

OPTOMETRY RESIDENCY IN PRIMARY EYE CARE

William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans Affairs Multispecialty Clinic

551 National Health Care Drive
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Program Coordinator

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Introduction

The William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans Affairs Multispecialty Clinic (DBVA), sponsored by Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (NSU), and in conjunction with the ophthalmology practices of Florida Retina Institute, Filutowski Cataract and LASIK Institute, Miguel Lugo, M.D., and Tomoka Eye Associates, offers a one-year residency in primary eye care.

The DBVA is a 50,000 ft² facility, which opened in 2001. In addition to the Eye Clinic, there is laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, prosthetics, dental, mental health, rheumatology, and physical therapy services. The eye clinic consists of 4 full-time optometrists, up to 6 optometry externs (from Illinois College of Optometry, Southern College of Optometry, and Rosenberg College of Optometry), 3 optometry residents, and 4 technicians. There are 9 exam lanes, an autorefractor/autokeratometer, a visual field room with two Humphrey Visual Field analyzers and a Matrix FDT. There is a special testing room with Cirrus & Spectralis OCT, Atlas topographer, Ocular Response Analyzer, Visante, Cannon fundus camera with fundus autofluorescence and IVFA capabilities, portable B-scan, and anterior segment camera. The clinic is equipped with a low vision aids tower. All slit lamps have teaching tubes.

Mission

To provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with an educational experience that will enhance their clinical competency in both primary eye care and ocular disease through a combination of advanced optometric and ophthalmological training in clinical and scholarly activities.

Program Sponsor and Affiliates

Academic Sponsor: Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

Dr. Lori Vollmer, Director of Residency Programs at NSU College of Optometry

Clinical Affiliates

Florida Retina Institute; Thomas Barnard, M.D.

Filutowski Cataract and LASIK Institute; Konrad Filutowski, M.D.

Corneal Practice; Miguel Lugo, M.D.

Tomoka Eye Associates; Mark Kennedy, M.D. and Timothy Root, M.D.

Non-discrimination Policy

In Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Older Americans Amendments of 1975, no candidate will be discriminated against based upon race, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or non-disqualifying physical impairment.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Candidates must possess a Doctor of Optometry degree from an ACOE-accredited institution or be in their final year of training at such an institution.
2. Candidates must have passed NBEO Part I examination and either have passed NBEO Part II examination or be scheduled to sit for NBEO Part II examination at the time of application.
3. Candidates should have a grade point average greater than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
4. By law, candidates must be citizens of the United States.
5. Candidates must obtain licensure in Florida or another state.

Application Process: candidates must apply to the program through Optometry Resident Matching Service (ORMS) by February 1st. The following information must be received by the Residency Program Director for consideration:

1. Letter of intent; include contact information (mailing address, email address, and phone number).
2. CV.
3. Optometry School Transcripts.
4. Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with academic and/or clinical abilities.

Interviews will be requested of candidates based on the quality of their credentials and application. All serious applicants will be directly informed that, if selected, their credentials will be verified as required by local VA Medical Center policy. Residents are not granted medical staff membership status but may practice independently under an expanding scope of practice after state licensure is granted and competency is demonstrated. Applicants will be ranked and this list will be submitted to ORMS. Candidates will rank their preferred programs. ORMS will notify both the candidates and programs of the match results. In the event a match does not occur, the Program Director will pursue interested applicants from the remaining unmatched pool or any other qualified candidate.

Professional Liability Insurance

The VA does not require liability insurance. The resident is covered under the Federal Tort Claims Act as long as they are acting within the scope of their assignment. This means that any resident in an established assignment has the same protection and rights as a VA employee. The residents get liability protection for their work at the VA and associated VA clinics only. This does not cover the resident when engaged in eye care outside of the VA or its affiliates.

Salary and Benefits

Compensation is determined by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations and increases each year. In 2016, the stipend was \$31,965. In addition, the resident receives \$2,303 in employer share FICA and \$4,603 in employer share benefits for a total of \$38,871 total allocation to trainee. The resident has the opportunity to acquire partially subsidized health insurance. Residents earn four hours per biweekly pay period of annual (vacation) leave and four hours per biweekly pay period of sick leave. In addition, residents will be allowed authorized leave (does not count against annual or sick leave) to attend a national optometry conference and to attend other approved educational programs.

