White Coat Ceremony 2019

A longstanding tradition at Midwestern University, our students have received their clinical white coats and taken an oath affirming their commitment to the highest standards of compassion and patient care.

This year’s White Coat Ceremony was held on October 5th at the Downers Grove Campus. Students were presented with their coats by Chicago College of Optometry Dean, Melissa Suckow, O.D., F.A.A.O., in front of an audience of family, friends, and future colleagues. Students also took an Oath of Commitment. This is a reminder for all of our students to maintain the trust expected of a healthcare provider, to value the knowledge and wisdom of their colleagues, and to commit to lifelong learning.

We all look forward to seeing our students continue to grow in their optometric skills and journey toward a successful healthcare career.

Optometry Education Initiative Update

This resource was made available to preceptors and students as a teaching tool a couple of years ago. It has since been updated with new training modules and, as highlighted on their website, has been designed to “meet the educational needs of optometrists and optometry students.” You are able to receive COPE credit for your participation upon completion of the post-test for the newest modules. To access this resource, please visit https://optometryinitiative.org/
Preceptor Corner

Preparing For Your Externs

As our students begin their winter courses, we too begin to prepare for their upcoming rotations in the summer. Whether you are a new preceptor or have been a preceptor for many years, you may wonder how to give our students the best experience they can receive under your guidance.

Here are some tips and suggestions that may help make the first week of rotations go smoothly and efficiently:

- **Orientation Packet**– Having an orientation packet ready for the student can help establish expectations for both the student and preceptor from the beginning. Having a list of your expectations will make it clear how the students should perform and conduct themselves in your clinic. Background information regarding your site, the office staff and doctors, and the kinds of patients you encounter would be helpful to include in your packet. Also, including articles or important reading of what you expect your students to know is a great way to prepare them for rotation at your site.

- **Equipment and Attire**– Professionalism is one of the key elements we expect of our students. Let the students know right away what they are expected to bring and wear to your clinic.

- **Grand Round Presentations**– Giving students this opportunity gives you a chance to assess what the student has learned and their analytical skills when it comes to their clinical training, including a review of a literature, article, or journal.

- **Billing and Charting Training**– We encourage you to train the students in how your site handles billing and charting. While they receive training here, the more exposure they have will keep the efficiency high at your site, and it will instill good habits for them. Of course, the focus should still be their clinical skills, but establishing a balance between the two will be a helpful tool.

These are all just some examples of how you can prepare for your upcoming rotation. If there are ever any skills or tools you have found helpful, please feel free to share with us, as a possible feature of Preceptor Corner.

Clinical Rotations Spotlight

**John Gialousakis, O.D., F.A.A.O.**

Dr. John Gialousakis joined the Chicago College of Optometry from the State University of New York (SUNY) where he obtained his Doctor of Optometry degree, completed a residency in cornea and contact lenses, and served as an Assistant Clinical Professor since 2014. His areas of expertise include contact lens applications for keratoconus, orthokeratology, presbyopia, pediatric aphakia, and post trauma/post surgical, as well as prosthetics. Aside from his teaching experience at SUNY, Dr. Gialousakis has delivered poster presentations and continuing education lectures on various contact lens topics and prosthetics. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry member of the American Optometric Association, and a diplomate of the American Board of Optometry.