

Rebecca Alexander

Rebecca Alexander is an author, psychotherapist, group fitness instructor, advocate, and extreme athlete who is almost completely blind and deaf. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, she currently lives in New York City. Born with a rare genetic disorder called Usher syndrome type III, Rebecca has been simultaneously losing both her sight and hearing since she was a teenager. She was told that by age 30, she'd be completely blind. Then, at 19, one year after a fall from a second-story window left her athletic body completely shattered, she discovered she would lose her hearing as well. Despite these difficulties, Rebecca refused to lose her drive and zest for life and rose above and beyond every challenge she faced. Rebecca's critically acclaimed memoir, Not Fade Away: A Memoir of Senses Lost and Found received an Indie Book Award and was honored as one of the MS Society's Books for a Better Life.

Mark Andre, FAAO

Mark Andre is an Associate Professor of Optometry at the Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon and an educational consultant at CooperVision. He previously was the Director of the Contact Lens Services at the Casey Eye Institute on the campus of the Oregon Health and Sciences University in Portland, Oregon. He received his degree in Ophthalmic Technology from Pima College in Tucson, Arizona and also received a Certificate in Management from Marquette University's School of Business in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mark is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry's Cornea and Contact Lens Section. He is also a fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America and a past board member of the society. He is a contributing editor of Contact Lens Spectrum and previously served as Chairman of the Board for the National Contact Lens Examiners. Mark has extensive clinical experience in the treatment of complex contact lens cases. He has been instructing both Ophthalmology and Optometry Residents on this subject since 1979. He is a well-known lecturer both nationally and internationally and was named one of the "30 Most Influential in Contact Lenses" in the September 2016 issue of Spectrum. Mark was the recipient of the American Academy of Optometry Cornea, Contacts Lenses & Refractive Technologies Section Founders' Award in 2013 and the American Optometric Association's Cornea and Contact Lens Legends Award in 2016.

Kyle Beaudet

TBD

Jay Binkowitz

Over the last 30 years Mr. Binkowitz has had extensive experience in retail operations, merchandising & marketing, manufacturing & distribution, technology development, national sales, and on site interactive consulting. As president of GPN Business Consulting he has dedicated his time and resources to supporting independents throughout the nation.
www.GatewayPN.com

Ledonna Buckner, FCLSA, NCLEM

Ledonna Buckner is a Virginia Licensed Dispensing Optician specializing in unusual contact lens fitting cases. She entered the Optical Industry in 1985 manufacturing GP lenses while obtaining her Associates in Applied Science at J. Sargeant Reynold's (JSRCC) Opticianry Program in Richmond, VA. She is a Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America (CLSA) and a Master of Contact Lens Technology in the National Contact Lens Examiners. Ledonna is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Opticianry Program at JSRCC, a proctor for the Virginia State Board and a member of the Fellow Committee for the CLSA and a member of the ABO/NCLE Board of Directors. She has served on the Board of Directors for CLSA and is a past Editor of EyeWitness Magazine and is a published author in Contact Lens Spectrum and EyeWitness magazines. She has extensive experience as a speaker on contact lens subjects across the USA. Presently, Ledonna is the Senior Account Manager, Mid-Atlantic Region for Blanchard Contact Lenses and is responsible for day to day account management, account education and training and technical fitting consultation.

Carol Burns, OD

Dr. Carole Burns graduated from The Ohio State University College of Optometry in 1984. She completed a vision therapy and pediatric residency in 1985 at the State University of New York. She was the 1989 Young Optometrist of the Year for the state of Ohio. She currently serves as the chief executive officer of Professional Vision Care - a nine doctor, full-scope optometric practice with three locations. She lectures nationally on the topics of pediatric vision care, vision therapy, staff management and creating successful partnerships.

