

Miami VAMC

Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease

Mission:

The mission of the Miami VAMC Optometry Residency program is to provide advanced didactic and clinical training that will enable the resident to develop his or her skills in primary eye care in a challenging and diverse clinic environment. High quality eye care will be provided to all patients while adhering to residency supervision guidelines in keeping the welfare and well being of our nation's veterans as the primary goal. The program will provide the learning resources for the resident to expand upon their didactic knowledge base and apply this knowledge in an effort to develop advanced competency in eye, vision and health care.

Goals:

1. To enhance the residents' proficiency and develop advanced competency in providing high quality primary eye/vision care for the patients of the Miami VA Medical Center.
2. To enhance the residents' scholarly development and expand on their existing knowledge base in clinical eye care.
3. To develop the residents' ability to function as a member of the health care team through participation in a multidisciplinary health care system.
4. To develop and enhance the residents' advanced diagnostic skills through the use of gonioscopy, automated and Goldmann perimetry, scleral depression, ocular photography, corneal pachymetry, ultrasonography, fluorescein angiography, ocular coherence tomography and other diagnostic instrumentation.

Staff and Facility:

The Miami VA Medical Center is located within the Jackson Memorial Medical Center and University of Miami Medical Campus in the heart of Miami, FL. It serves approximately 285,000 veteran patients throughout south Florida and is one of seven members of the VISN 8 Healthcare System. The Miami VAMC Hospital is a tertiary care and referral center encompassing all sub-specialty medical and surgical fields and is state of the art and progressive with both its facilities and attending staff.

The Miami VAMC Eye Clinic has 3 full time optometrists on staff providing a well rounded array of expertise. Dr. William Prunty graduated from the University of Houston, College of Optometry in 2003 and subsequently completed a one year ocular disease residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, FL. Immediately following the completion of residency, Dr. Prunty began employment at the Miami VAMC, where he is now the head optometrist and clinic staff supervisor in charge of clinic operations and the technical staff for the eye department under surgical services. Dr. James Fabian graduated from the New England College of Optometry in 2005 and subsequently completed a one year ocular disease residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, FL. Following the completion of residency, Dr. Fabian remained at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute where he pursued retinal nerve fiber glaucoma research collecting a normative database for GDxvcc. Soon after Dr. Fabian started his career at the Miami VAMC, he became the lead Diabetic Tele-retinal Reader for the facility, and is also the Specialty Fit Contact Lens Expert for eye services. Dr. Kasey Suckow graduated optometry school at Nova Southeastern University in 2007 where she earned her doctorate in optometry

with honors as well as obtaining various awards such as Clinician of the Year, Student of the Year, and the Chancellor's Award for Excellence. After finishing optometry school she went on to complete a residency at the Chicago VA Hospital to specialize in the care of ocular disease and low vision rehabilitation. Dr. Suckow has been working at the Miami Veteran's Hospital since September 2009, working in both primary care and low vision clinic caring for both legally blind and visually impaired veterans, and is the staff low vision expert for eye services. The optometrists provide primary eye care as well as management of chronic and advanced ocular diseases and ocular manifestations of systemic diseases. The staff optometrists are licensed practitioners credentialed and privileged to perform full scope optometry, including the usage of topical and oral medications to treat eye diseases.

The Miami VAMC Eye Clinic has 8 ophthalmologists on staff, some part time and some full time, as well as multiple ophthalmology residents that rotate from the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. The ophthalmologists supervise the ophthalmology residents and manage advanced and chronic ocular diseases and ocular manifestations of systemic diseases, as well as perform advanced surgical procedures on every type of sub-specialty ocular condition. The staff ophthalmologists perform the following surgeries: cataract extraction, trabeculectomy, glaucoma drainage devices, blepharoplasty, MOHS repairs and other oculo-plastics procedures, pterygia removal, cryotherapy, focal laser, panretinal photocoagulation, YAG capsulotomy, laser PI, ALT, retinal detachment repairs, corneal transplants, and more.

The Miami VAMC Eye Clinic has 10 eye technicians on staff, a certified retinal angiographer as well as a first line technician supervisor. The technician supervisor is also a certified angiographer and registered/certified ocular ultrasonographer/biometry expert. Technical staff is assigned daily to assist with all anterior and posterior photos and OCT scans needed, as well as corneal topography. One or two of these technicians is dedicated to the visual field room each day. The technical staff helps with preliminary patient work ups and assists in maintaining smooth patient flow through the general and sub-specialty clinics.

