Part of Chicago College of Optometry’s vision statement is to deliver an exceptional optometric education experience utilizing our unique multi-health professional setting and cutting edge technology. As such, we strive to incorporate the latest educational equipment in our curriculum.

Most recently, we have included the use of the VR Magic, a virtual reality simulator, in our students’ class assignments. This tool allows students to practice on virtual patients during their own time, without the need of using a fellow student to be present. Additionally, it contains many ocular disease cases that students can practice on seeing before they actually get to clinic. This is beneficial because most of their fellow classmates have younger, healthier eyes.

We look forward to continue to expand on the VR Magic’s capabilities as our students’ skills continue to grow.

Daniel Deligio, O.D., F.A.A.O
New Assistant Director of Rotations

To share a little about my background, I am an alumnus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as a proud graduate of Midwestern University – Arizona College of Optometry earning the valedictorian award. My specialty is in cornea and contact lenses. I completed my residency training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry.

I have had the pleasure of being part of the inaugural faculty here and I get to witness our program continue to develop and become the success that it is today. We are excited to create new externship sites to offer our students a wide variety of specialties and practice modalities. Mentors, like yourself, help create the future generation of our profession and we thank you for your support. Should you have any questions or would like a tour of our facilities, please do not hesitate to contact me. Additionally, you may want to view our MWU Preceptor Portal (https://www.midwestern.edu/programs_and_admission/il_optometry/prospective_preceptors.html) which offers many resources for you and your clinic as an externship site.

What’s in this issue:
- New Assistant Director of Rotations
- VR Magic comes to CCO!
- White Coat Ceremony 2018-2019
- Preceptor Reminders: HIPAA

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Nearly 800 first-year students from Midwestern University received their clinical white coats and took an oath affirming their commitment to the highest standards of compassion and patient care on the Downers Grove Campus on October 6, 2018.

Students from the University's osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, physician assistant studies, physical therapy, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, dental medicine, speech-language pathology, and optometry programs received their white coats before an audience of family and friends.

"We come together as an entire University for this White Coat celebration. It’s the first day that we put a white coat on you and set the expectation that you are starting the journey of becoming a healthcare professional," said Kathleen H. Goeppinger, Ph.D., Midwestern University President and Chief Executive Officer, in her address to the students. "When we give you a white coat, it represents a commitment to learning the skills you need to care for other people."

Students who received their white coats also took an Oath of Commitment, reminding them to maintain the trust expected of a healthcare provider, to value the knowledge and wisdom of their colleagues, and to commit to lifelong learning. As they continue their rigorous academic programs, these students now join the many generations of alumni who also began their journey toward a successful healthcare career at Midwestern University.

**PRECEPTOR REMINDERS: HIPAA**

**What is HIPAA?**
The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that covered entities and their business associates protect the privacy and security of protected health information (PHI).

**What are patient rights?**
Under this privacy rule, patients have the right to access their PHI, restrict disclosures, request amendments, request an accounting of disclosures, and complain without retaliation for exercising their rights.

**What’s covered under HIPAA?**
Providers who electronically transmits (e.g. fax or email) health information related to financial or administrative practices such as claims and encounter information, payment and remittance advice, claims status, eligibility, enrollment and disenrollment, referrals and authorizations, coordination of benefits, and “other transactions” established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**What is included in “Protected Health Information (PHI)”?**
PHI is any identifiable health information such as their name, address, birthdate, social security number, and facial image. In general such information must be protected and cannot be released without the patient’s consent.

For more information regarding HIPAA as well as where the information above was taken please refer to the website [https://www.aoa.org/optometrists/tools-and-resources/medicare-help/hipaa-compliance](https://www.aoa.org/optometrists/tools-and-resources/medicare-help/hipaa-compliance).