
*Professional
Biography*

René R. Rivard

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René R. “Skip” Rivard, ABOM, FCLSA(H)

An Abstract

A second generation optician, Mr. Rivard's education in opticianry and contact lenses began as an optical apprentice in the family business in Hartford, CT. He attended the Post-Graduate Course in Contact Lens Technology at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, and returned to complete its Ophthalmic Technician Program.

Awarded with lifetime membership, he is a Founding Member and Past President of the New England Contact Lens Society, he also served as President (1980-1983, 1997-2000) of the Connecticut Optician's Association and the Contact Lens Society of Connecticut. Active in establishing formal education for opticians, Mr. Rivard was Vice Chair (1987-1991) of the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation and returned to complete another two terms as a Commissioner. (1997 - 2005).

Rivard is a licensed optician in Connecticut and is certified as an ABO Master of Ophthalmic Optics. He is an Honored Fellow of the Contact Lens Society of America; an Honored Fellow of the Opticians Association of America and a Fellow of the National Academy of Opticianry. He is A.B.O. and N.C.L.E.-Advanced certified and has held faculty positions at medical schools, colleges, and teaching hospitals in Connecticut and Massachusetts. He was Director of Technical Services of University Contact Lens Service located at the Yale University, School of Medicine, Yale Eye Center.

Mr. Rivard was a contributing author to the *Definitions of Optical Optics: A Dictionary, 2nd Edition* published by Butterworth Publishers and was the editor-in-chief and a contributing author of the *Ophthalmic Dispensing Review Book II*, published by the National Academy of Opticianry. He was one of a three-member team that drafted and established a curriculum for the first nationally accredited Baccalaureate degree for Opticianry offered by Charter Oak State College in Connecticut and wrote the original curriculum for the Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing Program at Middlesex Community College. He is currently a Special Faculty Consultant and Advisor at Charter Oak State College.

Mr. Rivard was first appointed by the Governor to the Connecticut (Licensing) Board of Examiners for Opticians in 1984. He served as Chair from 1990 through 1997. Reappointed in 2009, he currently serves on the Board. Rivard was a member of the Board of Directors on both the National Committee of Contact Lens (NCLC) Examiners and the American Board (ABO) of Opticianry and completed two terms on the Board of the National Academy of Opticians..

The National Academy of Opticianry awarded him the prestigious **Beverly Myers Award** for *Meritorious service to the advancement of higher education for opticians*. He was presented with the **Opticians Association of America Achievement Award** for *Significant Professional Contributions to Opticianry*. In the same year, the National Academy of Opticianry awarded him with the **Opticianry Education Achievement Award** which recognizes *educators whose contributions to opticianry education can be described as “major and noteworthy”*.

He is currently Executive Director of the Connecticut Opticians Association and a Professor of **Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing** at Middlesex Community College in Middletown, CT. Skip also maintains a private practice in Specialty and Therapeutic Contact Lens Design in a large multi-specialty ophthalmology group practice and is President of Eyecare Technologies, an optical management and consulting firm.

Recognizing his six terms as President of the Connecticut Opticians Association and his *dedication to the profession*, he was awarded its first **Lifetime Membership, Achievement Award**. He has authored many professional journal articles and lectures extensively throughout the country on a variety of ophthalmic dispensing, management and contact lens topics.

René R. Rivard [Skip], ABOM, FCLSA(H)

**PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATION**

- 1974 **Baylor College of Medicine**, Houston, TX
Ophthalmic Medical Technician
Trained in refractometry, surgical assisting, diagnostic evaluation.
- 1973 **(Joseph E.) Soper Brothers**, Houston, TX
Ocularist
Trained in all phases of custom design and manufacture of ocular prosthetics.
- 1971 **Baylor College of Medicine**, Houston, TX
Post-graduate course in Contact Lens Technology
- 1966-1970 **Rivard Opticians**, Hartford, CT
Optical apprentice. Trained in all phases of surface room, optical bench, R analysis and dispensing of completed eyewear to the ultimate wearer.

