

RESIDENCY IN PRIMARY EYE CARE

Bay Pines Department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center

Bay Pines, Florida



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Our residency in Primary Eye Care has been accredited since 1986. We provide full scope primary eye care and have full therapeutic privileges; including glaucoma and some systemic therapy. The primary responsibility of the resident is to provide examinations to patients via direct care, including all acute eye problems.

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MISSION STATEMENT

The residency in Primary Eye Care seeks to attract the best-qualified graduates and to provide them with advanced didactic and clinical education in clinical optometry. Exposure to non-optometric clinical patient care through multidisciplinary contacts is an important component of the program, allowing a well- rounded view of the optometrist's role as a health care gatekeeper. The program is designed to foster a life-long commitment to learning. Graduates of this residency program are trained to be able to deliver superlative clinical care in primary care optometry, to serve as optometric educators, and to serve the profession of optometry as leaders in the community and within the health care delivery system.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL #1: To attract a sufficient number of qualified diversified applicants.

Objectives:

1. Every fourth year optometry student in all schools and colleges or optometry in the United States will have access to information about the program through written and/or oral means.
2. The Program Coordinator will communicate at least once during each recruitment cycle with a contact person at each school or College of Optometry.
3. The Program will be advertised in at least one optometric publication at least once a year.
4. The Program Coordinator will be available to talk with prospective candidates about the residency program by phone with information available to send to inquirers.
5. All qualified candidates who complete the application process for the program will be contacted personally by the Program Coordinator either in written or oral form.

GOAL #2: To select the most qualified candidates from the pool of applicants in a fair and impartial manner.

Objectives:

1. Every candidate will be required to submit the following application materials to the Program Coordinator by February 1st preceding the residency year:
 - Letter of intent
 - Current curriculum vitae
 - Official transcripts from optometry school and any other post -graduate educational program
 - Passing scores from Part I of NBEO; Part II and TMOD scores shall be submitted as soon as they are available
 - At least three letters of reference, two of which must be from
 - individuals who are familiar with the candidate's clinical skills
2. Every applicant must have obtained, or be in good standing to obtain, an OD degree from an accredited College of Optometry in the United States prior to beginning the program.
3. Every candidate will be required to demonstrate adequate clinical and didactic knowledge through any of the following means: clinical faculty recommendations, self-study or research, active involvement in student scholarly groups, or outside employment.
4. Every candidate must be interviewed by the Residency Committee to be considered for the program. Telephone interviews are permissible when travel to the clinical facility is impossible.
5. Members of the Residency Committee in the areas of didactic and clinical expertise, interpersonal skills, integrity, adaptability, motivation, maturity, and patient skills will rate every candidate.
6. Based on ratings of the committee members, the Program Coordinator will select the most qualified applicant and rank them accordingly for the ORMS residency matching service. The candidate chosen will be notified of their selection by ORMS, followed by a confirming phone call from the director of resident program in a timely fashion. The

applicant must be a United States citizen to be eligible for this program.

GOAL #3: To provide faculty and administrative support commensurate with the needs of the residency program.

Objectives:

1. For each Primary Care Resident, the equivalent of 0.1 FTE per week of faculty support will be allocated for consultation, case discussion, journal club, topic presentations, as well as for assisting the resident in the preparation of a scholarly paper for publication.
2. Adequate secretarial and administrative support will be made available through the Surgical Service.

GOAL #4: To provide facilities and equipment to adequately serve the needs of the resident.

Objectives:

1. A room and telephone for the resident's use will be provided in the Eye Clinic.
2. Access to the computer will be available in the exam room and the Hospital Library. An E-mail address will be provided by the VA.
3. State of the art clinical equipment will be available for resident use.
4. The resident will have access to one set of diagnostic clinical equipment for primary care examinations.
5. The Hospital Library will be available to the resident. Library facilities at University of South Florida are also available.

GOAL # 5: To provide a varied clinical patient base, assuring adequate clinical experience for each resident to achieve above entry-level competence in primary eye care.

Objectives:

1. The resident will spend 4 1/2 days per week in direct care of patients.
2. The resident will triage all acute consults.
3. The resident will participate in off-hours "on call".
4. The resident will have the opportunity to observe the eye surgeon when desired.
5. The resident will keep a patient log.

GOAL #6: To provide didactic instruction to the resident.

Objectives:

1. The resident will receive topical didactic instruction at our weekly Friday meetings.
2. The resident will attend monthly Grand Rounds at the University of South Florida.
3. The resident will attend monthly lectures sponsored by the Pinellas Optometric Association.
4. The resident may attend the annual spring Suncoast Seminar at no cost.

GOAL #7: To develop and enhance the resident's teaching presentation skills.

