

Residency in Primary Care Tallahassee VAMC

Mission Statement of the Residency Program

The Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tallahassee, Florida in conjunction with Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry offers a one year residency in primary care with an emphasis in ocular disease. The mission of the program is to provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an advanced didactic and clinical education. Upon completion of this program, doctors will be able to provide their patients with superlative care in addition to being qualified to serve as optometric educators and leaders in health care.

Goals and Objectives to Achieve the Program Mission

Goal #1: To attract a sufficient, diversified group of well qualified applicants.

Objectives:

1. Advertise the program to all fourth year optometry students in all schools of optometry in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico through various types of written and oral communication.
2. Contact each interested applicant and provide them with detailed information on the application process and program.

Goal # 2: To select a resident through an impartial process.

Objectives:

1. The selection process will include all practicing optometrists in the facility.
2. The same questions will be asked to each candidate.
3. The selection process will include the candidate's personal statement, curriculum vitae, official transcripts from optometry school and all post-graduate schools, test scores from NBEO Part 1, Part II, TMOD (scores shall be submitted as soon as available) and at least 3 letters of reference (two from individuals who are familiar with the candidate's clinical skills).
4. The Program Director will select and rank the most qualified applicants with input from the other interviewers (practicing optometrists) at the facility. The names of the candidates will be submitted to the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMS) in agreement with their policies and deadlines.

Goal #3: To further develop the resident's optometric knowledge in clinical testing, diagnosis and management in primary care optometry including low vision and ocular disease.

Objectives:

1. The resident will have the ability to order laboratory testing, diagnostic imaging and specialty consultations within the VAMC. In addition, the resident will have the opportunity to see patients referred to us on an emergency basis and on a regular basis from other healthcare specialists within the hospital.
2. The resident will have the opportunity to perform gonioscopy, automated perimetry, scleral depression, ocular photography, ocular coherence tomography and other diagnostic instrumentation throughout the year.
3. The resident will observe a number of surgical cases and participate in the pre and post-operative care of these patients whenever possible. These procedures will include but not limited to: skin/lid lesion removal, panretinal photocoagulation, cataract surgery, DSEK, LASIK, argon laser trabeculoplasty, YAG capsulotomy, pterygia removal and blepharoplasty.
4. The resident will see low vision cases in our clinic which provides what the VA terms as basic low vision services.
5. The resident will rotate with Southern Vitreoretinal Specialists (SVA) once weekly. They will observe clinical diagnosis and treatment in a tertiary setting.

Goal #4: To provide post-graduate level seminars and didactic programs on topics related to optometry and ophthalmology.

Objectives:

1. The resident will attend lectures given each quarter by the faculty from the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology.
2. The resident will participate in weekly journal club, slide review and/or other various didactic activities throughout the year.
3. The resident will attend the Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU) College of Pharmacy's resident presentations at VA TOPC.
4. The resident will have the opportunity to attend the 6 continuing education classes held yearly by the Northwest Florida Optometric Association (NWFOA) at no cost to him/her.
5. The resident will have the opportunity to attend the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 8 Meeting held annually that offers continuing education in addition to other major educational meetings during the year (SECO, AOA Congress or AAO Meeting).

Goal #5: To cultivate the resident's ability to communicate, teach and/or supervise as an optometric educator and/or leader in the optometric field.

Objectives:

1. The resident will assist in the supervision and teaching of other optometry students.
2. The resident will present annually to FAMU's College of Pharmacy on a topic in accordance with their requirements for a diverse health education.
3. The resident will present a grand rounds case to other residents within the VISN 8 on a quarterly basis.
4. The resident will learn how to initiate consults to other healthcare providers, provide communication concerning the patient's ocular and medical status and coordinate follow up of consultative services both within and external to the VA system.
5. The Resident Supervisor will provide guidance and assist him/her when necessary to achieve this goal.

Goal #6: To enhance the resident's knowledge about clinical research.**Objectives:**

1. The resident will prepare a manuscript of publishable quality, with feedback and guidance provided by the residency supervisor.
2. The resident is provided access to NSU's online medical library by using their NSU ID number, on-line Scientific Direct via TOPC computers, and the Lake City VAMC science library.