LICENSES

- 1974 **Registered Dispensing Optician**
Massachusetts, R.D.O. 1790
Licensed by written examination
- 1971 **Licensed Optician**
Connecticut, L.O. 619
Licensed by written and practical examination

CERTIFICATION

- 2003 **Certified CRT Practitioner - Corneal Refractive Therapy**
Paragon Vision Sciences, Mesa, AZ
F.D.A. certification required to design & dispense therapeutic contact lenses to temporarily correct myopia
- 2001 **Advanced Certified Contact Lens Technician**
National Committee of Contact Lens Examiners, Springfield, VA
Presented after completion of a course of study, presentation of educational materials and advanced level examination. Classification of certification established in 2001.
- 1998 **Honored Fellow**
Opticians Association of America, Fairfax, Virginia
- 1991 **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care**
American Heart Association, Connecticut Affiliate, Inc.
C.P.R. Certified BLS - B (Adult and Child)
- 1987 **Honored Fellow**
Contact Lens Society of America, Reston, VA
Highest Certification granted to a contact lens technician, awarded after evaluation of prepared educational programs and professional publications.

- 1982 & 1994 **Charter Certified Optician**
American Board of Opticianry, Fairfax, VA
 National Certification as an Ophthalmic Dispenser. Voluntarily recertified, by exam, 1994.
- 1980, 1991, 1994 **Certified Contact Lens Dispenser**
National Committee of Contact Lens Examiners, Fairfax, VA
 National certification granted for contact lens dispensing after successful written examination.
 Voluntarily recertified, by exam, 1991 & 1994.
- 1979 **Fellow**
National Academy of Opticianry, Bowie, MD
- 1975 **Master in Ophthalmic Optics**
American Board of Opticianry, Fairfax, VA
- 1975 **Certified Ophthalmic Technician**
Joint Commission On Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology, St. Paul, MN
 Awarded after successful completion of written and practical examination.
- 1972 **Fellow**
Contact Lens Society of America, Fairfax, VA
 Awarded upon successful completion of written and oral examination.

**PROFESSIONAL
 EXPERIENCE**

- 2004 - 2006 Ophthalmic Associates, P.C., Trumbull, CT
Management Consultant - Optical and Contact Lens Services
- 2001-Present Consulting Ophthalmologists, P.C., Hartford, CT
Consultant - Therapeutic and Specialty Contact Lens Design
- 2000-Present Connecticut Opticians Association, Inc. , Rocky Hill, CT
Executive Director
 Supervise, manage and administrate operations and publicity for the trade association which represents professional opticianry in CT.
- 1999-2001 The Eye Center, A Medical & Surgical Group, PC , Hamden, CT
Director, Contact Lens & Optical Services
 Manage and administrate the operations of the contact lens and optical services in 3 locations. Supervise opticians, optical apprentices, contact lens technicians and support staff. Evaluate, design and fit cosmetic and therapeutic contact lenses
- 1995-1999 Connecticut Eyecare Center, P.C.,
Corneal Transplant Center of Connecticut, P.C. New Haven, CT
Director, Contact Lens Section
 Oversee the day to day management and operation of a contact lens practice located in a multi-partner ophthalmology practice dedicated to anterior segment/cornea pathology. Refract patients, design and fit therapeutic and cosmetic contact lenses.

- 1979 - 83 Connecticut Eye Center, Leon Zucker, M.D.
Surgical Scrub Technician/Contact Lens Technician
 Surgical scrub technician in first ambulatory surgical center in CT. Clinic specialized in intra-ocular implants. Designed and fitted aphakic, therapeutic, and cosmetic contact lenses. Refracted and performed diagnostic evaluation on 50 - 80 patients per day.
- 1974 - 77 Newington Children's Hospital, Maynard Wheeler, M.D., Newington, CT
Contact Lens Technician/Ocularist
 Consultant for pediatric contact lens fitting. Custom designed, manufactured and fitted ocular prosthesis for private medical practice.
- 1973 - 78 Connecticut Eye Bank and Visual Research Foundation, New Britain General Hospital, New Britain, CT
Ophthalmic Technician/Contact Lens Technician
 Evaluated and fit irregular and traumatized corneas to contact lenses. Performed cadaver enucleation and preserved corneas for keratoplasty.
- 1973 - 79 Daniel M. Taylor, M.D., New Britain, CT
Consultant, Contact Lens Technology
 Consultant to a private ophthalmic medical practice for the fitting of contact lenses for keratoconus, post-keratoplasty, aphakia, irregular and traumatized corneas.
- 1979 - 84 Vision Ease Corporation, Lincoln, NE
Regional Technical Consultant
 Technical Contact Lens Consultant in New England for specialty contact lens manufacturing laboratory.
- 1972 - 1991 Rivard Contact Lens Center, Multiple locations, CT.
President/CEO
 Developed specialty contact lens practice, from a single unit to 10 locations

