



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

### **William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans Affairs Multispecialty Clinic**

#### **2021-2022 OPTOMETRY RESIDENCY IN PRIMARY EYE CARE WITH AN EMPHASIS IN OCULAR DISEASE**

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**Program Address:** 551 National Health Care Drive  
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**Mission:** *To provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an educational experience that will enhance their clinical competency in both primary eye care and ocular disease through a combination of advanced optometric and ophthalmological training in clinical and scholarly activities.*

**Introduction:** The William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans Affairs Multispecialty Clinic (DBVA), sponsored by Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (NSU), and in conjunction with the ophthalmology practices of Florida Retina Institute, Filutowski Cataract and LASIK Institute, Miguel Lugo, MD, and Tomoka Eye Associates, offers a one-year residency in primary eye care.

**Academic Sponsor:** Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (Dr. Mariem Abdou, Director of Residency Programs)

**Clinical Affiliates:** Florida Retina Institute (Thomas Barnard, MD); Filutowski Cataract and LASIK Institute (Konrad Filutowski, MD); Corneal Practice (Miguel Lugo, MD); Tomoka Eye Associates (Mark Kennedy, MD and Timothy Root, MD)

#### **Non-discrimination Policy:**

In Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Older Americans Amendments of 1975, no candidate will be discriminated against based upon race, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or non-disqualifying physical impairment.

#### **Professional Liability**

##### **Insurance:**

The VA does not require liability insurance. The resident is covered under the Federal Tort Claims Act as long as they are acting within the scope of their assignment. This means that any resident in an established assignment has the same protection and rights as a VA employee. The residents get liability protection for their work at the VA and associated VA clinics only. This does not cover the resident when engaged in eye care outside of the VA or its affiliates.

DBVA is a 50,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility, which opened in 2001. In addition to the eye clinic, there is laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, prosthetics, dental, mental health, rheumatology, and physical therapy services. The eye clinic consists of 4 full-time optometrists, up to 2 optometry externs per quarter (from Illinois College of Optometry, Southern College of Optometry, or Rosenberg School of Optometry), 3 optometry residents, and 4 technicians. There are 9 exam lanes, an autorefractor/autokeratometer, a Humphrey Visual Field analyzer, Matrix FDT, Cirrus & Spectralis OCT, Atlas topographer, fundus camera, B-scan, and anterior segment camera. All slit lamps have teaching tubes.

- Eligibility Criteria:**
1. Candidates must possess a Doctor of Optometry degree from an ACOE-accredited institution or be in their final year of training at such an institution.
  2. Candidates must have passed NBEO Part I examination and either have passed NBEO Part II examination or be scheduled to sit for NBEO Part II examination at the time of application.
  3. Candidates should have a grade point average 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
  4. By law, candidates must be citizens of the United States.
  5. Candidates must obtain licensure in Florida or another state.

**Application Process:** Candidates must apply to the program through Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMS) by February 1<sup>st</sup>. The following information must be received by the Residency Program Director for consideration: (1) Letter of intent including mailing address, email address, and phone number; (2) CV; (3) Optometry School Transcripts; (4) Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with academic or clinical abilities.

Interviews will be requested of candidates based on the quality of their credentials and application. All serious applicants will be directly informed that, if selected, their credentials will be verified as required by local VA Medical Center policy. Residents are not granted medical staff membership status but may practice independently under an expanding scope of practice after state licensure is granted and competency is demonstrated. Applicants will be ranked, and this list will be submitted to ORMS. Candidates will rank their preferred programs. ORMS will notify both the candidates and programs of the match results. In the event a match does not occur, the Program Director will pursue interested applicants from the remaining unmatched pool or any other qualified candidate.

**Salary and Benefits:** Compensation is determined by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations. For Academic Year 2018 – 2019, the stipend was \$34,888. The resident has the opportunity to acquire partially subsidized health insurance. Residents earn four hours per biweekly pay period of annual (vacation) leave and four hours per biweekly pay period of sick leave. In addition, residents will be allowed authorized leave (does not count against annual or sick leave) to attend a national optometry conference and to attend other approved educational programs.

**Goals and Objectives:** Reviews of the resident, faculty, and residency program will be conducted annually. The reviews will evaluate the ability of the program to meet each of its stated goals and objectives.

***Goal 1: To attract a large, diversified and well-qualified pool of applicants.***

- Objectives:**
1. To inform each School and College of Optometry in the United States of the program's development and to request their assistance on a yearly basis during the recruitment process.
  2. To personally contact all interested applicants and provide them with detailed information on the program and its application requirements.
  3. To advertise the program on the NSUCO website, OR Match website, and ASCO Residency Directory that may be accessed by all interested applicants.

***Goal 2: To strengthen the resident's primary care management skills.***

- Objectives:**
1. To provide the resident with a large number of patient encounters.
  2. To provide the resident with a broad range of ocular disease encounters to include retina, glaucoma, cornea, and oculoplastics.
  3. To provide the resident with the opportunity to perform a significant number of primary care procedures including foreign body removal and punctal plug insertion.