Sharon Carter

Sharon Carter has over 22 years of optometric experience including working in an office as an office manager, sales and training for an optometric software company to consulting for private practices. She started her own consulting company, Eye Care Optometric Consulting (ECOC), in 2001 and personally consults in offices all over the country spreading her team building philosophy. She is very energetic and enthusiastic and for more than 9 years has been speaking and motivating staff at state associational meetings, national and international conferences sharing her company's philosophy of 'provide the best patient care possible and the money will follow.'

Caroline Cauchi, OD

Dr. Cauchi pursued the study of psychology during her university education. She worked as a therapist of multiply challenged children to put herself thru school. During that time she co-authored a book (Effective Approaches) designed to train teachers to work with children having disabilities. Her work with partially sighted children caused her to investigate a new career pathway...optometry. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry, she opened her private practice. This has allowed her to use her skills in psychology, child development and human behavior to create a caring comfortable eye care environment for people of all ages, but especially kids. In 2004 her interest in pediatric care led her to the field of orthokeratology. She spent the next three years becoming an expert in the field and in 2007 was

grated the designation FIAO (Fellow of the International Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control). Just one short year later, the Academy asked her to sit on the Board of Directors. As a member of the Board, she is responsible for setting care policy, educating doctors new to orthoK and is the Chair of Fellowship for 6 international sections of the Academy.

Diane Drake, LDO, ABOM, NCLEM

Diane Drake owned and operated a successful independent practice in Georgia for over 20 years. She is a licensed Georgia Optician; ABO master optician; a Master in Contact Lens Technology from NCLE; President, National Academy of Opticianry; Past President, Opticians Association of Georgia and SouthEastern Opticians Conference.

David Friedfeld

David Friedfeld is president of ClearVision Optical, a family-owned business based in Hauppauge, NY. ClearVision designs and markets quality eyewear and sunwear for 15 distinctive brands, including BCBGMAXAZRIA, Marc Ecko Cut & Sew, Ellen Tracy, and IZOD. As president, David provides vision and leadership to all areas within the organization, and to every member of the ClearVision family. David has directed every area of the business related to sales, product and distribution and has seen the company grow to more than 140 employees and 80 sales consultants under his tutelage. Now a global enterprise, ClearVision serves eyecare professionals worldwide.

Mohammed Ganem, LDO, ABOC, NCLE

Mohamed E Ganem is the regional Director/ Corporate Trainer for Eye Doctors Optical Outlets. Mohamed Ganem is licensed to practice in the states of Florida, Georgia and Vermont. He has been practicing Opticianry in the United States and internationally for over 25 years. Mohamed Ganem has created multipole successful training programs that have been implemented and being practiced on a wide scale. He has presented over 500 lectures, both nationally and internationally on topics that ranges from customer service, employees' development, business growth and leadership.

Joy Gibb, ABOC

Joy L. Gibb, ABOC began her optical career in 1986. She managed an independent retail opticianry in Bountiful, Utah for over ten years before opening her own business, Eyes Of Joy Mobile Optical Service and is an optician at Daynes Eye and Lasik. In addition, she often consults practices about their dispensaries and improving customer service and sales. Patients often seek her help with the difficult to fit prescription, progressive lenses, and children's eyewear. Joy is also a contributor to Vision Care Product News and has participated in the writing of several industry guides and publications and has served as a member of the Better Vision Institute.

Mike Gzik

Mike Gzik graduated from Erie Community College in Ophthalmic Dispensing. He is a New York State licensed optician /contact lens practitioner. He is a Fellow in the Contact Lens

Society of America, ABO/NCLE certified and a Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT). Mr. Gzik works in a private optical office in Syracuse NY, “New York Optometric” and at the Syracuse VA Hospital as an optician. He is an adjunct and Clinical instructor for contact lens technology at SUNY Health Science Center Syracuse NY, Department of Ophthalmology resident program (20+ years). Is a consultant for Blanchard CL one day a week. Previously he has worked as a consultant and technical trainer in for Bausch & Lomb professional services. He has worked as a site coordinator for a Taunton Excimer laser in Syracuse; he is a past president of the NY Contact Lens Society. He is a Past President of the Contact Lens Society of America. He was the Contact Lens Society of America member of the year in 2001 and 2007. He presented the Theo E. Obrig lecture at the 2003 CLAO contact lens and eye care symposium. He was the Keynote speaker for the Keven Touhy Luncheon Newport Beach 2012.

