

An Eye Specialist Can See Into Your Body

That twinkle in "smiling eyes" or the malaise of an "evil eye" may often, like most folklore, reflect more truth than poetry—particularly to a medical eye physician.



Your eyes have it—a key to your health.

By looking into your eyes an ophthalmologist—a physician specializing in eye care—can see signs of diseases which may require immediate treatment—diabetes, high blood pressure, arteriosclerosis, even some types of cancer. Other early warning signs may indicate brain tumor, multiple sclerosis, kidney or blood disease.

"Consider the eyes in terms of the entire body," says Whitney G. Sampson, M.D., a Houston ophthalmologist and president of the American Association of Ophthalmology. "Symptoms of illness or disease may first manifest themselves in the eyes, permitting the early diagnosis and treatment so often critical in arresting or curing these conditions."

Dr. Sampson adds, "Prescribing corrective glasses or contact lenses is only part of total eye care. A medical eye examination by an ophthalmologist can reveal subtle changes which signal the beginning of such sight-threatening conditions as glaucoma or cataract. In most cases, early treatment can prevent impairment of vision, even blindness."

The ophthalmologist, a doctor of medicine (or osteopathy), is a specialist who has served an additional year as an intern and three more years in a hospital as a resident in ophthalmology.

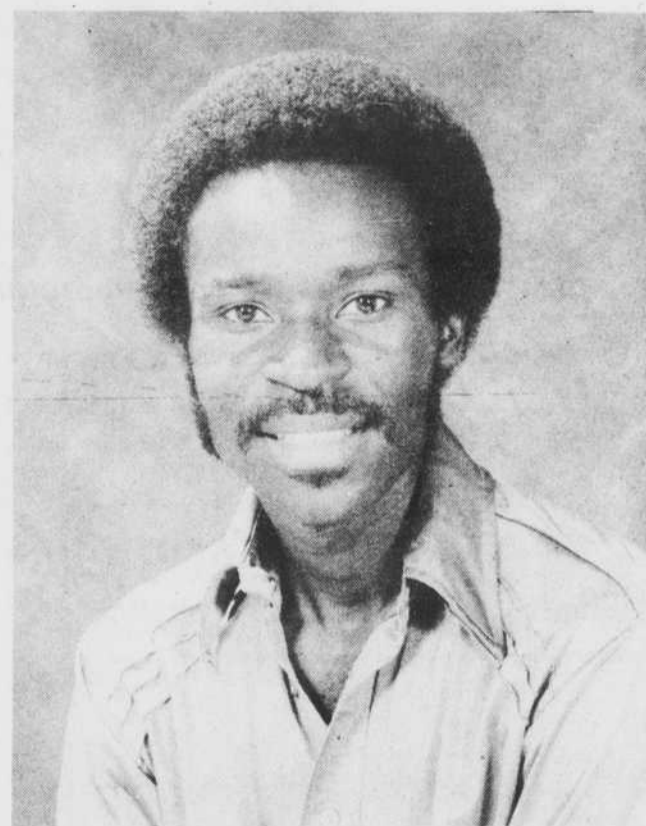
Ophthalmologists also take postdoctoral courses in the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases, application of physiological and optical principles to the prescription of lenses and the correction of eye muscle malfunctions, and in surgery of the eye and its related structures.

Of the more than 11,000 practicing ophthalmologists in the U.S., 11 percent conduct research in addition to caring for patients. Almost 90 percent include surgery among their services.

The ratio of ophthalmologists to population is increasing. In 1950 there were only 2.2 ophthalmologists per 100,000 population. In 1960 there were 3 and, in 1970, there were 4.9.

"The object of teaching a child is to enable him to get along without his teacher." Elbert Hubbard

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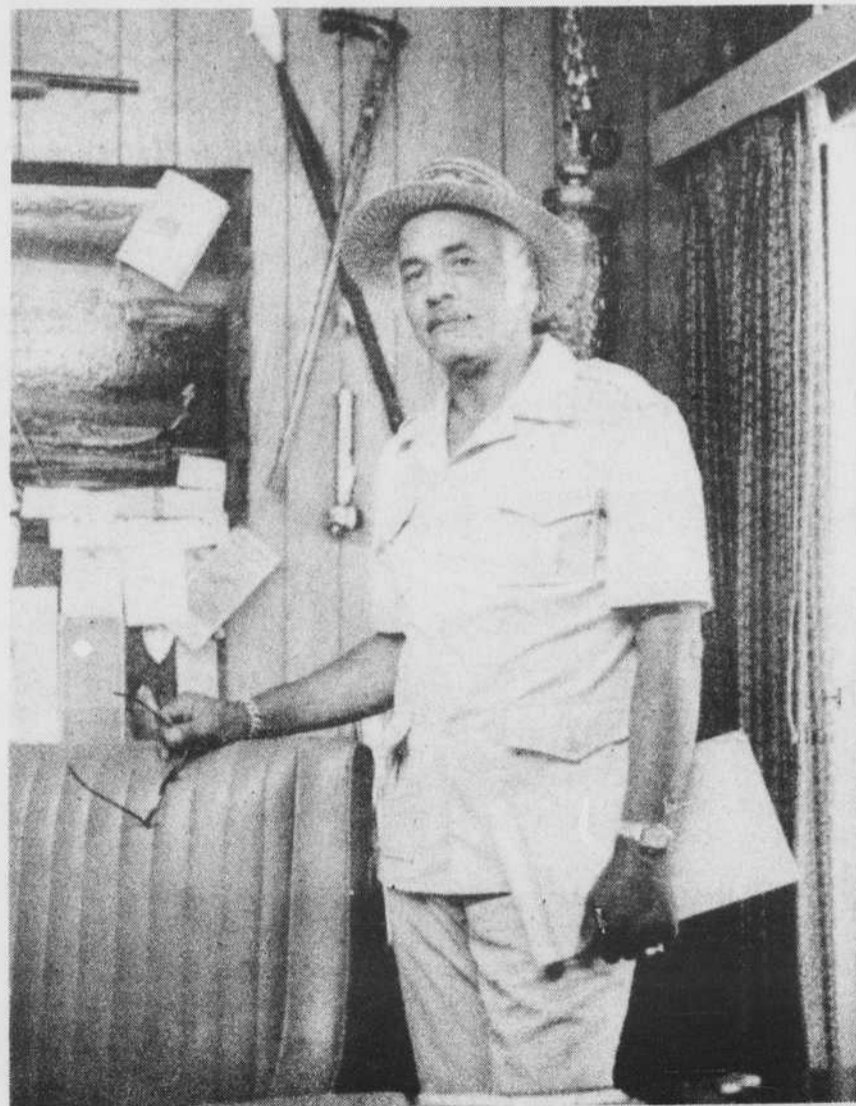
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