

Candidate: Dr. Leah Markin



Biography

I have volunteered with the College since 2019. For the past 2 years I have chaired the QA Special Projects panel, and previously volunteered on Patient Relations, Clinical Practice, Discipline and Quality Assurance.

I started my career in Optometry at the Vision Institute of Canada, under the mentorship of Drs. Catherine Chiarelli and Lois Calder after an impactful 4th year externship with them. Following the unfortunate closure of the Vision Institute in 2022, I began working at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, as well as in private practice.

For the past 2 years I have also travelled to work in Nunavut, where there is limited access to eye care. At Holland Bloorview I work with a multidisciplinary team caring for inpatients and outpatients with a variety of systemic and developmental diagnoses and a wide spectrum of needs and abilities. My work experience has shown me gaps in the system where scope expansion could greatly benefit patients by improving the expediency and efficiency of care. My goal is always to provide comprehensive and patient centred care in every encounter.

I was born and raised in Ottawa. I completed my undergraduate studies at Yeshiva University, in New York City, graduating Summa cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in

Biology in 2011, followed by my graduation with Honours from SUNY College of Optometry in 2015.

In addition to my College volunteering, I also volunteer at my children's school. My husband and I are the proud parents of 3 children.

Describe an experience where you contributed to protecting the public interest.

Through my work with the College in the last 6 years I have found many ways to contribute to protecting the public interest. Working on committees, and completing the College Chair Training has given me insight into how to balance individual opinions and interests. It has also given me broad insight into operations. While chairing the Quality Assurance Special Projects meetings, I have been able to run meetings that have been productive and collaborative while encouraging contributions from all members. This has allowed us to be constructive in our work, which is all in the service of protecting the public.

CV

CURRENT POSITIONS

Optometrist, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Toronto ON

March 2022 – Present

- Provide patient-focused comprehensive primary eye care for outpatient and inpatient populations at Canada's largest children's rehabilitation hospital
- Work with each patient's interdisciplinary care team to help them understand and work within an individual's visual abilities to enhance their rehabilitation
 - o Experience examining and managing eye care for children with complex medical, developmental and behavioural needs and challenges

Optometrist, Doctor of Eyes, Thornhill ON

August 2022 – Present

- Provide patient-focused full-scope eye and vision care for patients of all ages and abilities
- Services provided include:
 - Myopia Control treatment via pharmaceutical therapy and soft contact lenses for eligible patients

- Treatment and medical co-management of patients with systemic and ocular disease

Optometrist, Inuulisautinut Niuvirvik, The North West Company, Iqaluit NU

July 2022 – Present

- Provide patient-focused, culturally sensitive full scope primary eye care to patients of all ages in Iqaluit clinic during 2-3 annual visits.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Optometrist, Vision Institute of Canada, Toronto ON

May 2016 – January 2022

Director of Pediatric Services

April 2019 - January 2022

- Provide patient-focused full-scope eye and vision care for patients of all ages, approximately 80% pediatric care and patients with developmental and/or physical disabilities.
- Services provided include:
 - Binocular Vision Evaluation and treatment with Vision Therapy
 - Visual Perceptual Evaluations for patients with a variety of related complaints
 - Laser Surgery Co-management
 - Soft Contact Lens fittings (spherical, toric and multifocal) for patients of all ages
 - Myopia Control treatment via pharmaceutical therapy and multifocal soft contact lenses for eligible patients
- Treatment and medical co-management of patients with systemic and ocular disease
- The Vision Institute of Canada closed permanently on January 28, 2022

Adjunct Clinical Instructor, New England College of Optometry

May 2016 – January 2022

Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor, State University of New York College of Optometry

May 2016 – January 2022

Adjunct Clinical Instructor, University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science

May 2019 – January 2022

- Supervise and instruct 4th year clinical externs in patient-care and clinical proficiency for the varied and complex patient-body at the Vision Institute of Canada as a Clinical Externship site

Optometrist, Wychwood Eyecare, Toronto ON

March 2022 – February 2024

- Provide patient-focused full-scope primary eye care for patients of all ages
- Services provided include:
- Soft Contact Lens fittings (spherical, toric and multifocal) for patients of all ages
- Myopia Control treatment via pharmaceutical therapy and soft contact lenses for eligible patients
- Treatment and medical co-management of patients with systemic and ocular disease

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Committee Appointments, College of Optometrists of Ontario

Patient Relations Committee, Professional Member - 2019

Clinical Practice Panel, Professional Member – 2020, 2021

Discipline Committee, Professional Member – 2022

Quality Assurance Committee, Professional Member – 2023, 2024

Quality Assurance Special Projects, Chair – 2023, 2024

EDUCATION

State University of New York College of Optometry, New York NY

May 2015

Doctor of Optometry

Beta Sigma Kappa, International Optometric Honor Society

Dean's List

Yeshiva University, New York NY

May 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Biology, Summa Cum Laude

Dean's List

Associate of Arts in Judaic Studies, Summa Cum Laude

Dean's List