Michael Kling, OD

Michael A. (Mick) Kling, OD is owner and CEO of Invision Optometry, one of the largest single location private practices in San Diego, California. He is a founding member and past president of Refractive Management Services Corporation, a refractive surgery management company, and was formerly a Clinical Director of the TLC Laser Eye Center in La Jolla, CA (now Nvision Laser Eye Centers). In addition to private practice, he is a speaker and consultant for Impact Leadership, a leadership and consulting company founded by Dr. Kling. Dr. Kling earned his Doctor of Optometry degree, with honors, from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN and went on to complete his residency training in Ocular Disease at Omega Eye Care Center in Jackson, TN. He is a member of the American Optometric Association, the California Optometric Association (which named him a “Young OD of the Year” in 2000), and a past president of the San Diego County Optometric Society. Dr. Kling has held several committee positions within the California Optometric Association, has served as an expert examiner for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, and is an Adjunct Faculty member of the Southern College of Optometry.

Eric Levenhagen

Eric Levenhagen founded ProWise Financial Coaching in 2005 and specializes in helping private practice doctors lead an abundant life by helping them overcome their biggest financial obstacles. Eric is a Certified Public Accountant in good standing since 2008. He was named Member of the Year in 2015 by the American Institute of Certified Tax Planners and serves on their oversight committee. He is also a Mastery level Certified Profit First Professional and integrates all disciplines into a holistic, client-centered approach towards maximizing his clients’ after-tax income and wealth. Outside of the office, Eric enjoys spending time with his wife, kids and grandkids. His hobbies include reading, following the Dallas Cowboys, and learning close-up magic.

Pam Lowe

TBD

Milan Madhavji

TBD

Valerie Manso

Valerie is the President of Manso Management Resources, Inc., a training and development company specializing in the ophthalmic industry. Additionally Valerie works with VSP Vision Care as Regional Vice President of Strategic Eyecare Partnerships.

Brent McCardle

Carl Zeiss Meditec

Liliana Mejia Rodriguez, LDO

Liliana Mejia Rodriguez is certified by the American Board of Opticianry, the National Contact Lens Examiners and has been a Board Certified Optician licensed in the State of Florida since 1996. Currently she is a Commissioner on the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation, she was appointed by the National Federation of Opticianry Schools. Mrs. Mejia Rodriguez is also a member of the Florida Department of Education's Curriculum Committee and is a statewide Discipline Coordinator in the field of Ophthalmic Technology and Vision Care. Mrs. Mejia Rodriguez has also been a member of the Professional Opticians of Florida since 2007. During her optical career, she has earned a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. She has been in the optical industry for over 20 years training associates, increasing company revenues, teaching apprentices, and guiding stores to reach various business goals.

In 2001, she became an adjunct faculty at Miami Dade College (MDC) and realized her passion for teaching future Opticians. In 2007, she became an Associate Instructor and Optical Manager at the MDC Vision Care Clinic. As the operations manager of the Vision Care facility, she mentored and contributed to graduates' success.

In 2014, Mrs. Mejia Rodriguez became the Program Coordinator and a full-time faculty of the Commission on Opticianry Accredited Opticianry Program at Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida. During her time as Coordinator, she has lead the program to maintain accreditation, designed a part-time Opticianry track to allow more scheduling flexibility for future students, and is constantly mentoring future, current, and alumni Opticians. Her goal is to continue the success of the program by contributing enthusiasm and passion to student's education in the optical industry.

Brooke Messer, OD

Dr. Messer received her doctor of optometry degree from Southern California College of Optometry, and subsequently went on to specialize in Cornea and Specialty Contact Lenses by completing a one year residency. She is highly trained in fitting specialty contact lenses for keratoconus, post-surgical corneas, and other corneal diseases, as well as multifocal contact lenses, orthokeratology contact lenses for myopia control and pediatric contact lenses.