***Goal 3: To provide an extensive post-graduate level didactic and seminar program on topics related to both optometry and ophthalmology.***

- Objectives:**
1. The resident will rotate through other discipline clinics as available. These may include, but are not limited to, diabetes management, general medicine, radiology, rheumatology, visually impaired services, etc.
  2. The resident will attend Medical Grand Rounds at Halifax Health Medical Center biweekly; when not offered, they will participate in lectures given at DBVA.
  3. The resident will be encouraged to attend a national optometric continuing education conference.
  4. The resident will attend a VISN 8 VA sponsored optometric conference.
  5. The resident will participate in weekly Journal Club conference.
  6. The resident will obtain and keep current certification in CPR.

***Goal 4: To enhance the resident's knowledge of advanced eye care procedures such as IVFA, low vision examinations, and post-operative care.***

- Objectives:**
1. The resident will observe a number of ocular surgical cases and provide post-op care.
  2. The resident will develop a working knowledge of ocular photography, ultrasound, and OCT.
  3. The resident will observe a variety of outpatient procedures to include phacoemulsification, retinal photocoagulation, intravitreal injections, LASIK, laser trabeculoplasty, YAG capsulotomy, and provide post-op care.
  4. The resident will be instructed in and provide low vision examinations of visually impaired patients.

***Goal 5: To engage the resident in scholarly activities.***

- Objectives:**
1. The resident will become familiar with the process involved in writing a paper of such quality that it can be submitted for publication to a recognized professional journal.
  2. The resident will become familiar with preparing and submitting a poster to be displayed at an optometric conference.
  3. The resident will present a case report to Orlando VA and NSU.

***Goal 6: To enhance the communication, teaching, and supervisory skills of the resident.***

- Objectives:**
1. The resident will supervise and teach optometry student externs and ophthalmic technicians.
  2. The resident will interact via telephone, EMR, and/or teleconference with DBVA staff, and optometrists and ophthalmologists at the Orlando VA, Florida Retina Institute, Filutowski Cataract and LASIK Institute, and Tomoka Eye Associates.
  3. The resident will learn how to initiate consultations, provide written and verbal communication concerning the patient's ocular and medical status, and coordinate follow-up of consultative services both within and external to the VA.

**Curriculum:**

The residents will be required to participate in a structured educational program whose emphasis is on direct patient care. The residents have a rotating schedule through nonVA ophthalmology practices, spending approximately 16-32 hours per month with retinal, corneal, and general ophthalmologists. The resident will participate in 2 VA Optometry Resident Grand Rounds and Nova Resident's Day. The resident will be encouraged to attend one optometry conference per program year. The resident will submit a poster abstract to the AOA, AAO, or SECO conferences.

The resident will attend Medical Grand Rounds at Halifax Health Medical Center, held biweekly on Friday from 7:30 – 8:30AM. Halifax Hospital Medical Center is accredited by the Florida Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians. When Halifax

Health Medical Grand Rounds are not offered, attending optometrists, residents, or student externs will give presentations and participate in Journal Club conference. The resident will rotate through other discipline clinics as available. These may include, but are not limited to rheumatology, environmental health, orthopedics, social work, diabetic education, primary care, radiology, podiatry, visually impaired services, and blind rehabilitation.

**Typical Schedule:** The resident will rotate through the following schedule for 1 week, then for the next 2 weeks the resident will have direct patient care at DBVA Monday through Friday (while the other residents rotate through this schedule). At the beginning of the month, the cycle repeats.

*Monday* 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM patient care (Dr. Barnard, Florida Retina Institute)  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM patient care (DBVA); 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM scholarly activities (DBVA)

*Tuesday* 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM patient care (Dr. Kennedy, Tomoka Eye Associates)  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM patient care (DBVA); 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM scholarly activities (DBVA)

*Wednesday* 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM patient care (DBVA)  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM patient care (DBVA); 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM scholarly activities (DBVA)

*Thursday* 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM patient care (Dr. Root, Tomoka Eye Associates)  
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM patient care (Dr. Lugo, corneal specialist)

*Friday* 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM Educational activity & Journal Club conference (DBVA) or  
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Medical Grand Rounds (Halifax Health Medical Center)  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM patient care (DBVA)  
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM patient care (DBVA)

**Completion Requirements:**

- 1.) Attend all clinical assignments with the exception of approved annual leave, sick leave, authorized absence, and administrative leave.
- 2.) Complete the twelve-month training program in its entirety.
- 3.) Complete (and submit on time) all didactic and scholarly assignments including:
  - a. Professional manuscript that can be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.
  - b. All Grand Rounds PowerPoint presentations.
  - c. Poster abstract submitted to AAO, AOA, or SECO conferences, including completed poster if abstract is accepted.
  - d. Attendance at all Halifax Health Medical Center Medical Grand Rounds.
  - e. Attendance at all assigned optometry or ophthalmology lectures.
  - f. Participation in weekly Journal Club.
- 4.) Maintain an accurate and up-to-date patient encounter log through Meditrek.
- 5.) Receive satisfactory evaluations from preceptors.
- 6.) Complete faculty and program evaluations when assigned.
- 7.) Treat all patients, staff, and students respectfully; demonstrate good judgment to safeguard patient well-being and safety. Display exemplary professional and ethical conduct at all times.
- 8.) Do everything possible to ensure patient privacy, including protecting personally identifiable information and maintaining a secure and protected workspace.

**Certificate of Completion:** The resident will be awarded a Certificate of Completion from NSU upon successful completion of the program.

**Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Dr. Hyatt with specific questions.**