independence and room to grow.”

“Dr. [Bugajski’s] motive behind hosting students in his VA clinic is truly for their good and growth as clinicians. He’s calculated and intentional with every moment to make sure each is a learning opportunity.”

“Dr. Bugajski always made time to explain subjects that were particularly difficult and that we needed to brush up on. He was very approachable and never made me feel like I couldn’t ask a question.”

We deeply appreciate the large impact these two doctors had on our students and we look forward to many similar experiences in the future.

Thank You Preceptors!

We are forever grateful for all that you have done to support our students and their learning. There were many obstacles that you all overcame and last-minute adjustments made. Without everyone’s adaptable spirit, Chicago College of Optometry would not have had such a successful first year of rotations.

As a show of gratitude, a thank you gift was sent to sites that were a part of our inaugural year.

Thank you again and we look forward to many more years together!

KEEP IN TOUCH

We would love to hear about any updates on you and your site! Presented a poster or lecture at a conference? Providing new services at your site? Earned a fellowship or diplomate status? Let us know. You may be featured in one of our upcoming newsletters.

You may contact the Assistant Director of Rotations, Dr. Daniel Deligio, at ddelig@midwestern.edu or 630-743-4853, or Sr. Administrative Assistant, Rotations, Nadine Antonio, at nanton@midwestern.edu or 630-743-4812.

INTERESTED IN CE EVENTS AND OTHER OPTOMETRY RESOURCES?

Visit our **CCO Preceptor Resources** page at <https://www.midwestern.edu//academics/degrees-and-programs/doctor-of-optometry-il/current-preceptors.xml>

2020-2021 CLINICAL HONOR AWARDEES

The 2020-2021 school year was an eventful one for everyone, namely for our Chicago College of Optometry students and their preceptors as it was the first year we sent students to their external rotations. Through all the adversity 2020 brought, our students overcame the obstacles and persevered.

To show our appreciation for our hard-working students who showed exceptional dignity and dedication to their clinical training, we surveyed all of our preceptors to nominate their top students who they felt best promoted optometry's professional, educational, and ethical ideals. After a final review of the list of nominees by our clinic administration, here are our awardees for the 2020-2021 school year:

*Adrienne Gruber
Thara Abu-Malloub
Hailee Brayton
Lauren Evans
Jennafer Ziemer*

Please join us in congratulating these five remarkable students on this achievement.

3RD ANNUAL SUMMER EYE EXPERIENCE AT CCO

The Chicago College of Optometry held the third annual Summer Eye Experience (SEE) this summer. This is a three-day program that exposes undergrad students from all over the country to the Doctor of Optometry degree. The students attended workshops tailored specifically for those interested in pursuing a future in optometry. Sessions were also offered to help prepare the students' application portfolio for admission, and opportunities to sit in classes provided a



glimpse into the day of an optometry student, including attending hands-on laboratories where they were able to learn basic optometric skills. They were also able to interact with current optometry students to get a first-hand experienc-

es about attending Midwestern University. We look forward to more successful years of this event, and will hopefully see these students as one of our college's alumni.

