



Shawn P. Gallagher, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology

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Professional Summary

My undergraduate degree in biology led me to a four-year career in clinical ophthalmology where I was responsible for assessing the effectiveness of surgical procedures like cataract extraction and laser *in-situ* keratomileusis (LASIK). When vision loss was inevitable, I helped patients understand how their visual perception was affected and how they could make the most of what remained. These experiences inspired me to pursue graduate study where I investigated the neural mechanisms that link vision and behavior. While in graduate school, I continued to assist ophthalmologists and conduct clinical research.

My teaching philosophy is anchored in my expertise in the eye, brain, and vision. *Seeing* is a function of anatomy, physiology, and experience. When I teach what we know about human vision, I begin by explaining that human eyes can only detect a small slice of the electromagnetic spectrum and that understanding how someone can see *anything* with their eyes begins with understanding that they cannot see *everything* with their eyes. The scientific method is the path to seeing what our eyes cannot.

Education

2002 **Doctor of Philosophy**, University of Delaware, Major: Behavioral Neuroscience
1999 **Master of Arts**, University of Delaware, Major: Biological Psychology/Neuroscience
1990 **Bachelor of Science**, The Pennsylvania State University
Major: Biology/Vertebrate Physiology, Minor: Psychology

Academic Positions

2003-Present **Assistant/Associate Professor/Professor, Department of Psychology**
Millersville University, Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551
2002-2003 **Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology**
University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware 19716

Courses Taught

Sensation and Perception, Cognitive Science, History of Psychology, Behavioral Neuroscience, General Psychology, Statistics and Experimental Design, Evolutionary Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Neurophysiology Lab, Biology Lab

Clinical Positions

1999-2016 Clinical Research Coordinator, Eye Doctors of Lancaster, Lancaster, PA
1994-1995 Clinical Sales Representative, Ophthalmic Imaging Systems, Sacramento, CA
1990-1994 Ophthalmic Technician, Eye Doctors of Lancaster, Lancaster, PA

Clinical Skills

Refraction, Pediatric Refraction, Perimetry, A/B Scan Ultrasonography, Fundus Photography, Keratometry, Retinal Tomography, Corneal Topography

Recent Publications

- McConnell, F., **Gallagher, S.P.**, & Snyder, M. (2017). Performance of Grapheme-Color Synesthetes on a Color Sorting Task that Employs Graphemes. *Visual Communications Journal*, 53(2), 3-7.
- Gallagher, S.P.** (2017). Edwin G. Boring: The Historian's Path in the Pages of The American Journal of Psychology. *The American Journal of Psychology*, 130(2), 149-162.
- Hallock, H.L., Garman, H.D., Cook, S.P., & **Gallagher, S.P.** (2017). Recognition Without Words: Using Taste to Explore Survival Processing. *The Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education*, 15(2), A122-A127.

Innovations

United States Patent #6,582,078. Co-Inventor of a System to Reduce Postoperative Complications of Laser Assisted In-Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) surgery. Along with co-inventor, Barton L. Halpern, M.D. I used outcome data to develop algorithms aimed at reducing complications like dry eye and glare which can follow corrective eye surgery.

Recent Grants

Louise von Hess Medical Research Grant (2013-2018) awarded to me and Barton L. Halpern, M.D. for The Impact of Chemotherapy on Corneal Endothelial Cell Density. A prospective study conducted in collaboration with the Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute. **Award: \$24,800**

Selected Recent Presentations

- Gallagher, S.P. (2019). Vocalization, Imitation, and Cognition. **Symposium** coordinated for the *Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association*, New York, New York.
- Gallagher, S.P. (2018). Introducing the “gist” of Inferential Statistics with the Online Psychology Laboratory. **Paper** *Annual Meeting of the Northeast Conference for Teachers of Psychology*, Worcester, Massachusetts.
- Beins, B., Gallagher, S.P., & Thompson, J. (2017). APA’s recent Tools for Teaching and Research. **Symposium** presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Madison, E. and Gallagher, S.P. (2016). Self-Perceptions and the Influence of Priming Effects on Psychology Majors’ Visual Acuity and Math Performance. **Paper** presented at the *Annual Vision Research Day* for the Penn State Department of Ophthalmology, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Recent Awards

2018-19 Millersville University Athletics Faculty Mentor Award

Current Selected Academic Positions

2020-Present **Chair** of Psychology Department Faculty Search Committee
2015-Present **Chair** of the *Statewide* Academic Affairs Committee for APSCUF
2013-Present **Co-Chair** of Psychology Department Faculty Development Committee
2020-Present Delegate to APSCUF Legislative Assembly (Previous terms 2013-15, 2017-19)
2009-Present Grievance Committee and Representative to Coaching Faculty
2018-Present Institutional Review Board

Active Professional Affiliations

2008-Present Association for Psychological Science
2011-Present Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience Education
2008-Present Eastern Psychological Association