The Miami VAMC Eye Clinic also has a teaching program involving fourth year optometry students from the University of California, Berkeley College of Optometry and the NOVA Southeastern College of Optometry. There are currently 2 positions available each quarter. Our primary goal is to provide quality eye care to our nation's veterans. Another goal we have is to provide a quality learning experience for optometry students and residents. We hope that the skills and clinical information that you learn here can be used for many years to come in whatever mode of practice you end up choosing. One of the best ways to do this is by allowing the resident to obtain as many patient encounters as possible. However, we recognize that sheer volume does not equate to an education. Therefore, the workload will be increased or decreased based upon each resident's progress and motivation to learn. Additional reading assignments may be assigned in order to enhance the educational experience based on identified deficiencies in either clinical skills or knowledge base.

Selection Criteria:

The minimum specific requirements the applicant must meet for residency consideration include the following:

1. The applicant will have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or equivalent in Optometry school prior to being considered for an interview for the residency. Exceptions will be made only at the discretion of the residency director at the Miami VAMC.
2. The applicant must have earned an OD degree or will have earned such a degree from an accredited School or College of Optometry prior to July 1 of the educational year.
3. The applicant must successfully complete Parts I and II of the NBEO examinations as well as have passed the TMOD section of Part II of the NBEO examination to be eligible to match with ORMS. The applicant must have passed Part III of the NBEO prior to beginning the residency on July 1st.
4. Residency applicants will be evaluated and chosen without regard to sex, race, religion, age, national origin or handicap.
5. Residency applicants must be citizens of the United States to be considered for a funded residency position.
6. Applicants meeting the minimum criteria mentioned above will be asked to visit the facility and interview for the residency position. Under special circumstances, a telephone interview may be conducted at the discretion of the residency program supervisor.

The selected resident is required to obtain Optometric licensure in any US state. The optometry resident will still be able to begin the program with the expectation that licensure will be completed as soon as possible for the state where licensure is being requested. The unlicensed optometry resident will be allowed to perform ocular examination of patients and formulate diagnosis and treatment plans until licensure is secured. The attending doctor will verify clinical findings by physically examining the same patient and assessing the accuracy of the diagnosis and treatment plan. The unlicensed optometry resident will be allowed to rotate outside of the VA clinic in the external rotation clinics at the discretion of the residency program supervisor.

Length of rotation, hours, pay, medical insurance, vacation, and liability coverage:

1. The residency program formally starts July 1st and ends June 30th of the following year. The in-coming resident will receive a one to two week orientation at the start of the residency on hospital based and JHACO rules and regulations, as well as any mandatory training requirements necessary for external rotation sites. During this one to two week orientation, the resident will work closely with the staff optometrists and learn how the clinic, computerized patient record system (CPRS) and equipment function. The resident receives an orientation from Human Resource Management Service to the Medical Center and its policies and procedures at the New Employee Orientation. The resident will receive a copy of the Optometry Resident Handbook from the program supervisor approximately 1 month prior to the start of the residency.
2. Clinic generally begins at 8:00 am and finishes at approximately 5:00 pm. Lectures and grand rounds take place 3 days per week, and begin no earlier than 7:30am and end no later than 6:30pm. There will be a minimum of 25 days that the resident is required to attend 7:00a.m. lectures at Bascom Palmer, but it is left up to the discretion of the resident to choose which days they attend this lecture series. At this time, there are no on-call duties and no weekend hours, however, that is subject to change if the needs of

the department morph. At this point in time, the resident will not be assigned on-call responsibilities.

3. The residency stipend is set by the Office of Academic Affairs at VA Headquarters and is the same for all optometry residents within the VA. The current stipend is \$33,821.
4. Residents are entitled to participate in a VA sponsored health insurance plan of their choosing. Health insurance is deducted from the resident's paycheck.
5. The residents can accrued up to 13 days of annual leave (vacation) and sick leave throughout the year. In addition, Federal holidays will be observed with clinic closures. A 45 day advance notice is required in order to use leave.
6. Professional liability protection in the form of the Federal Tort Claims Act is provided to all residents for professional duties performed within the Miami VAMC. Residents are also covered for external rotations under the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act.
7. Residents are expected to participate in scheduled activities designed to meet the mission, goals and objectives of the residency program in order to receive a completion certificate.