TEACHING and RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 1994 - Present Charter Oak State College, Newington, CT
Curriculum Committee/Course Advisor/Special Consulting Faculty
 Assisted in establishing and drafting a curriculum for the first regionally accredited Baccalaureate Degree college program for opticians. (B.S. Optical Business Management)
- 1986 - Present Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT
 Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing
Professor
 Develop course syllabi, outlines, desired learning outcomes, testing instruments, laboratory projects, and extensive instructional resources. Responsible for operation of the eyewear and contact lens clinics.
- 1989 - 1995 Yale University, Yale Eye Center, School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Coordinating Supervisor Contact Lens Service
 Responsible for training ophthalmology residents in contact lens technology. Supervise the daily activity of the Contact Lens Service. Design and fit contacts to patients referred to the specialty clinic from the ophthalmic community. Instructed ophthalmology residents in the theories of ophthalmic optics, applications of refraction and contact lens technology.

- 1985 - 1992 Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT
Chairman, Advisory Committee
 Drafted and developed original college curriculum for first academic Associate Degree for opticians in CT. Helped to secure operating funds from State Legislature and professional organizations for program implementation. Drafted original blueprint for classroom and laboratory space.
- 1984 - 1986 Newbury College, Brookline, MA
 Optical Technology
Contact Lens Instructor
 Developed course syllabus and instructed experimental contact lens extension credit courses for non-matriculating students.
- 1978 - 1985 Boston University, College of Medicine, Boston, MA
 Ophthalmic Medical Assistant's Program
Visiting Faculty
 Instructed all phases of ophthalmic medical assisting; including refraction, diagnostic evaluation, surgical assisting, and contact lens technology.
- 1976 - 1981 U.S. Veteran's Medical Center, Newington, CT
 Department of Surgery
Clinical Instructor
 Implemented first clinical course of contact lens instruction for ophthalmology and optometry residents. Instruction in specialized contact lens fitting techniques for patients with unique corneal pathologies.
- 1975 - 1981 University of Connecticut Medical Center, Farmington, CT
 Department of Surgery/Ophthalmology
Clinical Instructor - Contact Lens Technician
 Assisted in development and supervision of clinical contact lens education for ophthalmology residents.

**PROFESSIONAL
 APPOINTMENTS**

- 1997 - 2005 Commission On Opticianry Accreditation, Bowie, MD
Commissioner;
 Reappointed by the National Academy of Opticianry
- 1988 - 1991 **Vice-Chairman**
 Agency authorized by the U.S. Department of Education to evaluate and grant accreditation status to post secondary programs in Opticianry.
 Duties as Team Chairman include interpretation of "Essentials" to prepare and present findings to the Commission to decide accreditation status. Appointed by the Opticians Association of America.
- 1994 - 1997 National Committee of Contact Lens Examiners
American Board of Opticianry Fairfax, VA.
Member, Board of Directors
 These national certifying groups are recognized to administer the National Contact Lens Competency Exam and the National Opticianry Competency Exam. The exams are used by many states as testing instruments to establish minimum competency for the profession. The Boards set guidelines and approve continuing education courses required to maintain professional certification.