Dr. Messer has authored articles for publications such as Contact Lens Spectrum and Review of Optometry, and enjoys teaching other doctors complex contact lens fitting techniques in classroom and clinical settings. Dr. Messer is a member of the American Academy of Optometry, Scleral Lens Education Society and the Contact Lens Society of America. Outside the office, Dr. Messer loves to golf, hike and visit family back in her hometown of Dickinson, North Dakota.

Jason Miller, OD

Dr. Miller is a partner in a 3-Doctor private practice in Powell, Ohio and he is an adjunct faculty member for The Ohio State University College of Optometry. In addition, he consults alongside Drs. Chuck Brownlow and Walter Whitley with the AOA as one of the “ask the coding experts” answering coding questions and performing monthly webinars on a variety of coding and medical records concerns. Dr. Miller has consulted, lectured and performed research on a wide variety of eye care areas; including contact lenses, myopia control, dry eyes, allergic conjunctivitis, practice management, electronic health records and billing & coding issues. Dr. Miller has been published in many of eye care national publications; including a regular monthly column on contact lens care in Review of Cornea & Contact Lens, Contact Lens Spectrum and Optometric Management.

Quy Nguyen, OD

Dr. Nguyen grew up in San Jose, California and attended the University of California at Berkeley. He obtained his Doctor of Optometry from the SUNY State College of Optometry. Upon graduation, he worked in a variety of modalities, including a private practice optometry office and a start-up. Subsequently, he worked full time at an ophthalmology practice in Richmond Hill, New York and provided on call consultations at Wyckoff Hospital in Brooklyn. Currently, he is the Director of Career Development for SUNY College of Optometry. He is a big proponent of the growth mindset for career success and spends a lot of his free time gaining as much career capital as he can.

Jackie O’Keefe, ABOC

Jackie O'Keefe is licensed in Virginia and has been practicing Opticianry since 1981. She is a Senior EDGEPro® Trainer for GPN Technologies™ and consults in the Virginia Beach, VA area. Jackie has written, published and presented numerous CPC/ABO courses on a variety of optical topics. Jackie is a second generation Optician along with her two sisters and has been active in the International Association of Lions Clubs, a volunteer for Maine's Prevention of Blindness Programs, Inc. and is on the speakers' bureau for the Suicide Prevention Awareness & Resource Council. Jackie is Past President of the Opticians Association of Virginia and a founding member and Past President of the Opticians Association of Maine.

B.W. Phillips, NCLEM, FCLSA

B. W. Phillips, Jr. is a Past President of the Contact Lens Society of America, Past Chairman for the NC State Board of Opticians, and was the Manager of Duke University Department of Ophthalmology Contact Lens Service for more than 25 years. He has also served as the

International Education Product Specialist for SynergEyes, a major lens manufacturer. Specializing in keratoconus, post-surgical corneas, traumatic injuries and pediatric contact lens fitting, he is a frequent educator/ lecturer on both national and international fronts. In 2016 he received his Master in Contact Lens Technology as well as being appointed by OAA to serve on the NCLE Board of Directors. Phillips is presently providing specialty fitting for two ophthalmology clinics in Raleigh/Durham, NC

Laurie Pierce, LDO, ABOM, NCLC

Ms. Pierce is an Instructor in the Opticianry program at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida. Laurie is a graduate of Newbury College's opticianry program in Boston, and managed Lugene Opticians, an upscale optical boutique in Boston's Copley Place. Ms. Pierce lectures extensively on optical theory and management topics at local, regional and national optical conferences. Ms. Pierce is an ABO Master Optician and is certified by the National Contact Lens Examiners. She received the National Federation of Opticianry Schools Educator of the Year award in 2003, and was named one of America's Most Influential Women in optical by Vision Monday, 2010.

