

Windy City Eye Care, Inc.

BOARD MEMBER FEATURE:

Brandon Lernor, O.D.

PROFILE

Dr. Lernor was born in Downers Grove and was raised in Woodridge where he attended Glenbard North High School "alma mater of IOA's own late, great Dr. Floyd Mizener." He graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois College of Optometry. His biggest influence to study optometry was his father, who worked with Costco for many years. "He would always tell me that the optometrist as his location was always happy with his occupation and my dad pointed out that I was always excited to go to the optometrist because I knew my vision would improve with new contacts and glasses. So I looked into it as a career and haven't looked back since!" Dr. Lernor opted to stay in Illinois to practice because he is from here and most of his "friends and family are here so it was a no-brainer to stay in the Land of Lincoln"

AWARDS/POSITIONS HELD

Gold Key Optometric Society (2012 as an ICO student), 10 year member of AOA

WHAT HE LOVES MOST ABOUT HIS JOB

"Helping people. Whether that's improving their vision with glasses and contacts, or preserving their vision by managing glaucoma or saving their vision by finding an eye condition or a systemic disease like diabetes, it's a great feeling for me to be able to deliver incredibly important health care to people."

UNUSUAL OR SURPRISING DIAGNOSIS

"My dad was the patient actually. He called me and reported waking up and noticing a missing spot in his vision that wasn't there the day before. I had my mom drive him to the office and I found a Branch Retinal Artery Occlusion in one of his eyes. I explained to him what that was and then I immediately instructed him to go to the hospital for a carotid artery workup. Later that day doctors determined he had a 99% blockage of the corresponding carotid artery of which he was completely unaware and was a huge stroke risk. He had surgery a couple days later and has been great ever since!"

ADVICE FOR NEW OPTOMETRISTS

"Firstly congratulations! You've made it! Secondly, don't fall into the trap of seeing your first few paychecks and thinking you can immediately buy a Lamborghini. Have a financial plan. Treat yourself and allow yourself to have some fun but be reasonable. If you have a large optometry school loan, start forming an idea of how you are going to pay it down. Try not to let your interest get capitalized onto your principal or things can snowball right out of the gate for you! Always have a plan!"

HOW HE SPENDS HIS FREE TIME

"My activities haven't really changed from when I was 10 years old! I love going to the movies, playing video games, and watching TV shows. In the summers I like to play golf and I still play in a competitive men's fast pitch baseball league every year and in the winters, I enjoy playing competitive basketball. Year-round I always make sure I spend spare time with my wife Ashley specifically traveling and of course walking and hanging out with our dog Oakley."