

Lake City Veterans Affairs Medical Center Residency Program Primary Care/Low Vision

Mission of the Residency Program

The Lake City Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lake City, Florida, in conjunction with the Gainesville VA, University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology and Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, offers a one year residency program in primary eye care/low vision. The mission of the program is to provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an advanced educational experience that will enhance their clinical skills in primary care, low vision rehabilitation, and ocular disease. Individuals completing the program will be able to deliver an advanced level of optometric care in a clinical setting, participate in co-management and multidisciplinary practice and/or serve as clinical instructors at optometry schools or teaching institutions.

Goals & Objectives

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

Objectives:

1. To have program information available to each School and College of Optometry through residency information websites.
2. To advertise the program in a national optometric publication that is readily available to qualified optometry students.
3. To personally contact all interested applicants and provide them with detailed information on the program and its application requirements.

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

Objectives:

1. To insure the resident examines a minimum number of 1000 patients during the one-year program.

2. To provide the resident with a broad range of clinical disease encounters to include retina, glaucoma, oculo-plastics, neuro-ophthalmologic and external disease abnormalities.
3. To provide the resident with the opportunity to perform and/or observe a significant number of primary care procedures including, but not limited, foreign body removal, corneal cultures/scrapings, punctal occlusion and epilation.

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 attend lectures by faculty from the University of Florida's Department of Ophthalmology/Shands Hospital weekly.
2. The Lake City resident may elect to attend the clinical Grand Rounds with optometry and ophthalmology faculty, fellows, residents and students.
3. The resident will attend visiting professor lectures sponsored by the University of Florida's Department of Ophthalmology.
4. The resident will participate in Journal Club meetings on a regular basis.
5. The Lake City resident will attend 4-hour rotations in the different specialty clinics and services offered at the Lake City/ Malcom Randall (Gainesville) VA throughout the year.

Goal #4: To enhance the resident's knowledge of advanced eye care procedures, low vision examinations, and the care of post-op surgical patients.

Objectives:

1. The resident will have the opportunity to observe ocular surgical cases and participate in the post-op care of these patients.
2. The resident will develop a working knowledge of ocular photography, ultrasound, OCT, Orbscan testing, and MP1 perimetry.
3. The resident will have exposure to the post-operative care of patients status post skin/lid lesion removal, pan retinal photocoagulation, argon laser trabeculoplasty, YAG capsulotomy, and blepharoplasty.

4. The resident will be involved in the Visual Impairment Center to Optimize Remaining Sight (VICTORS) program which includes advanced low vision assessment and management of visually impaired patients. This includes interactions with a team of optometrists, social workers, occupational therapists, the Visual Impairment Service Team (VIST) Coordinator, and Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Services (BROS).

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 have the opportunity to attend presentations on research conducted by staff and residents of the University of Florida Ophthalmology program.

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

Objectives:

1. The resident will assist in the supervision and teaching of optometry students and technicians in clinic and give lectures/presentations.
 2. The Lake City resident will interact on a daily basis with the faculty and staff of the Lake City VA and weekly with the faculty and staff of both the University Of Florida School Of Medicine and the Malcom Randall (Gainesville) VA.
 3. The resident will learn how to initiate consultations to other providers, 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 system.
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CURRICULUM

The Lake City residents will participate in a structured educational program with emphasis on direct patient care. In addition to this clinical time, the residents will attend a variety of educational programs during the 12 months of full-time training in addition to the many hours of clinical time. There are morning seminars at the University of Florida/Shands Hospital approximately three times a week that may be attended by the residents up to three times each week and the residents may also attend Grand Rounds that are held Friday mornings at the University of Florida/Shands Hospital. The University of Florida's Department of Ophthalmology additionally sponsors three separate, full-day seminars featuring renowned ophthalmologists from across the United States. The residents and the optometry/ophthalmology staff from the Lake City VA will attend these seminars. On alternate Wednesdays, the residents will attend the retina clinic at the Gainesville VA (GVAMC) all day. The other Wednesdays the residents will be at Lake City seeing low vision patients in the VICTORS (Visual Impairment Center To Optimize Remaining Sight) program in the morning and low vision follow-up examinations in the afternoon. The residents assist the Program Coordinator in preparing and presenting lectures for the externs and available staff. The lecture series is structured to prepare externs for their clinical rotation at the VA. Approximately once a month, Journal Club meetings will occur.

Approximately every two months, the resident will spend a four-hour block of time in another specialty. This will give the residents a broader understanding of the total health care system that we provide at the Lake City VA. In addition, other general safety and training courses such as CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) will be provided by the clinic.

The residents will be encouraged to attend one major educational conference during the course of the residency. The residents will also be encouraged to attend the Residents' Day at Nova Southeastern University to deliver grand rounds case presentations. NSU will reimburse the resident expenses for this meeting.

