

HEALTHY OMAHA

VISION VISIONARY

Lorraine Provencher, M.D., an ophthalmologist and glaucoma specialist, balances leading-edge eye care with profound humanism.

Asked about her decision to become a doctor, Vance Thompson Vision's Lorraine "Lori" Provencher, M.D., thinks way back. "It was a rainy, dark night, and my grandfather went to get me a candy bar from his car," she recalls. "He slipped, fell, and cut his arm. My parents weren't home, so I sprang into action." The then-8-year-old got the first aid kit and bandaged him up. "My mom came home and said, 'You should be a doctor!'"

Dr. Provencher clung to this dream throughout childhood and while excelling in high school science classes, college, and medical school. When it came time to choose a specialty, she chose ophthalmology, completing residency and fellowship at top Midwest academic health systems.

"I fell in love with taking care of patients' eyes," she says. "The eye can alert you to illness in the rest of the body. And people tend to care much more deeply about their vision than their cholesterol or blood pressure. Vision is precious."

A Clear-Eyed Choice

Today, Dr. Provencher is a board-certified ophthalmologist at the Omaha office of Vance Thompson Vision, a leader in advanced ophthalmology with branches throughout the Midwest and Mountain West. At home with the complex or challenging, she is a highly skilled cataract surgeon and glaucoma specialist with expertise in glaucoma lasers, minimally invasive glaucoma procedures, and complex glaucoma surgeries. She has participated in numerous studies about state-of-the-art ophthalmologic technologies and has been published in peer-reviewed journals.

"I love the variety of vision-preserving treatments I can provide in ophthalmology—from surgery in the morning to clinic and laser treatments in the afternoon," she says. But her North Star, she adds, is her desire and determination to honor the totality of her patients—not only their eyes and their test results, but also their lives and personalities, their strengths and challenges.

Glaucoma, Dr. Provencher explains, refers to a disease of the optic nerve that, if untreated, can lead to blindness. "One reason I'm a glaucoma specialist is because of the relationships you can develop with your patients in some of



"Dr. Provencher is a world-class eye surgeon who, already at her young age, has developed an international reputation. We're honored that she chose our practice as her platform to help patients by doing great eye surgery."

—VANCE THOMPSON, M.D., founder of Vance Thompson Vision

their most vulnerable moments," she says. "It can be tough to treat. I don't overschedule so I can sit with my patients and get to know them. We're in this battle together."

After several years practicing in Cincinnati, Dr. Provencher was thrilled when an opportunity arose to join the Vance Thompson Vision team. "It takes a special practice to inspire me to move across the country with my husband, a 2- and 4-year-old, and a dog," she says. "VTV is that practice. I went into medicine to provide care while making people feel heard and valued. Every one of my colleagues here shares that mission."

Leading-edge glaucoma treatment at Vance Thompson Vision includes:

Drug implants

Non-invasive laser treatments

Minimally-invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS)

Minimally-invasive bleb surgery (e.g. XEN® implant)

Trabeculectomy and tube shunts



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