



EDMUND TSUI

Assistant Professor
Stein Eye Institute, UCLA

Toronto, Ontario, Canada &
Los Angeles, California, USA

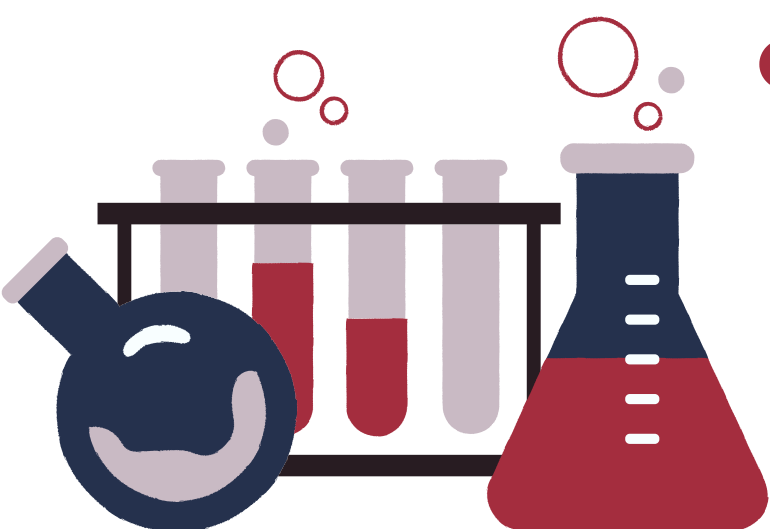
HIGH SCHOOL

I attended high school in Canada. I was enrolled in the gifted program, but I didn't focus more on certain classes over others. I simply tried to do well in all of my courses! However, by this time, I already knew I was interested in the health field.



UNIVERSITY

I pursued a major within the Bachelor of Medical Sciences Program at the University of Western Ontario. While majoring in Physiology, I joined several pre-health/pre-med clubs and volunteered in medical clinics to gain experience and expose myself to a breadth of the field.



INTERNSHIPS ARE KEY

I prioritized interning throughout college. After my 1st year of college, during the summer, I volunteered in a microbiology lab studying E. coli pathogenesis. After my 2nd year of college, in the summer, I was awarded a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Undergraduate Summer Research Award to study dopamine pathways in rats. Finally, after my 3rd year, I decided to pursue clinical research after having two summers of bench research, so I joined a lab studying retinal vascular responses to inhaled gas stimuli in healthy adults. This helped introduce me to the field of vision research and ophthalmology.



FOCUSING ON VISION SCIENCE

For my senior thesis, I completed a project that examined ophthalmic imaging of a mouse model of a disease called oculodentodigital dysplasia. This solidified my interest in eye and vision research as I moved onto applying and ultimately attending medical school.



PERSPECTIVE, THEN AND NOW

I think the most formative events were both the ophthalmology clinical research project and the ophthalmology senior thesis project that occurred back to back, which provided me with insight into different research environments within the same field and helped inform my choice of career as an ophthalmologist today. The opportunity to look at vision research from the basic science and then the clinical side was very valuable, showing the importance of both types of research.