Program Goals and Objectives: reviews of the resident, faculty, and residency program will be conducted annually. The reviews will evaluate the ability of the program to meet each of its stated goals and objectives.

Goal 1: To attract a large, diversified and well-qualified pool of applicants.

Objectives:

1. To inform each School and College of Optometry in the United States of the program's development and to request their assistance on a yearly basis during the recruitment process.
2. To advertise the program in a national optometric publication (AOSA Foresight) that is readily available to qualified optometry students.
3. To personally contact all applicants and provide them with detailed information on the program and its application requirements.
4. To advertise the program on VA and NSU websites.

Goal 2: To strengthen the resident's primary care management skills.

Objectives:

1. To provide the resident with a large number of patient encounters.
2. To provide the resident with a broad range of clinical disease encounters to include retina, glaucoma, cornea, and oculoplastics.

Goal 3: To provide an extensive post-graduate level didactic and seminar program on topics related to both optometry and ophthalmology.

Objectives:

1. The resident will rotate through other discipline clinics as available. These may include, but are not limited to: rheumatology, environmental health, orthopedics, social work, diabetic education, primary care, radiology, podiatry, visually impaired services, and blind rehabilitation.
2. The resident will attend Medical Grand Rounds biweekly at Halifax Health Medical Center.
3. The resident will attend lectures by the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Florida and by the Gainesville VA Medical Center.
4. The resident will attend one national optometric conference during the program year.
5. The resident will attend optometric lectures by the VA.
6. The resident will participate in weekly Journal Club conference with optometry externs and attending optometrists.
7. The resident will attend lectures by local ophthalmology practices when available.
8. The resident will maintain current CPR certification.

Goal 4: To enhance the resident's knowledge of advanced eye care procedures such as IVFA, low vision examinations, and post-operative care.

Objectives:

1. The resident will observe a number of ocular surgeries and participate in post-operative care. The resident will develop a working knowledge of ocular photography, ultrasound, and OCT.
2. The resident will observe a variety of outpatient procedures to include phacoemulsification, panretinal and focal photocoagulation, intravitreal injections, LASIK, laser trabeculoplasty, and YAG capsulotomy. The resident will be involved in post-operative care.
3. The resident will be instructed in and perform low vision examinations.

Goal 5: To engage the resident in scholarly activities.

Objectives:

1. The resident will prepare a professional manuscript that can be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.
2. The resident will submit a poster abstract for consideration of presentation during an optometric conference. If the abstract is accepted, the resident will submit a poster.

3. The resident will observe FDA clinical trials (when available) in which Florida Retina Institute participates.

Goal 6: To enhance the communication, teaching, and supervisory skills of the resident.

Objectives:

1. The resident will have the opportunity to serve as a clinical preceptor for fourth year optometry externs during the last segment of the program.
2. The resident will interact daily via telephone, EMR, and/or teleconference with DBVA staff, and optometrists and ophthalmologists at the Orlando VA, Florida Retina Institute, Filutowski Cataract and LASIK Institute, and Tomoka Eye Associates.
3. The resident will learn how to initiate consultations, provide written and verbal communication concerning the patient's ocular and medical status, and coordinate follow-up of consultative services both within and external to the VA.

Curriculum

The residents will be required to participate in a structured educational program whose emphasis is on direct patient care. The residents have a rotating schedule through nonVA ophthalmology practices, spending approximately 16-32 hours per month with retinal, corneal, and general ophthalmologists.

The resident will attend lectures by local ophthalmology practices and local optometric societies (when available), Pearls for Practice lectures at Gainesville VA and UF Health Shands Hospital, and at least 2 VA Optometry Resident Grand Rounds. The resident will participate in Nova Resident's Day. The resident will be required to attend one optometry conference per program year.

The resident will attend Medical Grand Rounds at Halifax Health Medical Center, which are held biweekly on Friday from 7:30 – 8:30AM, and is conveniently located less than 1 mile from DBVA. Halifax Hospital Medical Center is accredited by the Florida Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians. On Friday mornings when Medical Grand Rounds are not offered, attending optometrists, residents, or student externs will present PowerPoint lectures. Friday afternoons are reserved for educational activities, which includes a weekly Journal Club in which peer-reviewed journal articles are discussed by student externs, residents, and attending optometrists.

The resident will rotate through other discipline clinics as available. These may include, but are not limited to: rheumatology, environmental health, orthopedics, social work, diabetic education, primary care, radiology, podiatry, visually impaired services, and blind rehabilitation.