Thomas Quinn, OD

Dr. Quinn is in group practice in Athens, Ohio. He is the immediate past chair of the American Optometric Association's Contact Lens and Cornea Section Council; a diplomate of the Cornea, Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies Section of the American Academy of Optometry; an advisor to the Gas Permeable Lens Institute (GPLI); chair of the EastWest Eye Conference; and a co-administrator for Vision Source with his wife, Dr. Susan Quinn. In addition to private practice, Dr. Quinn serves as clinical assistant professor for The Ohio University College of Medicine and is a contributing editor for the magazine Contact Lens Spectrum.

Anthony Record, LDO, FNAO, ABO

Anthony Record's thirty years of optical and management experience in corporate, private, lab, and retail environments have given him the foundations for a keen understanding of personnel, customer service, and the types of relationships that need to be present in a successful optical business. Mr. Record has created a number of programs that cover such management topics as exceptional patient and customer service, management and leadership, motivation, interviewing techniques, time management, training techniques, and professional telephone skills. The technical topics he has created include prevention of medical and ophthalmic errors, history of polarization, progressive lens technology, photochromic lenses, 212' dispensing, the one-minute optician, anisometropia in the 21st century, and many more. His highly personalized presentations include real-life experience and examples to illustrate the objectives of his training. Anthony has an uncanny ability to establish and maintain a positive connection with his audience, a skill this accomplished speaker attributes to his personal mission statement: 'In all that you do keep the Gold and Silver in mind. The Golden Rule we all know: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The Silver Rule is not as well known, but equally important in building and maintaining personal and professional relationships: Promise Less, Deliver More. I have also come to embrace Stephen Covey's definition of true leadership management as 'The

ability to communicate a person's talent and worth so clearly that he comes to see it in himself.' Anthony's programs are uplifting, enriching, and packed with techniques and strategies that come from first-hand experience. He incorporates a bit of audience participation and humor with activities that are designed to drive home learning points while keeping the atmosphere upbeat and entertaining. Anthony is attuned to participants' needs, understanding that success depends on trust and collaboration. His goals are for audience members to leave feeling they have just participated in one of the best seminars they have ever attended, and to take away information and action steps that will immediately enhance their career.

Carri Russell, FCLSA, NCLEM, COT

Carri Russell serves as a Contact Lens Specialist at Colorado Eye Consultants in Littleton, Colorado. With over 18 years of experience, she specializes in providing visual rehabilitation with custom contact lenses for patients with corneal disease, post-traumatic injuries and refractive surgery. She is Past President of the Contact Lens Society of America and lectures extensively on contact lens related topics at national and international meetings. Carri is a Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America, a National Contact Lens Examiner Master and a Certified Ophthalmic Technician. Ms. Russell holds a B.S. in biology from the University of Southern Colorado.

Robert Russo

Robert Russo is a licensed optician and contact lens fitter with over 35 years of experience. He is a Professor, Contact Lens Coordinator, at New York City Technical College.

Charles Saccarelli

Charlie Saccarelli is the owner and operator of Chadwick Optical, a unique wholesale laboratory in Pennsylvania. He's worked in every aspect of eyeglass manufacturing and dispensing since the late 1980's, and is currently working towards his ABO Master's Designation. Outside of optical, he has spent time as a computer programmer, a pizzeria owner, and a senior business analyst. And if you need him to, he can perform a wedding as well. Charlie brings a unique entrepreneurial perspective to opticianry and optical in general.

Michele Self, ABOC, FNAO

Ms. Self has worked at The University of Alabama Birmingham School of Optometry (UAB), since 1999. She has held the role of Optician/Supervisor where she teaches ophthalmic optics in a clinical setting, advanced optical and dispensary management. Michele is a board director for The American Board of Opticianry (ABO). She served as Chairman of the ABO board in 2015 and 2016. Michele also serves on the board of directors for the National Academy of Opticianry (NAO), since 2006. Ms. Self is an Honored Fellow of The Opticians Association of America (OAA). She has been a member of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), Ophthalmic Educators group since 2007. Michele has held the leadership role as secretary/treasurer and also as president of the Alabama Society of Dispensing Opticians (ASDO). She was honored in Vision Monday's "Most Influential Women in Optical" as a mentor, women who are team builders and developers of talent.