Resident Weekly Schedule

A typical weekly schedule is as follows:

- Monday: **7:15 – 8:15 am.** Lecture at University of Florida/Shands Hospital, Gainesville, when available. The residents return to the Lake City VA to meet with the Program Coordinator and/or have administrative time until 10:00am. On days there is no off-site lecture, the residents will report to the Lake City VAMC at 8:00am to meet with the Program Coordinator and/or have administrative time until 10:00am. Both residents examine both Consult and Return patients from **10:00 - 4:30 pm.** One in-patient will be scheduled at 2:00 pm.
- Tuesday: **8:00 – 3:30 pm.** One resident examines Consult patients and two in-patients. The other resident performs the VICTORS screening exams from 8:00 - 12:00 pm and will perform two VICTORS health examinations from 1:00 – 3:30 pm. Both will participate and attend the VICTORS team meeting from **3:30 - 4:30 pm.**
- Wednesday: When in Lake City, the resident performs low vision examinations and follow ups in the VICTORS program from **8:00 – 4:30 pm.** There will also be one in-patient scheduled at 2:00pm. On alternate Wednesdays the resident attends retina clinic at GVAMC from 8:00 until approximately 4:30 pm.
- Thursday: **8:00 – 4:30 pm.** Both residents examine new and follow-up patients with Ophthalmology. There will also be one in-patient scheduled at 2:00pm.
- Friday: **8:00 – 9:00 am.** Both residents along with the Optometry externs and residency supervisors will participate in lectures, lecture preparation, research, self-study, journal club, and/or case presentations at the Lake City VA eye clinic. Residents may also attend Grand Round lectures at University of Florida/Shands Hospital, Gainesville, on select Fridays from 8:00-9:00 a.m. throughout the year. **9:00 – 4:30 pm.** Both residents examine both Consult and Return patients. There will also be one in-patient scheduled at 2:00pm. Multidisciplinary grand round meetings are held Friday during lunch as part of the GRECC program via video conference at the Lake City VA.

There are no after hours responsibilities. Various lectures, time spent in other specialty clinics, and observation of surgeries/procedures will be arranged as they become available.

Patient care

The Lake City VA eye clinic serves mainly the Lake City area and surrounding communities but has a large patient base extending up to South Georgia and much fewer patients as far south as Daytona. The vast majority of these patients are male greater than 75 years of age with multiple systemic problems. The rate of ocular and systemic disease in the VA is significantly greater than in the general population.

The Lake City program is designed with an emphasis on exposing the resident to a wide variety of patient encounters. To achieve this, the residents will participate with specialists in their particular fields of expertise. This will include rotating through retina and low vision clinics throughout the year. The residents will manage numerous patients with glaucoma. The Lake City residents will observe surgery at the Lake City and Gainesville VAs. The residents will be involved in pre- and post-operative care of patients mainly from the Lake City VA cases and on a limited basis from the Gainesville VAMC and other outlying clinics. The resident will be scheduled approximately 10-14 patients per regular clinic day and will have the opportunity to supervise extern patient examinations. The patients seen by the residents will be a mixture of existing patients, new patients and emergency referrals from the emergency department, hospital wards and nursing home, as well as low vision patients. The ultimate goal is to enhance the resident's ability to independently assess and treat primary care patients in a clinical setting.

To insure the goals of the program are met, an electronic log will be maintained listing the number of patients seen, their clinical diagnosis, the level of complexity and the level of the resident's involvement. This log will be turned in monthly.

Didactic Education

As mentioned in the goals section, the residents are required to participate in a structured educational program with an emphasis on direct patient care. The residents will attend faculty lectures, grand rounds, clinical presentations, visiting professor lectures at the University of Florida (Pearls for Practice Conference Series) and journal club meetings. The residents will also participate in a minimum of 24 hours of clinic specialty/service rotations at the Lake City and/or Gainesville VA. The residents may elect to record and review any nationwide VA lecture from a schedule distributed weekly. The residents will receive at least 25 hours of category 1 education credits within the residency. The residents will also participate in a weekly VICTORS team meeting in which low vision and rehabilitation plans will be discussed. Attendance is required to insure compliance with the education requirements of the program. *An electronic record will be kept of all events attended by the residents and turned into Dr. McGonigal monthly with their patient log.*

Scholarly Activities

The residents will be required to research and create power point presentations on approved topics to be presented at the VA Optometry Residents Grand Rounds programs and any other assigned venues such as Nova's "Residency Day" program and "Gator Vision." The residents will be encouraged to present varying topics for presentations, etc. to include low vision. The residents may also be asked to speak at Low Vision support group meetings or at the Substance Abuse Treatment Team and the "Healthy Living" seminars during the residency year. In addition, the residents will be required to produce a manuscript of publishable quality pertaining to a case report or other research topic. Submission of the manuscript to a refereed journal prior to completion of the training program will be encouraged. The residents will be required to present a clinical poster for the GRECC Poster Day, and will also be encouraged to submit a poster abstract to a major optometry meeting. Residents will be asked to lead at least one journal club during the residency year. The residents will be expected to utilize time outside of his/her clinical duties to complete all scholarly assignments. The North Central Florida Association of Optometry hosts monthly dinners for continuing education. The residents

are expected to attend these meetings to enhance scholarly activity and create a networking opportunity for positions upon completion of the residency.