DBVA designates the first Tuesday of each month as Training Day. From 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM the clinic is closed to patient care so the resident will be able to attend lectures, conferences, and general staff meetings with physicians, administrators, nurses, and other professional staff. General medical lectures and safety and training courses, including CPR recertification will be offered. The resident will attend eye clinic staff meetings and participate in discussions aimed toward improving patient care. The resident will be allowed time to work on PowerPoint presentations and scholarly activities. From 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM, the resident will examine patients from the contact lens and low vision clinic, and assist in preparing patients undergoing IVFA.

The resident will give multiple PowerPoint presentations during the program year. These include, but are not limited to: Orlando VA Optometry Grand Rounds, Gainesville VA Optometry Grand Rounds, and Nova Resident's Day. The resident will submit a poster abstract to the AOA, AAO, or SECO conferences. The resident will write a paper of publishable quality and will observe FDA clinical trials (when available) at Florida Retina Institute.

Typical Schedule: The resident will rotate through the following schedule for 1 week, then for the next 2 weeks the resident will have direct patient care at DBVA Monday through Friday (while the other residents rotate through this schedule). Then, the cycle repeats.

Monday

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	patient care (Dr. Barnard, Florida Retina Institute)
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	patient care, including urgent consults (DBVA)
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	scholarly activities (DBVA)

Tuesday

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	patient care (Dr. Kennedy, Tomoka Eye Associates)
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	patient care, including urgent consults (DBVA)
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	scholarly activities (DBVA)

Wednesday

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	patient care, including urgent consults (DBVA)
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	patient care (Dr. Lugo, corneal specialist)
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	scholarly activities (DBVA)

Thursday

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM*	patient care (Dr. Root, Tomoka Eye Associates)
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	patient care, including urgent consults (DBVA)
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	scholarly activities (DBVA)

Friday

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM or 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Medical Grand Rounds (Halifax Health Medical Center) Educational activity at DBVA (ex: Will's Eye Hospital Grand Rounds, PowerPoint presentation by staff optometrist, resident, or student extern^)
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	patient care, including urgent consults (DBVA)
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM*	patient care, including urgent consults (DBVA)
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Journal Club

*When not at nonVA rotations, residents will provide direct patient care at DBVA, including one low vision exam Thursday morning and one Friday afternoon. The resident will be instructed in low vision examination techniques, which will include demonstrations and educational programs presented by low vision vendors.

^The PowerPoint presentations given on some Fridays by the optometry resident serve as a practice run in preparation for VA/NOVA Grand Rounds, and are scheduled a few weeks before the resident has an upcoming Grand Rounds lecture to present at. This allows for constructive criticism, and ensuring proper presentation length/timing. Although most presentations are required to be under 20 minutes, the additional time before patient care starts at 9:00 AM allows for the residency director to discuss the presentation face-to-face with the resident.

Requirements for Completion

1. Attend all clinical assignments with the exception of approved annual leave, sick leave, authorized absence, and administrative leave.
2. Complete the twelve month training program in its entirety.
3. Complete (and submit on time) all didactic and scholarly assignments including:
 - a. Professional manuscript that can be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.
 - b. All Grand Rounds PowerPoint presentations (includes but is not limited to Orlando VA Optometry Grand Rounds, Gainesville VA Optometry Grand Rounds, Nova Resident's Day).
 - c. Poster abstract submitted to AAO, AOA, or SECO conferences, including completed poster if abstract is accepted.
 - d. Attendance at all Halifax Health Medical Center Medical Grand Rounds.
 - e. Attendance at all assigned optometry or ophthalmology lectures.
 - f. Participation in weekly Journal Club.
4. Maintain an accurate and up-to-date patient encounter log through Meditrek.
5. Receive satisfactory evaluations from preceptors (includes optometrists and ophthalmologists).
6. Complete faculty and program evaluations when assigned.
7. Treat all patients, faculty, staff, and students respectfully; demonstrate good judgment to safeguard patient well-being and safety. Display exemplary professional and ethical conduct at all times.
8. Do everything possible to ensure patient privacy, including protecting personally identifiable information and maintaining a secure and protected workspace.

Certificate of Completion: the resident will be awarded a Certificate of Completion from NSU upon successful completion of the program.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Dr. Hyatt with any specific questions.