

# Aran Eye Associates

## Residency in Ocular Disease

in affiliation with

NOVA Southeastern University College of Optometry



### Background

Aran Eye Associates is a multi-subspecialty tertiary care referral private practice. We have several fully equipped offices throughout southeast Florida and are one of the largest ophthalmic practices in the region. We have been active in optometric education since the practice's inception in 1988. In addition to educating residents and externs, we sponsor continuing education seminars for local optometric physicians. Aran Eye Associates has a long history of dedication to optometric education in a friendly and exciting clinical environment. The practice is an excellent model for effective O.D. - M.D. patient management.

## Mission statement

The mission of the post-graduate Optometric Residency in Ocular Disease at Aran Eye Associates is to provide our residents with clinically based advanced competencies, beyond that of graduate entry level, to become outstanding optometrists of the highest quality while instilling the values of compassion, professionalism, advocacy, and ethics. To accomplish this, our program provides comprehensive clinical teaching, didactic education as well as teaching opportunities.

## Program overview

Our residency program in ocular disease offers intensive training in the detection and management of ocular pathology and trauma, as well as pre- and post-surgical patient care. In addition to the clinical training, residents attend weekly didactic lectures with local ophthalmology residents and community ophthalmologists, participate in the Extern Grand Rounds at our practice, have the responsibilities of an on-call physician and become involved in the Broward and the Miami-Dade county optometric associations.

Residents have the opportunity to observe surgical procedures performed by our staff ophthalmologists including, but not limited to: cataract extraction, penetrating keratoplasty (PKP), Descemet's stripping automated endothelial keratoplasty (DSAEK), as well as refractive surgery such as LASIK and PRK. Residents also observe glaucoma, vitreo-retinal and oculoplastic surgeries and minor office procedures. Residents have the opportunity to become proficient in the use and interpretation of corneal topography, visual fields, biometry and Optical Coherence Tomography.

## Our physicians

Alberto Aran, MD

Cornea, cataract and Laser Vision Correction specialist

Medical Director

Analisa Arosemena, MD – Glaucoma, cornea and cataract specialist

Emilio Balius, OD – Consultative Optometry; Clinical Director

Naddia Barrios, OD - Consultative Optometry

Marco Fabrega, MD – General ophthalmology

Daniel Hwang, MD - Oculoplastic specialist

Beata Lewandowska, OD - Consultative Optometry  
Jessica Rodriguez, OD - Consultative Optometry  
Oswald Rondon, MD – Glaucoma specialist  
Kenneth Wals, MD – Vitreous and retina specialist  
Aura Zambrano, OD - Consultative Optometry  
Adam Stelzer, OD – Clinical Director, Laser Center of Coral Gables

## Frequently asked questions

Who's eligible to apply?

- Candidates who have matriculated with a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree from ACOE accredited college or school of optometry and
- Are eligible to obtain optometric license to practice in Florida

What materials are required to apply?

Register with ORMatch at <https://www.natmatch.com/ormatch/applregister.html> then send the following materials to Dr Emilio Balius, Residency Director, 951 S Le Jeune Road Suite 200, Coral Gables, FL 33134

- Letter of intent
- Curriculum vitae
- Undergraduate and optometry school transcripts
- NBEO Part I, Part II and TMOD scores
- Three letters of recommendation from clinical instructors

A passing score on NBEO Part I is required to be invited to an interview; Part II and TMOD scores should be submitted as soon as they become available. Candidates must pass both Part II and TMOD by ORMatch match date in order to be ranked in ORMatch by March of the preceding year. Candidates who do not pass Part II and TMOD, but have completed their applications, will not be ranked in ORMatch.

Residents must be eligible to obtain a license in Florida. Every candidate that applies is required to take and pass NBEO Part III by July of the residency year. In the event that the resident has not passed Part III by July of the residency year, their contract may be nullified.

What is the program's selection procedure?

Eligible candidates interested in the program need to submit the required materials to the Residency Program Coordinator. The Residency Program Coordinator will review each

application folder and invite suitable candidates for an interview. Every candidate interviewed will be evaluated and rated by members of the Residency Committee in the areas of:

- Didactic and clinical expertise
- Interpersonal skills
- Integrity
- Motivation
- Level of professionalism
- Patient management skills

Names of the candidates that are found suitable for the positions will be ranked and the results will be submitted to the administrators at the Optometry Residency Matching Service (ORMatch), according to their policies and deadlines. Candidates who match via ORMatch will be notified of this decision in a timely manner via email through ORMatch.

What are resident benefits?

- 13-months program starting July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year
- Average of 40 hours per week
- On-call duties starting January 1
- Compensation of \$34,000.00
- 10 days of paid time off
- Health insurance
- Professional liability protection is 100% reimbursed once the resident becomes licensed in Florida
- Continuing education stipend of \$500.00

What are the resident responsibilities?

- Direct patient care
- Supervising forth year optometry externs
- Extern schedule
- Participation in weekly Extern Grand Rounds including a quarterly lecture
- Attendance on weekly basis to Fluorescein conference and Grand Rounds at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
- Attendance to county optometric association meetings, local continuing education seminars, as well as selected state and national optometric meetings
- Self-directed study and research resulting in a publishable paper

What are the requirements for completion of the residency program?

- Fulfill all terms of the employment contract
- Fulfill attendance requirements to clinics, Extern Grand Rounds, Fluorescein conference, Grand Rounds and optometric association meetings

- Complete all patient, didactic and scholarly logs in timely manner and submit them to the Residency Program Coordinator
- Present 4 lectures at Extern Grand Rounds
- Write a publishable quality paper
- Receive overall satisfactory evaluations from the Residency Program Coordinator

Is the program accredited? How many candidates are accepted each year?

Our program has been accredited by ACOE since 1989 and we accept two residents per academic year.

Is housing provided?

No. Residents make their own housing arrangements. These need to be finalized before July 5<sup>th</sup>. Some of the most accessible areas around Miami include Coral Gables, Doral, Miami Beach and the Brickell area of downtown.

Do I need a car?

Yes, a reliable vehicle and insurance coverage are mandatory. There is a significant amount of driving involved on weekly basis, as our offices are located in Coral Gables, Hialeah, Kendall, North Miami, Sunrise and Fort Lauderdale.

Do I need to be fluent in Spanish?

Miami has a very large Spanish-speaking population. We've had many residents who were not fluent in Spanish that have successfully completed our program. Our staff is bilingual and will be happy to assist you in any way that you need.

What equipment do I need to bring?

All you need to bring is your white lab coat and funduscopic lenses. All clinics have fully-equipped lanes. In addition, you will find Humphrey visual-field machines, tonopens, pachymeters, ultrasound and fundus cameras, as well as OCTs.

What is the schedule like?

Morning clinics start at 8am and afternoon clinics start at 1pm. Surgery starts at 7am. Depending on the doctor and location the day ends between 5 and 6 pm. There is a weekly meeting with the externs from around 5:30 pm until 7pm.

What services are provided at Aran Eye Associates?

We specialize in tertiary care. Our sub-specialties include cornea and cataract, glaucoma, retina, and oculoplastics. In addition we also provide general ophthalmology and consultative optometry services as well as laser vision correction.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Please direct all questions to Dr Emilio Balias

Residency Director  
Aran Eye Associates  
951 S Le Jeune Road Suite 200  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
Phone (305) 442 – 2020  
Fax (305) 442 – 7098

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