Chris Smiley, OD

Dr. Chris Smiley is the owner of a three location, specialty contact lens practice in Columbus, Ohio. He is a clinical assistant professor of Optometry at The Ohio State University. Dr. Smiley provides consulting services to numerous contact lens manufacturers through speaking, advisory boards, and clinical research.

Jenny Smith, ABOC

Jenny Smith has worked for Essilor for over 6 years. She started in the brand organization and was promoted to a brand strategic account manager. She was then promoted to a Vision Source® SAM position in Eloa before her recent promotion to director of practice development. Jenny is ABOC and certified to deliver CE and COPE practice management courses. She came from the pharmaceutical industry in diabetes education and pain management. Jenny began her career as an inner city high school biology teacher. She graduated from Wright State University with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and played collegiate soccer.

Joseph Sollecito

Professor Sollecito is a faculty member and Principles of Optics coordinator of the Vision Care Technology program at New York City College of Technology. He is certified by the American Board of Opticianry and Opticians Association of America in Refractometry, and is licensed in the state of New York. He is currently a Board member of the New York State Society of Opticians, and Regional Director for distribution of New York State Licensing credits. In addition, Professor Sollecito has served on the Board of Directors for the Opticians Association of America, and the American Board of Optician panel, for writing of the Masters examination. He was the Chairman of the education Committee for the Southeastern Opticians Convention 1997 and 1998. Professor Sollecito wrote, and was the instructor for, the Opticians Association of America Refraction course 1991 through 2000. Professor Sollecito received an Associate's Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing from New York Community College, certification as an Ophthalmic Technician and Technologist, from Mount Sinai Medical School, a Bachelor of Science from Hunter College and a Master in Liberal Arts Studies from the State University of New York.

Brian Thomas, ABOM, NCLC, FNAO

Brian A. Thomas, Ph.D., is the Ophthalmic Science program coordinator at Raritan Valley Community College, North Branch, New Jersey. Doctor Thomas has been a state licensed, practicing optician and involved in opticianry education for over thirty years, including service as an ABO and NAO approved lecturer. He has completed his Ph.D. degree in Educational Leadership, Management and Policy at Seton Hall University. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with his M.A. degree in Health Professions Education from a joint program at Seton Hall University/University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ. He also graduated with high honors from Essex County College with an A.A.S. degree in Ophthalmic Science, and from Union College with an A.A. degree in Business Administration, and received a B.S. degree in Allied Health Services/Health Management from Montclair State University, all in New Jersey. Professor

Thomas has been engaged in all aspects of Opticianry education since 1981. He has developed many courses, both credit and non-credit, at the college level. He has also been a frequent lecturer for state opticianry organizations, a member of the Opticians Association of NJ (OANJ) board of directors, state Education Chair for the OANJ and he has been published many times by the National Academy of Opticianry as well as several other publications including past technical editor for ECP magazine.

Samantha Toth

Samantha is a professional speaker and marketing consultant for Innereactive, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She grew up in an optical practice with multiple family members in the industry. An ABO certified optician herself, Samantha worked as a dispensing optician for eight years, as well as managed an independent optometric practice. During this time, she realized there were very few people, or marketing companies, that understood the unique marketing needs of the optical industry. With a strong passion for marketing and design, Samantha pursued and completed her bachelor's degree at Michigan State University. In 2003, she started Innereactive, a full-service marketing company that specializes in the optical industry. Her experience as a certified optician, along with her formal marketing education has given her a unique perspective on marketing, design, and website solutions for the optical industry. In 2009, Samantha's company launched Innexus®, an all-in-one, don't-do-it-yourself website, social media, and marketing solution. Designed by certified eye care professionals with extensive experience in optometry and ophthalmology, three programs help eye care professionals generate new patients online, stay connected on social media, and reactivate patients with unlimited email, text, and voice calls. Samantha is an ABO, NCLE, AOA, JCAHPO, and COPE approved speaker and she lectures across the country teaching optometrists and opticians best practices for marketing their practices. Her niche expertise led her to be named one of the "Most Influential Women in Optical," and her company was named one of Michigan's Top 50 Companies to Watch in 2016. She and her team work with laboratories, frame and lens manufacturers, and eye care practices all across the country.