Curriculum:

1. DIDACTIC EDUCATION

- a. Attend weekly Monday afternoon optometry conferences at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.
- b. Attend weekly fluorescein conference Tuesday afternoon at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.
- c. Attend weekly Thursday morning grand rounds at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.
- d. Attend weekly Thursday morning optometry slide quiz at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.
- e. Attend at least 25 daily morning ophthalmology lecture series at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute over the course of the year (additional days optional).

2. CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

- a. Provide eye care for patients with a wide variety of systemic and ocular diseases including but not limited to: diabetes, hypertension, vascular disease, glaucoma, cataracts, anterior segment diseases, age related macular degeneration, and neuro-ophthalmic disease.
- b. Perform or observe advanced diagnostic testing including: automated perimetry, OCT, corneal pachymetry, B scan ultrasonography, anterior and retinal photography, corneal topography.
- c. Enter patient records into Computerized Patient Record System in a systematic and comprehensive fashion.
- d. Review and triage consult requests from other members of the professional medical staff.
- e. Order and review laboratory, radiographic and other studies based on ocular signs and symptoms to rule out potential systemic causes of the findings.
- f. Coordinate patient care with primary care providers and other sub-specialists as needed to assure comprehensive approach to patients' problems.

- g. External Rotations, 1 day per week.
 - i. Bascom Palmer Eye Institute—ophthalmology sub-specialty clinics.
3. PROFESSIONAL/SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES
- a. Participate in weekly case discussion with residency supervisor on interesting or challenging cases that the resident was directly involved in.
 - b. Will present at least 3 one hour lectures within the optometry lecture series program at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.
 - c. Will be the lead discussant of at least 3 slide quizzes at the Thursday morning optometry series at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.
 - i. Mandatory completion of a paper of publishable quality (as determined by the optometry residency supervisor) for original research, literature review or case study. Guidelines for submission based on those required by Optometry: Journal of the American Optometric Association will be given to the resident.
 - d. Licensed Optometry Residents will assist in supervision of optometry students during the last 3-6 months of the academic year, pending approval of the residency director.

MONDAY AFTERNOON OPTOMETRY LECTURE

Every Monday at 5pm the resident will attend a lecture series at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. The lectures are done by optometry faculty members and residents from both Bascom Palmer and the Miami VAMC for optometry interns and residents, and the resident will be required to prepare and give approximately 3 lectures throughout their year of residency.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON FLUORESCEIN CONFERENCE—5:30-6:30 PM

Every Tuesday at 5:30pm the resident will be required to attend the ophthalmology fluorescein/imaging conference at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. This lecture is presented by retina fellows, glaucoma fellows and neuro-ophthalmology fellows with attending ophthalmology staff present to educate residents on the art of reading fluorescein imaging, visual fields and radiology imaging.

GRAND ROUNDS—THURSDAY A.M. EVERY WEEK

Every Thursday morning from 7:30-9:00 the resident will attend ophthalmology grand rounds at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. This lecture series consists of ophthalmology residents presenting interesting, unique and challenging cases in front of ophthalmology attending staff with discussion and insight included with each case.

SLIDE QUIZ—THURSDAY 9:00AM-10:00AM EVERY WEEK.

The Optometry Resident will attend and present images for this lecture series throughout the year. Various images (35 mm, digital images), visual fields, OCTs, fluorescein photos, etc. will be compiled and presented in a PowerPoint Slideshow. The images will be presented in relatively rapid fire format by the Optometry Resident. Goals of the Slide/Case Review are: Develop Clinical Recognition of Ocular Diseases, Develop Differential Diagnoses, Develop Advanced Diagnostic Skills, Develop New Technology Interpretative Skills and Develop Management Plans.

Completion Requirements:

1. Performing adequately on all clinic assignments at the VA and/or external rotation sites.
2. The resident must receive expected levels of performance on all formal evaluations.
3. The resident is required to complete the following project prior to June 30th:
 - a. To complete a paper of sufficient quality (as determined by the optometry residency supervisor) for publication of original research, literature review or case report. Guidelines for submission are based on those required by Optometry: Journal of the American Optometric Association.
4. The resident is required to participate in weekly Miami VAMC Optometry Education Conferences (Lecture, Grand Rounds, Case Review, Slide Quiz, etc.) and present information formally upon request of the residency program supervisor or other staff optometrists.
5. The resident is required to present a formal lecture and/or grand rounds presentation at NSU College of Optometry and/or Bascom Palmer Eye Institute lecture series upon the request of the residency program supervisor.