



# Ophthalmology

## *Eye Physicians & Surgeons*

**Ophthalmology** is a branch of medicine specializing in the anatomy, function and diseases of the eye.

**An Ophthalmologist** is an eye physician and surgeon (MD or DO). Ophthalmologists are specially trained to provide the full spectrum of eye care, from prescribing glasses and contact lenses to complex and delicate eye surgery. Many ophthalmologists are also involved in scientific research into the causes and cures for eye diseases and vision problems.

*Your ophthalmologist is very well trained in all aspects of human anatomy, disease, and pharmacology. Entrust your comprehensive eye care and surgery to the appropriate professional.*

### **Education and Training** (after college graduation)

- 4 years of medical school.
- 1 year of internship.
- 3 years of ophthalmology residency (hospital-based training).
- The training of an ophthalmologist is intense — as is the competition to be accepted into a residency program. For example, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston received 479 applications for its 6 residency slots last year!
- During residency, the full-time teaching faculty outnumber the residents 2-1.

### **Patient Contact during Training**

- Ophthalmology residents are exposed to more than 15,000 patients before they begin treating patients independently.
- Residents will be in direct patient contact in excess of 6,000 hours in the course of their training.

### **Board Certification**

Many ophthalmologists are board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. A board certified ophthalmologist has passed a rigorous two-part examination designed to assess his/her medical knowledge, experience and skills. Recertification takes place every 10 years.

### **Subspecialties**

Many ophthalmologists spend 1-3 *additional* years of training (fellowships) in a specific area of the eye, including:

- Cornea and External Disease
- Glaucoma
- Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Ophthalmic Pathology
- Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery
- Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Retinal Diseases



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