



# ZIEKER EYE

Christopher Zieker, MD - Owner

**Success Magazine: You are a medical doctor, specializing in ophthalmology. What does this mean for your patients?**

Christopher Zieker, MD: Our job is to preserve and protect vision. We treat active eye problems with medicine or surgery and we do regular eye exams to stay ahead of potential future problems.

**SM: How did you find this career path? What interests you most about ophthalmology?**

CZ: My father is an ophthalmologist, so I grew up around it. My patients interest me the most. It's incredibly rewarding to help people in need and reassure them when all is well.

**SM: How did your education prepare you for success in this field?**

CZ: After a four year B.A. in psychology, I worked full-time in hospitals while completing two years of pre-med courses. Then came four years of medical school followed by a year of general medicine and three full years of just ophthalmology training. The keys to preparing for success over fourteen years of education and training were hard work, dedication, and humility.

**SM: What was your work experience prior to starting Zieker Eye?**

CZ: I have five years of private practice experience prior to this venture. Approximately one third of that time

involved ownership experience.

**SM: Why was it important for you to branch out on your own and become an entrepreneur?**

CZ: I've had a vision of what I think an ideal patient experience and work environment should be like. I felt that creating my own practice from the ground up was the best way to deliver the level of care and service that our patients deserve. I also felt this was the best way to create an optimal company culture.

**SM: What is the mission of Zieker Eye?**

CZ: To preserve and protect the miracle of vision with expertise, kindness, and efficiency.

**SM: Why are regular eye exams important?**

CZ: Preventive medicine is so important. One of the leading causes of preventable blindness (glaucoma) has no symptoms until advanced disease. Even younger folks should have exams every 2-3 years for this reason alone.

**SM: How often are eye exams recommended?**

CZ: Children should be seen as soon as possible because there is a limited window to fix problems. Realistically, it's difficult to get an accurate visual acuity until about three years old. We can still make sure even younger kids are tracking objects. We can make sure

pupils respond normally to light, that eyes are aligned, and that no ocular tumors or cataracts are present. If there is no family history of eye disease and general health is good, most people can get away with exams every two or three years through their 40s. In our 50s we'd recommend every year or two depending on medical and family history. After that our risk for glaucoma and macular problems increases, so every year is prudent.

**SM: What makes your practice unique in the industry? Why should a potential client choose Zieker Eye for all their eye care needs?**

CZ: I believe our staff and our company culture will set us apart. My associate Steve Clark and I have over fifteen years of combined experience as licensed professionals in this field. We take very good care of our patients and have excellent surgical outcomes. We have 3,300 square feet of newly renovated space and over a dozen rooms filled with brand new high-tech equipment. None of this will matter if we merely give lip service to our mission. We have to strive for that difficult balance between high-tech and personalized care.

**SM: What services do you offer? Do you have any specific specialty areas?**

CZ: We can diagnose and treat just about any eye condition but our surgical specialties are cataract and LASIK surgery. Many people think surgeons don't get involved in things considered "routine" but that's a misconception. Regular

exams and common problems are a big part of what we do. (For a detailed list of services, go to [www.ziekereye.com](http://www.ziekereye.com).)

**SM: You perform the LASIK procedure. What does this entail?**

CZ: LASIK and PRK surgery involve using a laser to change the shape of the eye's surface at a submicroscopic level. This shape change can reduce dependence on glasses by allowing light to focus differently on the back of the eye (retina). It's not a painful surgery or recovery but there is an intensive eye drop regimen while healing.

**SM: How do you ensure that you remain up-to-date on all the latest technological and procedural advancements?**

CZ: Membership in the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery is helpful. The meetings have international participation and exposure to everything cutting-edge. The key is investigating whether something is just the latest technology or if it's actually a better technology for patients from a risk/benefit standpoint.

**SM: What is retinal disease and macular degeneration? Why is screening for these so important?**

CZ: The retina is the tissue lining the interior of the eye where light focuses. There are many diseases or conditions that can affect its function. Diabetes, hypertension, and macular degeneration are some of the more common things we see. We don't know the exact cause or mechanism of macular



degeneration. The macula is the central and most vital part of the retina, which is why a degenerative process here can be very problematic for patients.

**SM: What do you find to be the most rewarding aspect of your job?**

CZ: When someone comes to the operating room unable to read the newspaper or drive and can do both the next day. We treat the world's leading cause of treatable blindness (cataract) on an outpatient basis. It's exciting to help improve someone's quality-of-life and happiness.

**SM: What is your five-year plan for Zieker Eye?**

CZ: The five-year plan is to remain focused on the fundamentals and not lose sight of what



Steven Clark, RPA-C

matters at work and at home. I want us all to care for our patients while remaining proud of our jobs and striving for work/life balance.

**SM: What one word describes you best?**

CZ: Dedicated.



[www.ziekereye.com](http://www.ziekereye.com)  
phone: 518-450-1080 | fax: 518-478-8500  
14 Mountain Ledge Drive, Suite 1 | Wilton, NY 12831



**ZIEKER EYE**

Over 15 years of combined experience in the field of ophthalmology

Accepting new patients - call for an appointment 450-1080

Located just minutes from Exit 15

Comprehensive Eye Care, Cataract Surgery, Astigmatism Reduction