

Michael T. Wallerich, OD, MBA

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SUMMARY

Dr. Michael Wallerich is a residency trained neuro-optometrist. He completed one of less than 20 residency positions in neuro-optometry annually within the United States at the VA Palo Alto Polytrauma Center affiliated with the University of California – Berkeley School of Optometry for active-duty military members. Neuro-optometry residency programs are designed to equip optometrists with advanced skills to manage complex neurological disorders impacting eye and vision functions. Dr. Wallerich has been directly involved in the diagnosis, treatment, and management for thousands of patients with eye and vision dysfunctions following traumatic and acquired brain injuries within Minnesota and beyond. He continues to be a resource for over 300+ referral partners (and counting) from institutions all across the upper Midwest such as: Allina Health, CentraCare, Essentia Health, Emplify Health, HealthPartners, Hennepin County Medical Center, Marshfield Clinics, Mayo Clinic, M Health Fairview, Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology, Noran Neurology, The National Dizzy and Balance Centers, Twin Cities Orthopedics, and many others.

EDUCATION

CEO Now Program – Hennepin County <i>Selective Leadership Program for Small Businesses (20 CEOs selected annually only)</i>	December 2024
VA Palo Alto Health Care System – Palo Alto, California <i>Affiliation:</i> University of California – Berkeley School of Optometry <i>Residency:</i> Primary Care/Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation	June 2018
State University of New York – College of Optometry – New York, NY <i>Degree Earned:</i> Doctor of Optometry (OD)	May 2017
Empire State College – Saratoga Springs, NY <i>Degree Earned:</i> Master of Business Administration (MBA) <i>Certificated Earned:</i> Advanced Certificate in Optometric Business <i>Master Thesis:</i> Acquisition of Mid-Level Immunologic Pharmaceutical Company: <i>Johnson & Johnson</i>	May 2017
University of Minnesota – College of Biological Sciences – Minneapolis, MN <i>Degree Earned:</i> B.S. Biology, Minor - Spanish	May 2012
La Fundación José Ortega y Gasset - Study Abroad – Toledo, Spain <i>Degree Earned:</i> Minor - Spanish	Spring 2011

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Swoop Eye Care <i>Owner/Neuro-Optometrist</i> • Own, operate, & manage a staff of 10 employees in a private medical neuro-optometry practice • Referral clinic for over 300 healthcare providers to diagnose, treat, & manage patients with complex neuro-ophthalmic & binocular vision dysfunctions caused by traumatic or acquired brain injuries - Referral Specialties: Neurology, Neurosurgery, Brain Injury Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Medicine, Sports Medicine, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Neuro-Psychology, Neuro-Otology, Otolaryngology, and others • Provide consultation, expert witness testimony, and independent medical evaluation with medical-legal narrative reports involving eye injuries, surgical eye interventions, and patients with traumatic/acquired brain injuries with eye/vision sequela stemming from motor vehicle, work-related, and personal injuries	Dec. 2023 – Present
Wallerich Eye Care, LLC <i>Owner/Clinical Optometrist</i> • Operate, manage, & oversee daily clinical activities of Wallerich Eye Care staff and optometrists at two clinic locations	Jan. 2019 – Present

- Implement & execute clinical/business strategies to improve patient care, outcomes, and patient satisfaction
- Establish professional relationships within the community to provide comprehensive & specialized eye care
- Promote specialty eye care in sub-specialties of brain injury vision rehabilitation, pediatric eye care, and specialty contact lenses

In-House Senior Services

Jan. 2019 – April 2020

Director of Optometric Services

- Provided comprehensive & specialty eye care within over 250 skilled-nursing facilities, rehabilitation clinics and other inpatient clinical areas
- Completed bedside eye examinations with mobile equipment to assess patient's eye and vision health to relay information to the care team regarding the patient's vision limitations (i.e. limited peripheral vision, double vision, low vision, etc.)
- Managed a large team of providers and optometric technicians to serve over 250 clinical facilities within the state of Minnesota

Implemented and executed clinical/business strategies resulting in a 97% increase in net profitability in less than 1 year
Clinical Optometrist Sept. 2018 – April 2020

- Provide evidence-based clinical care for patients living within domiciliary care setting, skilled nursing facilities and other inpatient facilities within the state of Minnesota

Veterans Administration Palo Alto Health Care System

July 2017 – June 2018

Primary Care/ Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation Optometry Resident