- 1990 - 1995 State of Connecticut, Hartford, CT
 Department of Health Services
Board of Examiners for Opticians
 Appointment by Governor William O'Neill
- Assisted with the design and implementation of professional licensing examinations. Presided over and adjudicated complaints against licensed professionals. Assisted with the development of Health regulations pertaining to the profession.
- 1987 - 1990 **Chair - Board of Examiners for Opticians**
 Appointment by Governor Lowell Weicker
- 2009 - present **Member, Board of Examiners for Opticians**
 Reappointed by Governor M. Jodi Rell
- 1982 - 1986 State of Connecticut, Hartford, CT
 Department of Health Services
Chairman, Ad hoc Testing Committee
 Reviewed and designed State testing procedures for examination and licensing of opticians.
 Reviewed and developed Department of Health Service Regulations pertaining to the profession.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- 2000 **Lifetime Achievement Award, Lifetime membership** - Connecticut Opticians Association
- 1999 **Opticianry Education Achievement Award** - National Academy of Opticianry recognizes educators whose contributions to opticianry education can be described as "major and noteworthy" and/or who have made, or are making, significant contributions to the education of opticians.
- 1999 **OAA Achievement Award** - Opticians Association of America, for significant professional contributions to opticianry. Sponsored by Varilux Corporation.
- 1996 **Dedication to Opticianry Award** - Connecticut Opticians Association, for efforts to advance Connecticut Opticianry.
- 1995 **Professional Achievement Award** - National Academy of Opticianry, Bowie, MD, for *promoting the profession of Opticianry as a practitioner, educator and author.*
- 1994 **Beverly Myers Award** - National Academy of Opticianry, Bowie, MD, for *meritorious service to the advancement of higher education for Opticians.* Highest honor bestowed by the organization.
- 1994 **Achievement Award** - Optician Association of America, Fairfax, VA, for contributions in establishing the first accredited Baccalaureate degree curriculum for opticians.
- 1992 **President's Award** - New England Contact Lens Society, Peterborough, New Hampshire, for *extensive contributions of education to the profession.* Awarded its first lifetime membership.
- 1989 **Dedication to Education** - Commission On Opticianry Accreditation, Bowie, MD, for voluntary services as chair on 9 on-site college accreditation evaluations.
- 1987 **Exceptional Service Award** - Middlesex Community College for development and implementation of curriculum for its first academic degree awarded in Opticianry
- 1986 **Dedication to Education** - Connecticut Opticians Association for *providing and maintaining an excess of 86 credit hour courses of nationally recognized and accredited continuing education courses.*
- 1984 **Optician of the Year** - Connecticut Opticians Association
- 1983 & 1986 **The Who's Who Guide to Contact Lens Fitters**
The National Registry of Contact Lens Fitters, Vol I, 1983; Vol II, 1986.
 National Committee of Contact Lens Examiners, Wash., D.C.
- 1977 **Certificate of Appreciation** - Connecticut Eye Bank and Visual Research Foundation

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- 1992 - Present **Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists (CLAO)**
Associate (Research) Member
- 1984 - Present **National Federation of Optical Schools**
- 1979 - Present **New England Contact Lens Society**
Founding Member, President 1981 -1983
Awarded Lifetime membership
- 1971 - Present **Contact Lens Society of America**
HONORED FELLOW
- 1969 - Present **Connecticut Opticians Association**
President 1981 - 1984; 1997 - 2000
Board of Directors 1972 -74; 1976 - 1981
Awarded Lifetime Membership : 2000
- 1982 - Present **Opticians Association of America**
HONORED FELLOW
- 1979 - 2002 **National Academy of Opticians**
FELLOW
1996 - 2001 -Member, Board of Directors
- 1990 -1997 **International Academy of Sports Vision**
Faculty Member

PUBLICATIONS

Ocular Physiology and GP Contact Lenses, Drake, Diane, FCLSA, Rivard, René, FCLSA(H)
Eyewitness, 2003
Contact Lens Society of America, Hendron, VA

Biomicroscopy for a Contact lens Practice (Text and CD)
National Academy of Opticianry, Landover, MD., 2001

Ophthalmic Dispensing Review Book II , Rivard, R.R., FCLSA(H), Editor-in-Chief; Dykes, C.A.,
Shapiro, J.B., M.Ed.; Sbalbi, A.J., M.B.A.; et. al
National Academy of Opticianry, Landover, MD, 2001

Building A Successful Soft Contact Lens Practice,
Review of Optometry
Jobson Publications, Sept. 1999.

Transitions into the Millennium
Review of Optometry
Jobson Publications, March 1999

What's Fueling the Photochromatic Lens Boom?
Optometry Today
Eyequest Magazine, Jobson Publications, March 1999

Dictionary of Ophthalmic Optics, Kenny M.D., A; Fratello, C.; R.; Dennis, R.P.;
Rivard, R; et al, **Butterworth Publication**, Boston, 1994.

Principles of Keratometry
National Academy of Opticianry
September, 1992

Understanding Rigid Lens Design
Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists Journal
July, 1990

Ophthalmic Dispensing Review Book , contributing editor
National Academy of Opticianry
1987

Study Guide to Contact Lens Technology (serialized for publication)
New England Optician, Vol I, July/Aug, Oct/Nov, 1978; Vol II, Jan/Feb, 1979
Optical Media, Hamden, CT

Understanding the Biomicroscope
New England Contact Lens Society Journal, Vol II, No. 1, Spring, 1987.
New England Contact Lens Society, Inc., Greenfield, MA

The Doctor Says I Have A-Stigma (Fitting Contact Lenses for Astigmatism)
New England Contact Lens Society Journal, Vol III, No. 2, Fall, 1988.
New England Contact Lens Society, Inc., Greenfield, MA

Presentations:

Credentialed as Advanced Certified Speaker
American Board of Opticianry
National Contact Lens Examiners
Courses approved for continuing education credits available upon request.