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MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

SUMMER 2024

VOLUME 9

ISSUE 1

CLINICAL ROTATIONS SPOTLIGHT

“Randy Cox”

2024 Preceptor of the Year



Dr. Randy Cox attended Northeastern State University for his undergraduate studies, where he earned his degree in Vision Science. He earned his Doctor of Optometry from Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry in 2019. He then completed a residency in ocular disease and refractive/ocular surgery at BVA Advanced Eye Care and nJoy Vision. As the Optometric Physician at Anadarko Indian Health Center, Dr. Cox provides direct patient care in a primary care setting and manage large base of ocular disease. Some advance procedures he performs are Laser Therapeutics, Botox, Chalazion I&C and Lump/bump removals. Dr. Cox is an active member of American Optometric Association, Armed Forces Optometric Society, American Academy of Optometry and Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry.

In his free time, he enjoys reading (non-fiction/fantasy and historical non-fiction is his favorite book genres), he also have 2 dogs and an African grey parrot and volunteer for the Humane Society in some of my spare time. He also enjoy road biking.

He began precepting with the Chicago College of Optometry during the 2023 school year, and has shown himself to be not only an exceptional preceptor, but also a preceptor admire and held in high regard by all of our students who rotated through his site. It is because of his enthusiasm and exceptional professionalism that he was selected for our 2024 Preceptor of the Year Award. Here were just some of the heartfelt words expressed about him:

“Dr. Cox was incredibly patient and knowledgeable in the field of optometry. I was able to grow as a clinician exponentially because of him. His personality and skillset made it very easy to ask him questions about things I didn't understand, and he had great tips for making the exam flow logically. He is also always very relaxed and personable, so it was always an enjoyable experience working with him. He is also certified to do lasers, so I was able to observe procedures that I wouldn't have seen elsewhere. Overall, if anyone ever wanted to know what a great preceptor is like, Dr. Cox would be a perfect example.”

“Truly one of the best preceptors I've ever worked with. Dr. Cox is working at the highest level of this profession, and it's been amazing being able learn under him. I think what I admire most is that I never felt judged for making a mistake or asking a question, which is something that has really helped me grow in my time as a student. I've been able to see procedures and diseases I never would have gotten the opportunity to see had I not come here. This site has taught me so much and it makes me wish I had more time to soak up all the knowledge he has to offer. I can't thank him enough!”

“Dr. Cox is an amazing doctor and teacher. He is so smart clinically and really presents himself so well professionally while always remaining approachable and down to earth. He will never make you feel stupid for any question and is always open to discussion. He does a great job at quizzing his students here and there when it's relevant without coming across as intimidating or judgmental. I have learned so much from being his student and I'm so happy that I still have a month left of clinic with him. He will be a hard mentor to leave and impossible to forget. Thank you for being you Dr. Cox!”

Thank you for all you do and congratulations

to **Dr. Randy Cox O.D., FAAO, Diplomate ABO**

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 Dr. Lovelee Sayomac with VA Northern Indiana Health Care Center (Fort Wayne VA). She was awarded the 2024 Honorable Mention Certificate.

Dr. Lovelee Sayomac graduated with her Bachelor of Science, Biology from Eastern Michigan University. She earned her Doctor of Optometry from the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry in 2015. She then completed a residency in ocular disease and primary care at VA Northern Indiana Health Care System.

She is currently an Optometrist at VA Northern Indiana Health Care System where she specializes in ocular disease. Dr. Sayomac is currently a preceptor for Midwestern University, and a host of other institutions. She has been a student clinical instructor and a preceptor since 2017. Her students said the following about her:

“She was very kind and one of the best teachers I've had the pleasure to work with”.

“Super personable, led student thinking while encouraging own thought process, very knowledgeable, very pleasant to work with.”

“Very attentive to the students needs and will take the time to teach when needed”.

We appreciate your dedication and positive influence you have displayed to our students and we look forward to many similar experiences in the future.