Goal #7: To impartially evaluate and provide feedback to the resident based on these goals.**Objectives:**

1. The resident will be evaluated by each clinical preceptor quarterly.
2. The resident's teaching will be evaluated anonymously by the student externs quarterly.
3. All lectures, presentations, and grand rounds will be formerly evaluated by one of the preceptors.
4. Patients will periodically evaluate the program through the use of patient satisfaction surveys.

Goal #8: To impartially evaluate and receive feedback on the overall quality and effectiveness of the residency program.**Objectives:**

1. Each resident will evaluate the residency program at midpoint and at the conclusion of the residency.
2. The resident shall formally evaluate the Preceptors, including the Program Director at the conclusion of the program.
3. All preceptors, including the Program Director, will meet quarterly to discuss short and long term planning of the residency.

Curriculum

The residency program starts on July 1st, 2008 and ends on June 30, 2008.

Patient Care

The resident will have direct patient care over 95% of the time. The resident works a forty hour work week. Residents will have their own examination room at the start of the year. The resident participates in retina, cornea, and low vision clinics in addition to primary care clinics. In this clinic, the resident is given priority in terms of the numbers of patients seen and also with regard to cases which appear to be interesting or challenging. Special testing may be ordered if necessary by the resident such as: ultrasonography, digital photography and ocular coherence tomography, visual field testing, pachymetry, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. The resident is also expected to perform foreign corneal body removal, corneal rust ring removal and other procedures as necessary and commensurate with the current privileges of the attending optometrist and resident.

The residents and faculty provide patient care that is consistent with current clinical care guidelines and accepted standards of practice. The AOA website (www.aoa.org) describes AOA Optometric Clinical Practice Guidelines under the “Students and Educators” heading under the “Clinical Care” section. (Copy kept in clinic in binder for all doctors to reference). Quality of faculty charts is monitored via a periodic peer review process. The resident will have a progressively increasing responsibility in the delivery of patient care services that is based upon demonstrated competence.

Scholarly Activities

The curriculum includes scholarly activities including journal club, grand rounds presentations, and preparation of a manuscript of publishable quality.

Didactic Activities

The curriculum includes didactic activities such as attendance at “Pearls for Practice” programs at the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology, attendance at a major optometry meeting, quarterly VA Optometry Grand Rounds programs, VISN 8 continuing education classes and weekly case discussion and/or journal club.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

A resident’s compensation is determined by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations and increases each year. In 2008, the stipend is \$30,099. In addition, the resident receives \$2,303 in employer share FICA and \$4,603 in employer share benefits for a total of \$37,005 total allocation to trainee. The resident has the opportunity to acquire partially subsidized health and dental insurance at the VA. Specific information about these benefits will be provided in the new employee orientation at the Gainesville VAMC during the first month of employment. Liability Protection under the Federal Tort Claims act is provided to all residents for professional duties performed within the VA. Residents are also covered for external rotations under the Federal Employees Liability and Tort Compensation Act but this does not apply to moonlighting.

EXPECTATIONS FOR RESIDENTS

Residents are expected to attend and be on time for all clinical assignments, lectures, conferences, seminars, and any other scheduled meetings. Residents are expected to comply with and meet all assignment deadlines, whether written or verbal. Residents are expected to be prepared to assist in clinical teaching activities above and beyond those listed on the officially published schedule; in this event, advanced notice by the Residency Director or Supervisor will be given as soon as is possible. Above all, the residency is an educational experience, and every consideration toward this goal should be given by all parties concerned.

TENTATIVE RESIDENT SCHEDULE

Monday

8:00am–12:00pm Rotations with Retina
12:00pm–1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm–4:30pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

Tuesday

8:00am – 12:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic
12:00pm–1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm–4:30pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

Wednesday

8:00am – 12:00pm Rotations w/Cornea and Glaucoma
12:00pm–1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm–4:30pm Journal Club/Scholarly Activity/Grand Rounds at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

Thursday

8:00am – 12:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic
12:00pm–1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm–4:30pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

Friday

8:00am – 12:00pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic
12:00pm–1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm–4:30pm See Patients at VA TOPC Eye Clinic

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR RESIDENTS TO OBSERVE VARIOUS RETINA AND CORNEAL SURGERIES. RESIDENTS ARE SCHEDULED 8 PATIENTS, BUT ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SEEING ALL EMERGENCY CONSULTS DURING THE DAY.