



Manchester VA Medical Center

Residency in Ocular Disease

Emphasis Areas: Glaucoma and Retina

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Nadia Zalatimo, O.D. (nadia.zalatimo@va.gov)

SITE LOCATIONS: Manchester VA Medical Center
Manchester, New Hampshire
Manchester is located 50 miles north of Boston

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: Three

ESTABLISHED: 1999

ACCREDITATION STATUS: Fully Accredited by the ACOE

This program is sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and is affiliated with the New England College of Optometry.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MANCHESTER VA OCULAR DISEASE RESIDENCY:

The mission of the Optometry Residency program at the Manchester VA Medical Center is to produce optometrists with clinical expertise in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease. The resident will develop expertise in the management of patients with multiple, complex medical conditions within a multidisciplinary health care setting. This program will provide the opportunity for advanced clinical and didactic learning that residents can apply to clinical care in many health care settings.

RESIDENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Goal 1: Clinical Care

The resident will be trained to provide advanced clinical experience in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease, including, but not limited to: glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vascular disease, cataract and anterior segment disease.

Objectives:

- The resident will be the primary provider, within residency supervision guidelines, for a high volume of patients exhibiting a variety of ocular diseases, including but not limited to: glaucoma, macular degeneration, retinal vascular disease, diabetic retinopathy, cataract and anterior segment disease.
- Develop the ability to formulate appropriate differential diagnoses for ocular disease conditions
- Become proficient in fundus photography
- Become proficient in anterior segment photography



- Become proficient in acquiring and interpreting retinal and NFL images with OCT
- Demonstrate the ability to properly select and educate patients for ophthalmic surgery, including cataract and glaucoma surgery
- Provide direct care for a significant number of glaucoma patients, including appropriate treatment and management
- Provide direct care for a significant number of patients with retinal conditions, including diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration and retinal vascular disease. This includes appropriate and timely management, including referral to a retinologist.
- Become competent in providing basic low vision care

Goal 2: Clinical Care

To develop the residents ability to function as a member of a health care team through participation in a multidisciplinary setting that provides the opportunity for the resident to provide care to patients with multiple medical problems

- Demonstrate the ability to appropriately manage patients with ocular manifestations of systemic disease, including uveitis, retinal vascular disease, neuro-ophthalmic conditions, and others.
- Demonstrate the ability to select and order appropriate laboratory tests and radiological imaging based on patient's needs and consult with other subspecialists in the management of such patients.

Goal 3: Clinical Care

To provide advanced clinical training in the co-management of patients pre/post ocular surgery.

- The resident will effectively select patients for cataract and glaucoma surgery
- The resident will effectively co-manage patients who have undergone cataract surgery

Goal 4: Educational Activities

To provide the resident with didactic and clinical educational activities to enhance their knowledge and scholarly activity beyond entry level of the profession

- Residents will participate in Optometry Conference and 4 NECO-sponsored Residency Conferences.
- Resident will complete an original case report or research project suitable for publication by the end of the program.
- Resident will have the opportunity for clinical rotation with other medical subspecialties within the medical center, including neurology, radiology, dermatology and primary care
- Attend continuing education meetings locally and nationally as approved/reasonable



Goal 5: Teaching/Instructional Activities

To develop the resident's clinical and didactic teaching skills, the resident will participate in teaching of optometry interns and other health care providers in the medical center

- Present lectures and case presentation at VA Manchester Optometry Conference
- Present a poster/paper at NECO sponsored spring residency conference
- Supervise optometry students in the clinical care of patients

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES:

The resident activities include the following:

- Provide direct care for outpatients and inpatients
- Participate and present in VA Manchester educational conferences
- Participate in rotations at external sites with ophthalmologic sub-specialists for advanced training and experience including retina, glaucoma, cornea, refractive surgery
- Participate in the education of 4th year optometry students clinical precepting
- Attend NECO conferences and other educational conferences

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:

This is a one-year residency that begins July 1 and ends June 30. The resident's hours are 7:45am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday. There are no on-call hours.

STIPEND:

The current annual salary for this position is \$39,043 paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BENEFITS:

Leave:

Vacation time: 13 days

Sick leave: 13 days

Administrative leave: Available for professional business (educational meetings, licensing exams) with approval by the Program Director

Professional liability coverage: Liability insurance is not needed while working for the VA in your capacity as a United States government employee.

Health Insurance: Health insurance is offered by the VA



RESIDENCY COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

- The resident is required to deliver patient care services at a level satisfactory to those responsible for the supervision of the program
- The resident is expected to perform in a professional manner in the delivery of patient care and to observe the properties of conduct and courtesies that are consistent with the rules and regulations governing each clinical facility at which the resident is assigned
- The resident is required to keep a detailed log of all program activities, including patient care encounters, which will be reviewed by the Program Coordinator and the Director of Residencies
- The resident is required to write a paper suitable for publication in a refereed optometric journal
- The resident will participate in periodic evaluation of resident, faculty and program performance. Upon evidence of satisfactory performance, the resident will be awarded a Certificate of Completion by the New England College of Optometry

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must hold an O.D. degree from an AOA/ACOE accredited school or college of Optometry prior to beginning the program
- Applicants must have successfully completed Parts I, II, III and TMOD of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry prior to the start of the program
- All candidates must complete the National Matching Services application:
 - www.natmach.com/ormatch. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2022
- Applicants are encouraged to contact the program director with any questions about the program. Interested candidates are welcome to visit at any time.
- Application materials include the following:
 - Cover letter
 - Curriculum vitae
 - Optometry school transcript
 - 3 letters of recommendation
 - NBEO scores, when available
- An interview, virtual or in-person is strongly encouraged
- The Department of Veterans Affairs evaluates applicants without regard to gender, race, color, creed, age, or national origin

We welcome you to visit our program at any time and would be happy to talk with you about our program. Please email or call Dr. Zalatimo with your questions or request for a virtual or in-person tour. We look forward to speaking with you about our program!



For further information on the program, or to arrange a visit, please contact:

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