THANK YOU PRECEPTORS!

Midwestern University Eye Institute wants to take this time to acknowledge our preceptors for all the valuable hard work and commitment they have invested into our students.

We are forever grateful for all that you have done to support our students and their learning. We are confident the students will become successful and strive for the best. In recognition of your outstanding merit, mentoring, and efforts, we come to the end of another successful year and we would like to say, **“Thank you for all that you do”!**

Thank You from MWU Faculty, Staff & Students

2023-2024 CLINICAL HONORS AWARDS

To the 2024 Chicago College of Optometry graduating class, CONGRATULATIONS! You've accomplished an amazing journey, acquired a great deal of knowledge and persevered through many obstacles. Our highest hopes that you all will continue your success and thrive in the future.

To show our gratitude for our productive students who showed remarkable excellence and commitment to their clinical training; we surveyed all our preceptors to nominate their top students who they felt best promoted optometry's professional, educational, and ethical ideals. Here are our awardees for the 2023-2024 school year:

Jonathan Attiyah



Natasha Bhanot



Drshika Patel



Kristin Kelly



Kristina Koinoglou



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

Summer Pre-Optometry Program


The Summer Eye Experience at the Chicago College of Optometry (SEE at CCO) is a three-day program that will expose students to the Doctor of Optometry degree. Students will attend workshops designed for those interested in pursuing a career in optometry, as well as those who are still unsure and would like to see if optometry is for them. Sessions will be offered to help prepare the student's application portfolio for admission, and classes will provide a glimpse into the day of an optometry student. Students will also attend hands-on laboratories where they will learn basic optometric skills.

Highlights

- * Tour of the Midwestern University Downers Grove Campus, including classrooms and research labs
- * Tour of the Midwestern University Eye Institute at our Multispecialty Clinic
- * Attend topic discussions led by faculty of the Chicago College of Optometry
- * Participate in preclinical procedures
- * Attend application workshop on preparing an OptomCAS application, taking the OAT exam, and making a good impression during an interview

2024 Dates

Monday, June 24 beginning at 8:30 AM through Wednesday, June 26 ending at 4:00 PM.



Tentative Schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Breakfast and Orientation	Breakfast	Breakfast
Optometry Building Tour	Ocular Anatomy	Preparing for the OAT
Academic Campus Tour	Pediatrics and Vision Therapy	Study Skills
Lunch with OD Students	Low Vision	Preparing for OptomCAS
Eye Institute Tour	Lunch with Faculty	Lunch
Clinical Shadowing	Optics	Tips and Tricks to Rock Your Interview
Specialty Testing	Primary Care and Ocular Disease	Admissions Discussion
	Contact Lenses	Discussion with Incoming OD Students

Day One: learn about CCO (academic and clinical sides) as well as talk with current students
Day Two: a day in the life of an optometry student (optometric specialties)
Day Three: preparing for optometry school admission (studying, applying, OAT, interview)

Please visit the site below to Review Requirements, Application Process and more.

<https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-programs/doctor-optometry-program/chicago-college-optometry/pre-optometry-program-see-cco>

Calendar of Eye/Vision Awareness

- June:** Children's Eye Health and Safety Month.
Optometry Meeting/ National Safety Month
- July:** Eye Injury Prevention Month
- August:** CDC Contact Lens Health Week
AOA Eye Care Calendar & Events



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 Clinical Education Coordinator, Shannen Hamlin, at shamli@midwestern.edu or 630-743-4812.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT CCO?



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IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS:

- Optometry Meeting (AOA) June 19-22, 2024
- Submit Midterm Grades July 12, 2024
- Last Day of the Summer August 23, 2024
- Quarter Submit Final Grades August 23, 2024
- Start of Fall Quarter September 3, 2024

INTERESTED IN CE EVENTS AND OTHER OPTOMETRY RESOURCES?

Visit our **CCO Preceptor Resources** page at <https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-programs/doctor-optometry-program/chicago-college-optometry/current-preceptors>