

Steve Wright
Pacific University
1989? Award

Steve graduated from Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR, in 1989 with a major in chemistry and a minor in mathematics. After attending the University of Washington, where he earned a Master's in Chemistry, he enrolled at the Pacific University College of Optometry. While in optometry school, Steve married Laura (Barnes) and they both graduated with a Doctorate of Optometry degree in 1995.

After graduation, Laura accepted a commission into the US Air Force and Steve and Laura embarked on a twenty-year tour of various parts of the United States and abroad. Their first assignment was Holloman Air Force Base (AFB) in Alamogordo NM, where Steve worked in a private, multi-doctor facility. In 1998, they were re-assigned to Scott AFB in St. Louis, where Steve worked in a solo private practice facility. In 2003, they were assigned to Brooks AFB in San Antonio, TX where Steve began working for the Ophthalmology branch of the Aeromedical Consultation Service (ACS) at the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. After a brief tour of the UK, he returned to work at the ACS (which re-located to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH) and become the senior research and clinical optometrist, which is the job he holds today.

Steve's research has focused in areas related to corneal refractive surgery (e.g. LASIK, PRK), high order optical aberrations and visual performance, color vision in the aviation environment and stereopsis (depth perception). He has authored or co-authored over a dozen peer reviewed literature publications and technical reports and has presented at 25+ international and military scientific meetings. As a clinician, he is responsible for the care of Air Force pilots with unique ophthalmic conditions such as keratoconus. The ACS serves as a world-wide referral center for Air Force aircrew members and Steve has kept many pilots flying by fitting specialty custom contact lenses that provide superior vision than can be achieved with either spectacles or traditional contact lenses.

Steve and Laura have two sons, Thomas and Andrew. Currently, Thomas is attending Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH and Andrew is attending Wright State University in Dayton, OH.