

## Top 10 Reasons You Should Pursue a Career in Pediatric Ophthalmology

- 1 You can take care of patients of all ages
  - Premature babies, neonates, infants, toddlers and children to 18+ and adults with strabismus
- 2 You can be a comprehensive provider for the pediatric population
  - Many comprehensive providers do not feel comfortable managing pediatric patients, so you have a “monopoly” on the market.
  - You can manage all ocular issues from the lids and anterior segment to the optic nerve.
  - You can manage patients with rare and complex disorders and work as a team with other pediatric subspecialists
- 3 Pediatric ophthalmologists are a hot commodity!
  - Low numbers of pediatric ophthalmologists allow for ability to find work in otherwise saturated job markets with increased power of negotiation.
- 4 Pediatric ophthalmologists are happy - you should be, too!
  - Ophthalmologists in general report a good quality of life and work-life balance
  - Pediatric ophthalmologists have good job satisfaction in a field that tends to recruit and foster happy people, which is important for you and your colleagues
- 5 It is a good field to go into if you like public health and international work.
  - Pediatric ophthalmologists usually can find funding opportunities for community outreach both locally and abroad, where there is a significant need for pediatric ophthalmology care providers
- 6 If you are someone who likes to build relationships with your patients and watch them grow and improve, this field is for you.
  - Many pediatric ophthalmology issues, such as amblyopia, strabismus, glaucoma, ptosis, retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) have long-lasting impact on the eyes and the visual system, requiring continued follow-up, thereby allowing for a strong relationship between you, your patients, and their families.
- 7 Taking care of children is fun!
  - You get to play games and use toys and stay young at heart.
  - Kids say and do the funniest things – you will always have great stories to share with friends and colleagues.
- 8 You will never get bored.
  - There is a huge potential to have a comprehensive practice, your clinic can have patients with a wide variety of disorders and your operating room can involve a wide variety of procedures.
  - There is potential for inpatient and outpatient work, academic or private practice, NICU ROP, with different disorders and exam skills.
- 9 There are relatively low after-hours and on-call responsibilities.

- Compared to emergent retinal detachments and entrapped orbital floor fractures, there are relatively few amblyopia and strabismus emergencies.
  - Hence pediatric ophthalmologists enjoy a good work-life balance!
- 10 The vision that you save in childhood will serve your patients their whole lives!
- If amblyopia is treated appropriately, you will have patients coming back with dramatically better vision at each visit, knowing that they will get to keep this for their adult lives!