



Steven J. Laukaitis, MD

Dr. Laukaitis is a leading eye and facial plastic surgeon in Kirkland and greater Seattle area. He earned his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine and completed his residency in ophthalmology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Houston, Texas. Dr. Laukaitis completed his Fellowship in Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center.



Nathan Lighthizer, OD, FAAO

Born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota, Dr. Nathan Lighthizer, O.D., F.A.A.O., is a graduate of Pacific University College of Optometry. Upon graduation, he completed a residency in Family Practice Optometry with an emphasis in Ocular Disease through Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry. Dr. Lighthizer has since joined the faculty at the Oklahoma College of Optometry and serves as the Chief of Specialty Care Clinics and the Chief of Electrodiagnostics Clinic. In 2014, he founded and now heads the Dry Eye Clinic at the College of Optometry. He was recently named the Director of Continuing Education as well as the Assistant Dean for Clinical Care Services at the Oklahoma College of Optometry. Dr. Lighthizer lectures nationally on numerous topics, most notably advanced ophthalmic procedures, electrodiagnostics, and ocular disease. In 2016, Dr. Lighthizer was honored by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry as a “Rising Star” which recognizes an “outstanding faculty member or administrator with less than seven years of service who has made noteworthy contributions to fulfilling the mission, strategic objectives or programs of ASCO.”



Brian Mathie, OD, FAAO

Dr. Brian Mathie attended the Ohio State University and studied microbiology and then graduated from the Ohio State University College of Optometry and completed a residency specializing in ocular disease at the Columbus and Chillicothe VA Medical Centers. He is an adjunct faculty member with the Ohio State University College of Optometry and a senior examiner for the National Board of Optometry Clinical Examinations. He served as president of the Ohio Optometric Association in 2004. He has extensive experience in treating glaucoma, ocular infections and inflammation, and managing cataract and refractive surgery patients.

Dr. Mathie was named the 2010 Ohio Optometrist of the Year by the Ohio Optometric Association. Chosen from more than 2000 optometrists statewide, Dr. Mathie received the award for “for outstanding contributions to the profession of optometry and public service”. Dr. Mathie also appreciates the value of serving his community in nonmedical avenues as he is a Rotary member (past president), YMCA board member, active parishioner and Sunday school teacher, youth sports coach and school volunteer.



Stuart Richer, OD, PhD, FAAO

Dr. Richer earned his undergraduate degree in 1977 from the Rochester Institute of Technology, after which he completed a dual OD MS (physiological optics) program at the University of California at Berkeley in 1981. A one-year residency in low vision / hospital based optometry followed at the Kansas City, Missouri DVA Medical Center. In 1996 Dr. Richer earned his PhD in human physiology and biophysics from Chicago Medical School following 15 years of practice. He’s an associate professor of Family and Preventative Medicine at Chicago Medical School and Clinical Optometry at ICO and UMSL and an assistant professor of Ophthalmology, UIC Department of Ophthalmology / Eye and Ear Infirmary. He has been Chief of Optometry at DVA Medical Center, North Chicago, IL since 1983 – 2013, and Director of Residencies thereafter. Actively involved in primary care optometry and clinical antioxidant research, Dr. Richer has special interests in aging, prescribing nutrients in the intervention of age related macular degeneration, low-tension glaucoma, diabetic macular edema, prevention of cataracts and dry eye.

2019 ISLAND EYES CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Stanley Teplick, MD

Dr. Teplick is an Adjunct Professor at Pacific University College of Optometry and has lectured internationally. He completed his medical training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, New York, where he was named chief resident in 1981. Dr. Teplick participated in the original FDA studies leading to the approval of the Excimer Laser for corneal refractive surgery, and he performed the first PRK and LASIK procedures in the Pacific Northwest. Among many other innovative distinctions, he was one of the first 10 surgeons to implant the KAMRA Corneal Inlay in the U.S. following FDA approval and is the only surgeon certified to implant KAMRA Inlays for the correction of Presbyopia (near-vision loss) in Oregon.

Originally from Philadelphia, Dr. Teplick studied Philosophy at the University of Chicago and San Francisco State University before attending Hahnemann Medical College and completing his residency in Ophthalmology at the Mayo Clinic. Prior to his medical education, Dr. Teplick played jazz piano professionally in and around San Francisco, a talent he still relies upon for creative fulfillment.



Maria K. Walker, OD, MS, FAAO, FSLs

Dr. Maria Walker, OD MS attended The New England College of Optometry in Boston, MA, where she earned her OD and Master of Vision Science in 2013. She went on to complete a Residency in Cornea & Contact Lenses at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR.

Dr. Walker is currently a faculty member at The University of Houston College of Optometry, where she teaches in the contact lens lab, lectures in the 2nd and 3rd year CL courses, and is an attending clinician in the CL service. She is also pursuing her PhD at UH, focusing on keratoconus and the effects of scleral lenses on the ocular surface. Dr. Walker is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, and is a fellow and a board member of the Scleral Lens Education Society.



Michelle Hoff, OD, ABOAC, FNAO

Dr. Hoff is an Associate Clinical Professor at UC Berkeley School of Optometry where she has been a staff and faculty member since 1990. She currently teaches ophthalmic optics, and has taught Clinical Examination of the Eye and been a clinical instructor in Primary Care, Binocular Vision, and the Eyewear Center.

Dennis W. Fong, OD, FAAO

Dr. Fong is an Assistant Clinical Professor at UC Berkeley School of Optometry where he provides clinical instruction in Primary Care, Ophthalmic Optics and Patient Management.



Scott Cote

Mr. Cote boasts 8 years of optical excellence as the office manager for Welland Vision Care in the Niagara Region in Ontario, Canada. He understands the value in having a cohesive team in the delivery of superb customer service. He prides himself in being able to offer a safe, hygienic and fun place to be for both his staff and patients alike. Prior to working in optical, Scott worked with a “less lively” clientele as a licensed funeral director where he focused on staff relations, policies and procedures.



Jonathan Smith, MBA, is a senior training manager at Luxottica Wholesale North America. With over 12 years of experience in branding and marketing in the luxury, fashion, and beauty industries, Mr. Smith brings a wealth of business and product knowledge to his dynamic and compelling presentations.