William Underwood

William Underwood is the Program Director for the Opticianry program at Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, Florida. He received his Associate degree in Opticianry from Erie Community College, Buffalo, New York. Bill earned his Ph.D. in Education from the University of South Florida. Dr. Underwood is an ABO Master Optician, NCLE certified, and licensed in the states of New York and Florida. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Opticianry, an Honored Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America, and President of the National Academy of Opticianry. Dr. Underwood lectures frequently at state and national meetings.

Michael Vitale, ABOM, LDO, NCLEC

Michael Vitale currently holds the position of Lens Division Liaison for The Vision Council and has been in the optical industry since 1977. Michael holds a Masters in Ophthalmic Optics through the American Board of Opticianry, and is a licensed optician whose experience encompasses all phases of the optical industry, with a focus on ophthalmic lenses and laboratory

operations. He also serves as a technical expert for ANSI, ISO, ASTM and various other standards groups. Michael is a well-respected industry speaker, often invited to present at major trade shows and other industry events. In addition, he shares his expertise via continuing education courses provided to the optical industry by The Vision Council, various state optometric associations, and optical laboratories.

Phernell Walker, ABOM, NCLEC

Mr. Walker is a nationally recognized speaker and author of the text-book is, Pure Optics. He is a Master in Ophthalmic Optics, a graduate of Hillsborough Community College with an Associate in Science Degree in Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified. Recipient the Beverly Myers Achievement Award, for his contribution to Ophthalmic Optics in September 2011.

Michael A. Ward, MMSc, FAAO, FCLSA

A noted lecturer, Michael Ward is a Past President of the Contact Lens Society of America. He is a recipient of the CLAO Honor Award, the JCAHPO Faculty Award, the Beverly Myers Achievement Award, CLSA President's Award and the Calhoun Medal. He was most recently named Practitioner of the Year, 2014 by the GPLI/Contact Lens Manufacturer's Association. Michael achieved his Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from the University of Washington with an undergraduate thesis in ocular microbiology. He earned his Master of Medical Science degree from Emory University. He conducted ophthalmic research at the University of Washington and the University of Chicago prior to joining the Emory University School of Medicine faculty. He is a Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist, a Licensed Dispensing Optician, an Honored Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America, a Fellow of the Cornea, Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies section of the American Academy of Optometry, a member of the Contact Lens and Cornea Section of the American Optometric Association, and a Fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society. Michael is a consultant to industry, a frequent national and international speaker, and an author of many publications. Areas of interest include ocular microbiology, contact lens care, irregular astigmatism/keratoconus and scleral lens design.

Blair Wong, ABOM

Blair Wong is an ABO Master in Ophthalmic Optics, National Contact Lens Certified and an Assistant Professor at the New England College of Optometry. Blair is a MA licensed optician with more than 20 years' experience and has trained and educated eye care professionals throughout his entire career.

Vince Young, MD

General Ophthalmologist for 25 years, Chairman, Division of Ophthalmology, Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Specializing in cataracts, glaucoma.

Shana Zeitlin, OD

Dr. Zeitlin practices at DaVinci Eye Care in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Her time is split between office visits and medical house calls for homebound patients in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She has worked in numerous skilled and assisted nursing facilities, and has developed proficiency working with patients who can be difficult to examine, including those with dementia, advanced multiple sclerosis, and marked cerebral palsy. Dr. Zeitlin has contributed to several publications and abstracts in top research journals in the fields of virology and vaccine development. She currently serves as the president of the Bucks-Montgomery Optometric Association and the chair of the Student Membership Committee of the Pennsylvania Optometric Association.