Objectives:

1. The resident shall present a research paper to the Pinellas Optometric Association.
2. The resident shall attend our monthly Journal Club.
3. The resident shall make a monthly topical presentation at our Friday meeting.
4. The resident shall present a case report every other month at our Friday meeting.

GOAL #8: To increase the resident's skill and knowledge regarding clinical research.

Objectives:

1. The resident shall prepare a manuscript suitable for publication, with feedback and guidance provided by the residency supervisor.
2. Four hours per week will be allotted for research and scholarly activity. This will be during the operating hours of the Hospital library.

GOAL #9: To expand and improve the resident's intra- and inter-professional communication abilities and skills.

Objectives:

1. The resident will present topics and case reports at our Friday meetings.
2. The resident will write consultations to Ophthalmology, both here and to Tampa Ophthalmology.
2. The resident will consult with other specialties when indicated. In the event of an acute, urgent problem, consultations will be verbal.

GOAL #10: To fairly evaluate and receive feedback on the overall quality and effectiveness of the residency program.

Objectives:

1. Each resident will formally evaluate the administration and supervisors of the residency program.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum consists of direct patient care in the Eye Clinic, observation of care in ophthalmology, lectures, seminars, grand rounds, supervision of externs, and library time. The faculty assesses basic knowledge and clinical skills during the first month of the residency. Once strengths and weaknesses are determined, the topics of the optometric seminars are modified to focus on areas needing improvement and to improve clinical skills.

The prime source of learning is from examining many unusual and difficult to handle patients. The resident is responsible for developing a treatment plan and for performing any follow-up exams on these patients. The resident initiates consultations to other disciplines when indicated. The resident is closely supervised at first, but is encouraged to make independent treatment plans. Over time, the resident is expected to handle most situations without supervision.

Clinical Training

The resident works directly with patients in the VA Optometry Clinic who require optometric care. This includes a variety of aspects:

1. To identify patients who can benefit from optometric services.
2. To identify patients who can benefit from the expertise of disciplines other than optometry.
3. To develop an awareness of and sensitivity to the patient's perception of self, providers, and environment.
4. To provide appropriate treatment plans for the patient.
5. To monitor patient progress and, when necessary, make appropriate changes in the treatment plan.
6. To consistently utilize the full scope of professional services to maximize health care of the patient.

Annually about 6,000 patients are seen in the Optometry Clinic with the average wait for an appointment being about four months. The residents see between 1500 and 2000 patients in a year.

Logs are kept by the resident. The log should include the level of resident involvement and level of complexity. The diagnosis code information can be retrieved from the computer. Logs are evaluated monthly.

Non-Clinical Training

Staff conferences are held one hour per week on Friday mornings. During this time, interesting cases are shared and assigned reading is presented and discussed. Lectures are given at least once a month by the staff. Journal club, case conferences, and resident presentations are held monthly during this meeting. Staff optometrists, the extern, and the resident attend this meeting.

Individualized instruction is given the resident by the staff optometrists in the following areas: diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease, ocular manifestation of systemic disease, ocular manifestation of systemic medications, low vision, contact lenses (with emphasis on aphakic and post-op fits), ultrasound, patient education, and dispensing ophthalmic materials. The following lecture topics are covered every year for continuity:

1. New Resident Orientation - schedule, days off, boards, paper schedule, meeting format, prescription writing, Bay Pines pharmacy and formulary, PAM
2. Photography - slit lamp, fundus, stereo, logging system, view slides
3. Visual Fields - Humphrey, Goldmann, tangent screen, confrontation
4. Carotid abnormalities, TIA's
5. Low Vision exam, VIST, BROS, BRC
6. Glaucoma - progression of treatment, narrow angles, angle closure, PI
7. HIV/AIDS

8. LASER “hands on” (shoot at wet cell)
9. Kier vs. U.S.
10. Punctal D&I, punctal plugs
11. Pseudoexfoliation and pseudoexfoliative glaucoma/ PDS and pigmentary glaucoma, rubeosis irides and neovascular glaucoma
12. Cataract grading system
13. Managing post PK patients
14. Diabetes

The resident may attend semi-weekly general medical staff lectures and surgical staff lectures. These lectures are presented on a great variety of topics. They give the resident a better concept of other medical specialties in order to make more intelligent interdisciplinary referrals and help keep the resident aware of the latest trends in health care.

The resident has Thursday mornings designated as library time. This gives the resident time to research any topics assigned by the staff optometrists, time to study any personal areas of interest, or to work on the research paper.

The resident attends Ophthalmology Grand Rounds at the University of South Florida from September through May. This consists of one-half day of lectures, patients, and discussion.

Although travel funding is not authorized for the resident to attend optometry educational meetings, authorized absence is allowed. The resident is also able to attend our annual 12-hour continuing education seminar and the one-hour monthly lectures sponsored by Pinellas Optometric Association at no cost.