

# 2022 NJSOP Member Spotlights

## NJSOP MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2022

### DIELLNOR ABDURAMANI

» Diellnor (Dell) is a 2nd year optometry student at SUNY College of Optometry. He chose a career in optometry because of its versatility and its consistency in monitoring patients on a yearly basis, much like a primary care provider. Dell says, "Being one of the first clinicians to diagnose not only ocular, but systemic diseases, can provide critical preventive care and ensure patients live to their fullest potential. That is everything to me."

» Dell previously worked as a scribe at Riverdale Vision Care and credits Dr. Sudaporn Tanpattana for being his mentor: "Dr. Tanpattana's patience and brilliance is what really drew me to optometry. I talk to her frequently, and she is my rock for advice navigating the challenge of Optometry School."

» After graduation (2025) Dell looks forward experiencing how the profession grows through legislative changes, technology, fundamental thinking, and patient education!

#### FAST FACTS

- » Hopes to enter private practice in Northern New Jersey
- » Currently serves as president for the SUNY NJSOP student group, helping to organize quarterly meetings and events



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OCTOBER 2022

## DR. GARDEN

» Dr. Jessica Garden is a Salus University graduate currently practicing at multiple OMNI Eye Services locations - West Orange, Parsippany, Rochelle Park. She also sees patients in Union City at Philips Eye Center, an OMNI affiliate.

» She is kept busy managing ocular emergencies, pre- and post-operative care for cataract and glaucoma surgery, and treating chronic ocular diseases.

» Dr. Garden and her husband welcomed a daughter eight months ago. She says, "I love spending time with my family and am focused on embracing and balancing my new role as a mom with being a full time doctor."

» This month, Dr. Garden will be joining NJSOP leadership at the AOA Northeast Regional Advocacy event in Portland, Maine. This event aims to build on the profession's historic statehouse momentum and prepare advocates for future successes.

## FAST FACTS

- » Joined the NJSOP upon graduation in 2017
- » Completed a residency specializing in Ocular Disease at OMNI
- » Enjoys the challenge of a 1000+ piece jig saw puzzle!



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SEPTEMBER 2022

## DR. ALMONTE

» Dr. Adrien Almonte is a SUNY graduate currently practicing at Eye Contact Vision Center in Jersey City.

» While in school he was a member of the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA) Suny Chapter which aimed to spreading diversity in optometry, as well as the Lions Club SUNY Chapter which was centered on volunteer work geared towards under privileged patient populations.

» While Dr. Almonte focuses on serving as a primary care provider he places a lot of emphasis on patient communication; making sure his patients understand every part of their exam regardless of a single refraction or a complex disease diagnosis.

» Having been the only Hispanic male in his graduating class, Dr. Almonte is passionate about seeing more diversity within optometry and other health care professions.

## FAST FACTS

- » Joined the NJSOP upon graduation in 2021
- » Micro-credentialed in Vision Rehabilitation
- » Enjoys gaming, hikes, and wine tasting in his free time!



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AUGUST 2022

## DR. CHIEU

- » Dr. Linh Chieu became involved with organized optometry as a student, serving as NJSOP student chapter president for SUNY.
- » She was part of the graduating class of 2020 and was a specialty contact lens and cornea resident during the pandemic. Dr. Chieu says the challenge of patient care amidst a deadly virus and the uncertainty of her future career made her anxious. However, looking back, she believes those challenges helped her to become more flexible, hardworking, and resilient.
- » She went on to join an ophthalmology practice as the youngest and first female optometrist, providing comprehensive eye care, specialty contact lens fittings, and myopia management.
- » Dr. Chieu aspires to become more involved with the Keratoconic world and to be able to provide those in need with specialty contact lenses.

### FAST FACTS

- » Her experience helping her mother while she recovered from cataract surgery was what started her path to optometry.
- » Dr. Chieu enjoys baking and exploring in her free time!



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JULY 2022

## DR. KOLZOW

- » Kaitlyn Kolzow, OD, FAAO has been practicing at Vision Eye Physicians in Belleville, NJ since 2020 where she sees a high volume of pediatric patients and conducts 50% of her exams in Spanish. The practice routinely sees emergencies and in-patient consultations from the affiliated hospital, Clara Maass Medical.
- » Dr. Kolzow achieved fellowship status with the AAO in 2021 and recently started serving as a mentor for fellowship candidates.
- » Dr. Kolzow knew from a young age she wanted a career that would help others. Volunteer work at a school for children with multiple and severe disabilities, coupled with witnessing both of her grandfathers' deteriorating vision showed her the impact an optometrist could have on people of all ages.
- » If she had to give one piece of advice to new graduates, she would tell them to network as much as possible!

### FAST FACTS

- » 2019 Salus Graduate
- » NJSOP Member since 2019.
- » Enjoys hiking with her husband and two rescue dogs



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JUNE 2022

## DR. CHAUDHARI

» Dr. Nisha Chaudhari purchased her optometry practice from retired NJSOP member Dr. Gary Eagle in 2021. The transaction began as an advertisement which resulted in Dr. Chaudhari entering the practice as a sort of trial run to make sure it was a good fit. Once purchased, Dr. Chaudhari spent the next year doing a complete renovation of the office, updating the aesthetic, bringing in new equipment, and giving it a new name: West Orange Family Eyecare

» Dr. Chaudhari completed externships in pediatrics, vision therapy, specialty contact lenses, and ocular disease. She is passionate about her plans to bring a special focus on vision therapy and myopia control within her practice.

