



Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

University of Miami Health System

Optometric Residency in Ocular Disease

900 NW 17th St, Miami, FL 33136

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. Bascom Palmer Eye Institute has been rated as the number one eye hospital in America by *U.S. News & World Report* for 21 years. 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 at the Miami facility include Dr. Natalie Townsend, Dr. Alison Bozung, Dr. Mark Dunbar, Dr. John McSoley, Dr. Michelle Caputo, Dr. Terri Rose, Dr. Perez-Blanco, Dr. Stephanie Frankel, and Dr. Rami Aboumourad. 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 Eye Institute 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, cornea, oculoplastics, and neurophthalmology services. The resident will also spend time seeing patients in the eye Emergency Department at Bascom Palmer. These different environments will allow the resident to develop excellent diagnostic and treatment skills as well as becoming proficient in advanced diagnostic techniques including visual fields, OCT, OCT-A, fluorescein angiography, fundus autofluorescence, echography, and laboratory testing.

Program Length:

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

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 conferences or lectures are scheduled. Lunch should be taken when the clinic schedule allows. Except on days when meetings are scheduled, clinics finish around 5:00 pm. Vacation, sick time, etc. are consistent with the University of Miami policies. All vacation or days off must be approved by Dr. Natalie Townsend or Dr. Alison Bozung, the Program Co-Coordinators.

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.

Example of a typical weekly clinical schedule:

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

Weekly Didactic Schedule:

Conferences and lectures that the residents are required to attend include:

- Monday-Wednesday & Friday – 7:00am lectures with ophthalmology residents (given by faculty)
- Tuesday – 4:45pm optometric journal club; 5:30pm "fluorescein conference"
- Thursday – 7:00am ophthalmology grand rounds; 8:30am optometry conference

Paper for Publication:

The residents will be required to write one paper worthy of publication in an optometric journal.

Lecture to Optometry Students:

The optometric residents are required to give four lectures to fourth year optometry students and BPEI optometrists throughout the year.

Benefits:

The salary for the optometric residency is \$45,000. Other benefits include:

1. 23 paid days off per year, accrued biweekly (this includes vacation, sick, and holidays)
2. Health insurance
3. 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-accredited College of Optometry.

Application deadline for the residency is January 31st of the residency year. There is no additional application that needs to be filled out. Information required for application through ASCO's National Matching Service includes:

1. Curriculum vitae
2. Official 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 Coordinator. Interviews will begin in January or early February and will be completed by March 1. It is strongly encouraged that applicant call or email for an interview and to ensure 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 four lectures as outlined in Resident Manual

If you need more information, please contact:

Alison Bozung, OD, FAAO
Co-Coordinator, Residency Program
akb75@miami.edu