PROGRAM SPONSOR AND AFFILIATES

Sponsor: Lake City Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Academic Affiliate: Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry.

Accredited by the Council on Optometric Education, American Optometric Association.

Clinical Affiliate: Malcom Randall (Gainesville) Veterans Administration Medical Center. Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. The University of Florida School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology. Accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Education.

RESIDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following qualifications are required to apply for the resident program:

1. Candidates must possess an O.D. degree from a COE-accredited institution or be in their final year of training at such an institution.
2. Candidates must have passed Part I of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) examination and either have passed part II or be scheduled to sit for Part II of the examination at the time of application.
3. Candidates should have a grade point average greater than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
4. By law, candidates must be citizens of the United States.
5. Candidates must be eligible for licensure as an optometrist in the State of Florida and must obtain licensure in Florida or another state of their choice.

****Current CPR certification is required prior to start of residency. ****

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.

Application Process

Candidates must register with the Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMS) utilized by submitting a completed application. Applications to ORMS must be completed by February 1st for consideration. The following must be received by the program director for consideration as a residency applicant:

1. Name, address, phone number, and email address
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Official transcripts of NBEO scores
4. Official transcripts of optometric education
5. Minimum of three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the academic and/or clinical abilities of the applicant
6. Brief statement from the applicant regarding his/her desire to complete this particular residency program.

Interviews will be requested of specific candidates based upon the quality of the credentials and application information. The qualified applicants are interviewed by an interview team, which consists of optometric faculty of the Lake City VAMC and the Visually Impaired Service Team Coordinator, using a standardized list of questions. The Program Coordinator and interview team will rank applicants in order of merit based on the applicant's qualifications as well as personal and professional characteristics. The Program Coordinator will seek input from other faculty members and staff of the VA Eye Clinic and may seek input from the Residency Director from Nova Southeastern in developing this ranking. The list will be submitted to the matching service. At the same time, candidates will submit an independent list of their preferred programs. ORMS will

notify both the candidates and programs of the match results. In the event that a match does not occur for the Lake City program, the Program Coordinator will pursue interested applicants from the remaining unmatched pool or any other qualified candidate.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Primary Care/Low Vision Residency is a one year salaried program that begins July 1st and ends June 30th the following year. New employee orientation is completed online prior to July. The resident will be required to work 40 hrs. per week, 52 weeks a year, excluding federal holidays, authorized absence, annual and sick leave. The tour of duty is 8-4:30 Mon-Fri with occasional lectures from 7:15-8:15 am at UF/Shands Hospital, Gainesville. There are no after hour responsibilities. The resident's primary duty will be to provide comprehensive optometry care to patients of the Lake City VA Eye Clinic. The level of care that is provided by the resident is dependent upon the scope of practice authorized by the resident's state license and the level of clinical competence exhibited by the resident. Additional duties include providing optometry service at the Gainesville VA and Shands/UF, supervising and instructing optometry externs, attending a variety of educational lectures, both at the VA and the University of Florida and writing a paper of publishable quality.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

The salary and benefit structure for the resident is established by the Veterans Health Administration and is competitive with other residency programs. The current salary is \$31,965. The resident has the opportunity to acquire partially subsidized health, dental, and life insurance at the VA. Residents earn four hours each of annual and sick leave each pay period (every 2 weeks). The VA provides 10 paid holidays. Administrative time is allowed for the resident to attend at least one educational meeting outside the normal educational opportunities offered by the program and also receives authorized absence for state boards.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

While performing clinical care associated with the residency program, the resident is covered through the Federal Tort Claims Act. 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 insurance does not cover moonlighting activities on the weekends.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION

In order to satisfactorily complete the residency in primary care/low vision, each resident must achieve of the following:

1. Attend all scheduled clinics, lectures and/or seminars
2. Prepare and deliver all clinical, didactic, and scholarship assignments
3. Attend and actively participate during journal reviews
4. Receive overall satisfactory evaluation from all residency supervisors
5. Prepare a manuscript of publishable quality
6. Turn in all clinical, didactic, and scholarship logs when requested

At the successful conclusion of the residency, each resident will receive a certificate of completion, signed by the Residency Program Coordinator, the Director of Residency Programs, and the Dean of the College and a certificate of completion, signed by the Residency Program Coordinator and the Director of Low Vision Services.