» Dr. Chaudhari believes in vision care for everyone, no exceptions. Inspired by the internships she completed in underprivileged countries, she provides free vision screenings to those without insurance year round.

## FAST FACTS

- » 2019 Salus Graduate
- » NJSOP Member since 2019.
- » Enjoys traveling internationally.



Be sure to check out West Orange Family Eyecare on Instagram (@west.orange.family.eyecare) and Facebook to see Dr. Chaudhari's documentation of her practice's transformation process!

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MAY 2022

## DR. ROSETTA

» Before attending optometry school, Dr. Melanne Rosetta competed in mixed martial arts and won two amateur fights by TKO. She never lost her passion for exercise and diet and has become a passionate advocate for using both to optimize health and wellness.

» Dr. Rosetta has established her career in tertiary care; focusing on complex cases, pre-ops and post-ops for refractive cases and cataracts as well as managing glaucoma, keratoconus, and emergency cases at Omni Eye Center in Iselin.

» Dr. Rosetta has traveled to Mongolia with the Virtue Foundation several times to provide cataract surgery to local populations.

» She recently adopted a blind dog that has cataracts, glaucoma, and episodes of uveitis and corneal ulcers - Dr. Rosetta enjoys bringing her work home to care for Ethel.

## FAST FACTS

- » 2017 NECO graduate.
- » NJSOP Member since 2017.
- » Enjoys road trips to new cities and national parks with her husband in their camper van.



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APRIL 2022

## DR. YEHUDAI

» Dr. Avi Yehudai is the owner and sole practitioner at Chester Family Eye Care in Chester, NJ. He provides comprehensive care for all ages with a focus on medical optometry, keratoconus, and scleral lenses.

» He regularly performs free exams and provides glasses for children in need through the Lions Club established in Chester.

» He is a past volunteer for a VOSH mission in Nicaragua.

» Dr. Yehudai received the Gas Permeable Lens Institute's award for Clinical Excellence in specialty contact lenses.

» You can find Dr. Yehudai playing for the Vision Expo crowd at the Hard Rock Cafe each year along with his Punktum Remotum bandmates.

## FAST FACTS

- » Served as SUNY-NJSOP co-president as a student
- » 2018 SUNY Optometry grad
- » NJSOP Member since 2018.
- » Recipient of the Dr. Leslie Mintz Scholarship
- » Speaks Hebrew and Spanish



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MARCH 2022

## DR. TANNEN

» Dr. Noah Tannen practices at EyeCare Professionals, PC in Hamilton, NJ, where he focuses on vision therapy, neuro-optometric rehabilitation, and myopia control.

» He is a member of the VisionHelp Group which aims to provide resources to parents and practitioners related to developmental and rehabilitative vision problems.

» He co-authored the book "A Parent's Guide to Raising Children with Healthy Vision" which recieved several awards/ acknowledgements including being a finalist in the Medical category for the National Indie Excellence Awards.

» Dr. Tannen has also been published in several medical journals, including a chapter on neuro-optometric rehabilitation in the first edition of the textbook "Clinical Cases in Eye Care".

## FAST FACTS

- » NJSOP Member since 2017.
- » Works alongside his father who he also credits as his mentor.
- » Spends his free time singing, playing guitar, writing songs, and playing open mic nights around Philadelphia.
- » Is getting married this summer!



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FEBRUARY 2022

## DR. KAHLON

» Dr. Sukhpreet Kahlon was inspired to pursue a career in optometry after meeting a visually impaired student at Rutgers University. She then joined the pre-optometry club, participated in community vision screenings, and began working as an optometric technician to gain more exposure to the field.

» Dr. Kahlon joined Somerset Eye Care (North Brunswick, NJ) in 2020, upon graduating from SUNY Optometry.

» In addition to providing primary eye care, she enjoys performing scleral contact lens fittings, myopia management, and low vision services.

» Dr. Kahlon's passion for optometry inspired her younger brother to pursue a career in optometry. He is currently a third year optometry student!

### FAST FACTS

- » NJSOP Member since 2020.
- » Is fluent in Punjabi and Hindi



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JANUARY 2022

## DR. GAETA

» Dr. Danielle Gaeta has been a private practice owner since 2018 when she bought a practice from a fellow NJSOP member.

» Her practice, Advanced Eye Care Associates features a dry eye clinic and routinely provides consultations for hard-to-fit contact lenses. She made the practice her own by focusing on improved patient communications and updating the technology used in the office.

» Dr. Gaeta volunteers yearly for Opening Eyes providing eye and vision exams for athletes competing at the New Jersey Special Olympics.

» Graduated from Southern College of Optometry. Her training included internships in pediatrics and vision therapy as well as ocular disease and low vision at the VA Hospital in Memphis, TN.

### FAST FACTS

- » NJSOP Member since 2016.
- » Currently serving on the NJSOP Board of Directors
- » Awarded the NJSOP's Young OD of the Year award in 2017



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