- Primary Care Clinic consists of problem-focused eye examinations/follow-ups with frequent pathology that include: age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and other pathology
- Brain Injury Vision Rehabilitation Clinic focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of visual sequela secondary to acquired brain injury and traumatic brain injury

* Inpatient Setting:

- Complete consultations requested by physical medicine & rehabilitation (polytrauma rehabilitation center, polytrauma transitional rehabilitation program, spinal cord injury clinic, intensive care unit) to diagnose, treat and manage ophthalmic conditions
- Part of an inter-disciplinary team to help members understand the ophthalmic challenges (vision loss, hemianopsia, binocular disorders, strabismus) of a patient's injury
- Examinations occur by the bedside as well as designated rooms in the inpatient setting

* Outpatient Setting:

- Manage, diagnose and treat binocular conditions through ophthalmic lenses and/or vision therapy in patients with diagnosed mild, moderate or severe traumatic brain injuries
- Complete brain injury vision rehabilitation using evidence-based neuro-optometric therapy techniques

INTERN/EXTERN CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

State University of New York – College of Optometry

March 2017 – May 2017

Optometry Intern

- Conducted problem-oriented eye exams with emphasis on the clinical procedures and management of ocular disease
- Completed rotations in specialty care in areas such as: Pediatric Ocular Disease, Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease, Specialty & Primary Care Contact Lenses, Glaucoma, Neuro-Rehabilitation (Evaluations & Training)

Hennepin County Medical Center

November 2016 – March 2017

Optometry Extern

- Tertiary healthcare center exclusively treating patients in the *Traumatic Brain Injury Outpatient Rehabilitation Program*
- Completed over 230 evaluations focusing on the diagnosis, and treatment for pediatric and adults with visual sequela secondary to mild to severe traumatic brain injuries
- Multidisciplinary setting working alongside physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians, neuropsychology, neuroscience nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, vestibular rehabilitation, psychology, and social services

Gundersen Health System

August 2016 – November 2016

Optometry Extern

- Tertiary healthcare center focusing on pediatric care, traumatic brain injury, disease co-management, pre- & post-surgical care and optometric primary care with experience in 6 regional clinics
- Specialties explored in Radiology, Neurology, Endocrinology/ Diabetic Education and Vestibular Physical Therapy

Patino Eye

May 2016 – August 2016

Optometry Extern

- Optometry extern completing 70% (over 312 encounters out of 450) of examinations in Spanish with emphasis in the areas of pediatrics and specialty contact lens

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Optometry - Optometrist

May 2017 – Current

Opticianry – Certified Optician

May 2005 – May 2017

LANGUAGES

- English (Native Language)
- Spanish (Full Professional Proficiency)

PUBLICATIONS

Stanford University School of Medicine 2018 Neuroscience Forum – Poster

Visual Sequela of Traumatic Cranial Nerve Injuries with Subsequent Eye Care Management

June 2018

College of Vision Development – Poster

Diagnosis & Treatment of Ocular Skew Deviation secondary to a Left Posterior Inferior Cerebellar Artery Infarction

April 2018

American Academy of Optometry – Poster

Recurrent Meningioma with Associated Progressive Vision Loss

October 2017

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance

CONCUSS – A Clinical Overview of Vision Therapy

April 2026

Minnesota Association of Rehabilitation Providers

Neuro-Optometry – Overview of Profession, Clinical Treatments, and Management of Traumatic Brain Injury

April 2026

Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance

Traumatic/Acquired Brain Injury Vision Dysfunctions

February 2026

St Paul Public School District Nurses Monthly Meeting

Pediatric Eye Care & Binocular Vision

November 2025

HealthPartners Therapy Department System Wide

Neuro-Optometry – CONCUSS Protocol

November 2025

Ridgeview Medical Center Neuro-Rehabilitation Unit

Neuro-Optometry – Traumatic Brain Injury Management with Rehab Team

Oct 2025

Twin Cities Orthopedics

Neuro-Optometry – Concussion Management for Athletes with Sports Medicine Physicians

