



# Shawn P. Gallagher, Ph.D.

## Professor of Psychology

Millersville University of Pennsylvania  
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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

- Gallagher, S. & Incelli, N.A. (2021). Pandemic Dreams are Susceptible to Priming and Unrelated to COVID-19 Exposure. *Journal of Evidence-Based Psychotherapies*, 21(2), 191-208.
- Gallagher, S., Halpern, B.L., & Sivendran, S. (2021). Corneal Endothelial Cell Density in Patients Receiving Chemotherapy. *Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology*, 40(3), 252-256.
- 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. With co-inventor, Barton L. Halpern, M.D.

### 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., & Beins, B. (2021). Online Psychology Laboratory: Teaching During the Pandemic and Beyond. **Paper** presented online for the Southeastern Teaching of Psychology Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 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.
- 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

2015-Present              **Chair** of the *Statewide* Academic Affairs Committee for APSCUF  
2013-Present              **Co-Chair** of Psychology Department Faculty Development Committee  
2009-Present              Grievance Committee and Representative to Coaching Faculty  
2018-2021                  Institutional Review Board

### Active Professional Affiliations

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