CONNOR ROBBS

OPTOMETRIST

"I LOVE COMMUNICATING WITH PEOPLE, DISCUSSING THEIR LIFESTYLES, AND TAILORING TREATMENTS ACCORDINGLY."

Connor is an Optometrist who has a passion for helping others. He enjoys that optometry allows him to work with great people and appropriately diagnose patients to help them achieve a healthy lifestyle.

WHAT IS YOUR UNIQUE GENIUS?
"The ability to communicate to patients and understand where they are coming from and tailoring the treatment to their lifestyle."

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER?
"I became interested in the field of optometry after job shadowing and being employed by my mom's practice. Helping patients on a daily basis before going to optometry school sparked my interest in helping people and joining the healthcare profession."

"Helping people is a big deal in my personal life, but also my job life as well."

IN WHAT WAYS IS YOUR CAREER A PERFECT FIT FOR YOU?
"I'm able to communicate and be relatively stress-free on a daily basis. That's a big deal for me—being confident in what I'm doing. I love communicating with people, discussing their lifestyles, and tailoring treatments accordingly."

WHAT DOES A DAY IN THE LIFE LOOK LIKE?
"A day in the life of an optometrist looks like going to work and being fulfilled by the work that we do. We see a variety of refractive error, as well as ocular disease and conditions that can pop up on a daily basis. Treating infections and inflammatory conditions as well as vascular conditions of the eye is also a big component to what we do every single day.

Probably close to 80% of my day is communication to patients overall. Whether it be discussing the instructions of tests, or the treatments and referral sources, getting these patients in the hands of the right people is a big deal to me."

WHAT SKILLS DOES IT TAKE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR JOB?
"You have to maneuver some of our instruments such as the phoropter and slit lamp bio microscope. Being able to remove foreign bodies is a big deal in our lives as well. Soft skills [include] people skills—that is the vast majority of our job. Being empathetic towards our patients is a big deal, as well."

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?
"Having a good work ethic really does put you in a good place in life. Being able to exemplify that on a daily basis, whether you want to wake up and go to your job or school, you have to do it."

"If you continue to work at your passion, you'll get into what ever field you'd like, whether it be optometry or another field."

WHAT'S IN YOUR PORTFOLIO?
"My [first] big job was being an optician in the same practice that I am currently employed with. [I would] help patients with contact lenses, insurance, and glasses."

WHAT IS THE COOLEST PART OF YOUR JOB? WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?
"The coolest part of my job is honestly being able to get people in the right hands when an unknown disease or an infection pops up. People say, 'my glasses have not been working for 15 to 20 years,' [and we] come to find out that they actually have a condition of the cornea.

The most challenging part of my job is being able to gain new patients' trust when they come to our practice. There is huge advancement with a lot of our technology, but some people haven't been to the eye doctor in years. They are a little bit frightful of some of the new tests that we have. We have to reassure them that this is all advanced technology."

WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIELD/JOB?
"[Optometrists] are a lot of times the first health care provider to see the diseases [through] the back of the eye. We can see different cardiovascular conditions pop up in the back of the eye, just by looking at the blood vessels."

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE?
"Being able to confidently diagnose every single [patient] by myself two to three weeks [into my job]—this was a big deal coming from [being] a student where we would only see anywhere from three to six patients on a daily basis with the help of our colleagues at our disposal."

my unique genius