July 2025

CentraCare Neuro-Rehabilitation Department

Neuro-Optometry – Inter-Disciplinary Care for Traumatic Brain Injury

July 2025

HealthPartners Neuroscience Center

Neuro-Optometry – Collaboration Amongst Therapists & Neuro-Optometrists

April 2025

Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance

Neuro-Optometry – Eye and Vision Sequelae After Traumatic Brain Injury

April 2025

Allina Health – United Family Physicians Clinic Residency Program

Neuro-Optometry – Concussion Management for the Family Medicine Physician

January 2025

HealthPartners – Region's Hospital

Interdisciplinary Approach to Neuro-Optometry – Inpatient Hospital

November 2024

HealthPartners Neuroscience Center

Interdisciplinary Approach to Neuro-Optometry – Outpatient Clinic

October 2024

State University of New York – College of Optometry

September 2024

Neuro-Optometry in Private Practice	
Allina Health – Courage Kenny & United Hospital	April 2024
Eye & Vision Deficits from Traumatic & Acquired Brain Injuries	
American Optometric Association	Nov 2022
Saving a Life – A Story of a Patient’s Journey in the Height of the Pandemic	
Fox 9 News Interview	September 2022
Impact of COVID-19 on Children & Tools to Improve Children’s Eye Health	
Care Providers of Minnesota – <i>Speaker</i>	November 2019
Eye and Vision Health in the Geriatric Population	
UC-Berkeley College of Optometry – <i>Continuing Education Credit</i>	June 2018
Late Onset Ocular Myasthenia Gravis	
Palo Alto VA Health Care System – <i>Inter-disciplinary Team</i>	June 2018
Cranial Nerve Deficits with Eye Care Management	
Palo Alto VA Health Care System Neuropsychology/Psychology Department	May 2018
Neuro-Optometric Evaluation for Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries	
Santa Clara County Optometric Society – <i>Continuing Education Credit</i>	May 2018
Palo Alto Resident Grand Rounds	
Palo Alto VA Health Care System – <i>Inter-disciplinary Team</i>	May 2018
Traumatic Eye Injuries	
Palo Alto VA Health Care System – <i>Inter-disciplinary Team</i>	March 2018
Red Eye for the Geriatric Population for Primary Care Providers	
San Francisco VA Health Care System – <i>Continuing Education Credit</i>	February 2018
Skew Deviation secondary to Left Posterior Inferior Cerebellar Artery Infarction	
Palo Alto VA Health Care System – <i>Continuing Education Credit</i>	September 2018
Recurrent Meningioma with Associated Progressive Vision Loss	

HONORS/AWARDS

Richfield Chamber of Commerce

Small Business of the Year for 2024

May 2025

- Swoop Eye Care was awarded small business of the year from the Chamber of Commerce in Richfield for extraordinary public service, philanthropy in the community, and community care

Empire State College

Dean’s Medal Recipient

May 2017

- Sole Master of Business Administration student to receive award for academic excellence, contribution to the graduate school, demonstration of mastery in the culminating project and nomination by a faculty member and supported by other faculty members

State University of New York – College of Optometry

MARCHON AWARD

May 2017

- Excellence in Practice Management

ABRAM A. HUBAL, OD, Student Service Award

May 2017

- Sponsored by The New York State Optometric Association (NYSOA) for leadership and support of organized optometry in the state of New York

MORTON L. KIMMELMAN Memorial Award

May 2017

- Student Leadership in Organized Optometry

Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society: Vice President

May 2017

- Selection based upon leadership, scholarship, and value to the class, college and profession with no more than 10% of a class year from an independent panel of peers & professors

HACKATHON Co-Winner: *Designing the Future Eye Examination*

May 2016

Dr. Alden Haffner Scholarship

October 2015

- Based upon leadership, scholarship & commitment to the optometric profession locally, state-wide and nationally

Optometric Center of New York (OCNY) Scholarship

May 2014

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURES/CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Optometrist in the State of Wisconsin (Member Since 2020); Expiration 02/28/2022

Licensed Optometrist in the State of Minnesota (Member Since 2018); Expiration: 12/31/2026

Licensed Optometrist in the State of California (Member Since 2017); Expiration: 04/30/2022

Certified by the *American Board of Opticianry* (Member Since 2009; Recertified December 2015) License#: 183995

Certified by the *American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers* (CPR and AED) License#: WI

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Richfield Chamber of Commerce

December 2023 – Present

American Optometric Association (AOA)

September 2013 – Present

Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO)

September 2013 – Present

Minnesota Optometric Association (MOA)

December 2014 – Present

Optometric Vision Development & Rehabilitation Association (OVDRA)

October 2015 – Present

Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association (NORA)

November 2016 – Present

Healthcare Finance Management Association (HFMA)

January 2015 – July 2025

National Association of VA Optometrist (NAVAO)

August 2017 – June 2018

New York State Optometric Association (NYSOA)

September 2013 – May 2017