



**Joseph Terrence Coyle, MD**

**City:** Bellevue, WA

**Date of Graduation from Medical School:** 1957

**Medical School Graduated From:** Medical College of Wisconsin

**Residency Location:** University of Pennsylvania

**Specialty:** Ophthalmology and Neuroophthalmology

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**What factors influenced your decision to become a physician?**

My father, a former physician, who graduated from the University of Ireland in 1928.

**Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you?**

Harold Scheie, Irving Leopold and Francis Adler; and most of all, my dad.

**Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?**

When I picked up a friction rub, as a senior medical student, missed by my attending.

**As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without?**

Keep your profile up. Always change as much as you can.

**What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007?**

Never lose compassion; it's an honor when people chose you to care for them.

**What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?**

The intraocular lens.

**What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career?**

Medicine enriched my life. I have no regrets.

**Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career?**

I examined a six year old. His eye exam was normal. His little brother, age three, was not scheduled for an exam. He had been really good. I said "want to go for a ride in the chair?" He smiled and climbed on. I said, "While he's here, I'll look in his eyes, there's no charge." He had 4+ papilledema OU. A benign pinealoma was found. Surgery solved the problem. Twenty-five years later, he remains in good health, is a college graduate, with two kids.