

**BASCOM PALMER EYE INSTITUTE
OPTOMETRIC RESIDENCY IN OCULAR DISEASE**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is regarded as one of the world's leading eye care centers and the largest of its kind in the southeastern United States. Recently, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute was rated as the number one eye hospital in America by *U.S. News & World Report*. Excellent patient care and an outstanding ophthalmology faculty are the cornerstones on which the foundation has been built.

Optometrists have been at Bascom Palmer since 1974. Optometry staff include Dr. Natalie Townsend, Dr. Mark Dunbar, Dr. John McSoley, Dr. Michelle Caputo, Dr. Terri Rose, Dr. Perez-Blanco and Dr. Elliott Brafman. These optometrists provide leadership and direction in various subspecialty patient care clinics. In addition, optometric student externs spend part of their fourth year at BPEI gaining valuable clinical experience in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease.

Bascom Palmer will provide the framework by which the optometric resident will become proficient in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease. This will be accomplished through dedicated hard work, individual clinical experiences, didactic education and self-study. In helping to achieve this goal, Bascom Palmer offers an environment in which each resident will experience many of the essential aspects necessary in becoming proficient in managing patients with secondary and tertiary ocular conditions. The optometric resident will work one day in a primary care clinic with the remainder of the week being spent working in the various subspecialty ophthalmology faculty clinics which may include medical and surgical retina, glaucoma, external disease, oculoplastics, and neurophthalmology services. This environment will allow the resident to develop excellent diagnostic and treatment skills as well as becoming proficient in advanced diagnostic techniques including fluorescein angiography, echography, visual fields, and laboratory testing.

Program Length:

The residency program is one year long starting July 1st and ending June 30th.

Daily Expectations:

Residents are required to be at the hospital ready to see patients by 8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, with the exception being on those days when 7:00 a.m. conferences are scheduled. Lunch should be taken when the clinic schedule allows. Except on days when meetings are scheduled, most clinics finish around 5:00 pm. Vacation time is accrued with time, however "Floating Holidays" may be taken prior to completing the probation period. All vacation or days off must be approved by Dr. Townsend, the Residency Supervisor.

Educational Conferences:

There are many educational opportunities for the resident outside the area of direct patient care. Mandatory daily and weekly conferences will be held to supplement the resident's clinical training and experience. Specifically, the resident will be required to review fluorescein angiograms for a Monday morning fluorescein conference with the residency supervisor, prepare lectures for the

Monday Staff meeting, and review journal articles for Tuesday Journal Club. The latter two will be presented to the optometric staff, residents, and externs. Conferences and lectures that the residents are required to attend include:

- Monday-Friday – attend lectures with the ophthalmology MD residents given by MD faculty
- Tuesday - optometric journal club - 4:45 p.m.; fluorescein conference 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday - grand rounds - 7:00 a.m.; slide/case conference – 8:30 a.m.

Typical weekly clinical schedule:

Monday: Glaucoma
Tuesday: Neuro-ophthalmology
Wednesday: External Disease Service
Thursday: Retina/Uveitis
Friday: Optometry Primary Care

Weekly Didactic Schedule:

Tuesday:	4:45 pm	Journal Club
	5:30 pm	Imaging/FA Conference
Thursday:	7:00 am	Grand Rounds
	8:30 am	OD Lecture Conference

Paper for Publication:

The residents will be required to write one paper worthy of publication in an optometric journal. A rough draft must be completed by March 1. Final draft is due May 1.

Lecture to Optometry Students:

The optometric residents are required to give several lectures to fourth year optometry students whom rotate through Bascom Palmer Eye Institute throughout the year.

Benefits:

The salary for the optometric residency is \$34,000. Other benefits accrue over a 12 month period including:

1. 10 paid vacation days plus 10 floating holidays
2. 12 sick days
3. Health insurance
4. Paid Florida license

Liability coverage will be provided for residents providing care at BPEI or affiliated assignments. Liability does not cover optometric care provided outside the residency program.

Interview:

Applicants must have graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry and have passed all parts of the National Boards. Residents are also required to pass the Florida State Board licensing exam.

Application and Selection Criteria:

All candidates will be considered in a fair and non-discriminatory manner regardless of race, creed or color.

All candidates are required to matriculate from and receive an O.D. degree from an ACOE College of Optometry.

Application deadline for the residency is February 1, of the residency year. There is no formal application that needs to be filled out. The only Information required for application includes:

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Transcripts from your college of optometry
3. National Board scores
4. Letter of intent
5. Three letters of recommendation

A one day interview is required. Only applicants with a grade point average of 3.0 or greater will be granted an interview; however this is at the discretion of the Residency Supervisor. Interviews will begin in early February and will be completed by March 1. It is strongly encouraged that applicant call for an interview and to ensure that their application is complete.

Requirements for Completion:

The requirements for completions of the residency are:

1. Complete the 12 month residency program
2. Write a paper of publishable quality
3. Present at least 3 lectures

If you need more information, please contact the Program Coordinator:

Natalie Townsend, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Residency Program Coordinator
305-482-4347
natown2@med.miami.edu