

COVER SHEET

Richard Hatch Junior Optometrist of the Year Award

Candidate Name: Dr. Celine Gabai

Position Title: Staff Optometrist Phoenix Indian Medical center

Work Address: 4212 N 16th St. Phoenix, AZ 85016

Work Telephone: 602-263-1505

Work Email: Celine Gabai

Proposed citation: Dr. Celine Gabai has excelled in Clinical Optometry and Public Health in service of the Native Americans in the Phoenix Area.

Recommended by: Ryan Manning OD, MPH

Submit to: Regina Sullivan, OD, MPH, FAAO

LT, U.S. Public Health Service

CDC OPAG Liaison and Awards Subcommittee Chair, Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG)
xcu2@cdc.gov

Dr. Celine Gabai has excelled as a junior optometrist with her work at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) as an outstanding, efficient and innovative clinical Optometrist. She has exceeded expectations with her COVID response efforts during her detailed assignments.

Dr. Gabai stepped up the plate during the COVID response. She was detailed (temporarily assigned) away from her primary duties as an Optometrist 3 separate times. Twice as part of a supervisory team of the First Look screening stations and central triage. She would round with each of the station physically and ensure staff safety and maintain supply levels. When Dr. Gabai saw a need she would work diligently on how to improve the system. This was seen when the First look stations were necessary to move inside. She learned how to draft in Visio and mocked up many different alternate options for screening stations at each location. During her detailed assignments, she was extremely flexible with her working hours and stayed late many times to ensure the assignments were performed.

She performed well on peer reviews and focus peer reviews with no fallouts on all peer reviews this last year. This meticulous documentation proved beneficial for the whole hospital as she ensured that the First Look screeners all maintained 100 % training. She had the expertise to handle the most complex Optometry case and when necessary, consulted well with other providers. She was always ready to assist other providers, which allowed her to have more patient encounters than any other optometrist at PIMC.

She has been reliable to be at work at assigned times, with no days being late. She often stays after hours with patient care or finishing records. Dr. Gabai has responsibility of one outlying field clinics. She has gone above her duty by participating in health fairs at Ft. McDowell to educate the population about eye disease. She has good rapport with the patients and clinical staff. Dr. Gabai has an interest in Pediatric patients and pursued this by becoming the primary provider in the newly created pediatric Optometry clinic that was recently created.

Dr. Gabai is always professional and respectful in her communications with patients and co-workers. In a leadership role with the central triage and first look stations she communicated with all departments on a daily basis to establish the services available that day for the central triage tent. She is the model for the new team approach for Optometry.

Dr. Gabai observed that many of the PIMC Optometry patients were being lost to follow-up. The system relied on the patients calling the clinic to schedule the follow-up when the providers schedule opened. She used the EHR system to create a database where patients could be called by the optometry scheduler, when the providers' schedule opened for the month.

Because of her interest and experience with contact lenses, Dr. Gabai was put on the technical team for a blanket purchase agreement (BPA) for the medically necessary contact lens program. She has learned this year more how to fit medically necessary contact lenses Her records are always completed efficiently on the day of encounter even when it requires her staying late at work. She has never had to cancel any field clinic assignments.

Dr. Celine Gabai has excelled in Clinical Optometry and Public Health in service of the Native Americans in the Phoenix Area.

Celine Nasthasia-Carol Gabai CV

Cell : (602) 575-1046

Email: celine.gabai@ihs.gov

Citizenship:

United States Citizen (Primary)
French Citizen (Secondary)

Education:

Arizona College of Optometry, Midwestern University
Glendale, Arizona
Doctor of Optometry, O.D., June 2017
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona
Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry, 2009- 2012
Scottsdale Community College
Scottsdale, Arizona
Associates in Sciences and Arts, 2007- 2009

Licenses and Certifications:

Basic Life Support October 2017	
DEA certification 2017	July
Arizona State Board of Optometry License 2017	June
Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate November 2008	

Work Experience:

Sherman Boarding School, Riverside, CA (Clinical Optometrist)	2019
• Patient care for high school students attending boarding school.	
Phoenix Indian Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ (Clinical Optometrist)	2017-
Current	
• Co-management with various ophthalmic specialist (post-op/pre-op/disease/pediatrics/ect.)	
Salt River Integrated Clinic, Scottsdale, AZ (Clinical Optometrist)	2018-
Current	
• Co-management with various ophthalmic specialist (post-op/pre-op/disease/pediatrics/ect.)	
Wassaja Memorial Health Clinic, Fort McDowell, AZ (Clinical Optometrist)	2018-
Current	

- Co-management with various ophthalmic specialist (post-op/pre-op/disease/pediatrics/ect.)
Midwestern University Optical, Glendale Arizona 2014-2015
- Helped patients select proper fitting frames, dispensed glasses, contact lenses, and adjusted glasses.
Walmart Vision Center, Scottsdale Arizona (Optician) 2013
- Dispensed glasses & contact lens to patients following optometrist and ophthalmologist prescriptions.

Clinical/ Professional Experiences:

Technical Specialist for Medically Necessary Contact Lenses	2020
Midwestern University Residents' Day, Virtual	2020
Central Arizona Optometric Society, Phoenix, Arizona	2019
Midwestern University Residents' Day, Glendale, Arizona	2019
American Academy of Optometry Arizona Chapter Spring, Glendale, Arizona	2019
Adjunct Clinical Professor for Midwestern- Arizona College of Optometry	2019
Adjunct Clinical Professor for Southern California College of Optometry	2019
Central Arizona Optometric Society, Phoenix, Arizona	2018
American Academy of Optometry Meeting, San Antonio, Texas	2018
American Academy of Optometry Meeting, Chicago, Illinois	2017
OMNI Eye Services Annual Continuing Education Conference	2017

Presentations/ Published papers/ Capstone projects:

Public presentation: Fort McDowell Wassaja Clinic 2019 The Eye, Exam & Diabetes	May
Technician presentation: Phoenix Indian Medical Center mber 2018 Red Eye Triage	Septe
Published in Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics The Journal Of The College of Optometrist The Corneal Nerve Density In the Sub-Basal Plexus Decreases 2017 edition with Increasing Myopia: A Pilot Study	July
ne 2015-2017	Capsto

Relevant/ Volunteer Experiences:

Saint Vincent De Paul (Volunteer)	2018
Hopefest, Phoenix, Arizona (Volunteer)	2016
Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity Trip, Meoqui, Chihuahua	2015
Special Olympics, Phoenix Arizona (Volunteer)	2015
Hopefest, Phoenix, Arizona (Volunteer)	2015

Honors, Awards, Professional Memberships, Leadership Positions and Clubs:

**Detailed Support for Phoenix Indian Medical Center COVID Response
2020**

**Clinical Excellence in Optical Dispensing Award
2017**

**Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation Humanitarian Service Award
2017**

**Indian Health Service; Health Professions Scholarship
2013- 2017**

Skills:

- **Fluent in French and English.**
- **Strong in multi-tasking.**
- **Proficient in Interpersonal, leadership and communication skills.**
- **Fluent in Compulink, NextGen Healthcare, Computerized Patient Records System (CPRS), Recourse and Patient System (RPMS)**