

Bruce Moore, OD

Dr. Moore joined the faculty of The New England College of Optometry in 1997. Prior to joining the College, he was director of Pediatric Contact Lens and Screening Services in the Department of Ophthalmology at Children's Hospital Boston for 22 years. While at Children's Hospital, he developed techniques for fitting contact lenses to infants with congenital cataracts, at the time the leading cause of blindness in newborns. In 1993, he became the first optometrist to receive a faculty appointment at Harvard Medical School. He established the first eye clinic at the Martha Elliot Health Center, a satellite of Children's Hospital Boston and now part of the New England Eye Institute network, in 1975.

Dr. Moore's research focuses on vision screening and examination and vision care of children. He has been a principal investigator at the Boston Clinical Center for the Vision in Preschoolers Study, funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Eye Institute, since 2000. The study established the scientific basis for screening the vision of preschool age children in the United States. The current phase of VIP is looking at the relationship between hyperopia and the acquisition of reading skills in preschool age children.

Dr. Moore was the co-leader in the establishment of a model of universal vision screening and continued eye care for young children on local, state, national and international levels culminating in the passage in 2004 of a new Massachusetts state law mandating vision screenings for all children before entering kindergarten and that requires comprehensive eye exams for all children who fail the initial screenings or who are developmentally challenged. This legislation has served as a model for preschool vision screening in many other states and also internationally. He is currently the co-chair of the Massachusetts Children's Vision Coalition, with is a multi-disciplinary group comprising over 40 institutions and agencies in the fields of vision, government, pediatric primary care, and education, working to create an effective universal system of vision care for children in Massachusetts. This coalition is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Moore is a visiting scientist at the Center for Vision In the Developing World at Oxford University, supported by funding from the World Bank and Dow Corning Inc., which is developing variable focus spectacles that can be employed as a self-refracting tool for children and adults with uncorrected refractive error in areas in the developing world without adequate access to vision care and spectacles. This project has led to clinical trials in Boston and in urban and rural China that has confirmed the efficacy of self-refraction in myopic teenagers. This work is ongoing and funded by multiple sources, including the Chinese government.

Dr. Moore is the 2005 recipient of the Dr. Andre Quamina Community Clinician Award. He received the 1998 Best Textbook of the Year award from the American Medical Writers Association for his textbook Eye Care for Infants and Young Adults, which was the standard textbook in pediatric optometry. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, a member of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and is a manuscript referee for many academic journals in optometry and ophthalmology. Dr. Moore earned his OD degree from the college in 1975.

Dr. Moore's career as a pediatric optometrist has been devoted to studying the visual problems and therapeutic options for infants and young children with ocular anomalies. He is active in research and policy efforts to design effective screening programs for infants and young children. And he is involved in efforts to develop a broader and more effective program of vision care for young children on the local, state and national levels.

Dr. Moore is a principal investigator for the federally funded multi-center study of vision screening in children, the Vision in Preschoolers (VIP) Study. This project aims to develop a battery of screening procedures for broad use in the pre-school population in the US and beyond. His latest research focuses on answering the following question: Do uncorrected hyperopic (far-sighted) children without other major vision problems perform worse on educational tests than do comparable children with normal vision? This will resolve a question that has resisted easy resolution: Does a significant refractive error play an important role in a child's early education?

Dr. Moore is also a scientific advisor and clinical participant in international research projects funded by the World Bank, Oxford University in the UK, and UNESCO. These projects are focused on providing vision care to children in the developing world, in places where access to eye care is limited or absent.