



VA Medical Center, Providence, Rhode Island

Residency in Ocular Disease

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:	Amanda Hunter, OD (amanda.hunter2@va.gov) Fatima Raposo, OD
NUMBER OF POSITIONS:	Approved for 4 residents, funding currently for 2
ESTABLISHED IN:	2010
ACCREDITATION STATUS:	ACOE Accredited

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

MISSION STATEMENT:

This residency exists to provide post-graduate optometrists with opportunities to:

1. Enhance their clinical training as primary eye care providers in the outpatient clinic setting beyond the entry level of the evolving practice of optometry. This experience will prepare them to provide excellent eye care to the veteran patients that they serve as well as provide clinical experience that can be carried beyond the residency year to other health care settings.
2. Actively participate in advanced clinical and didactic education in a multidisciplinary setting in the areas of primary care, ocular disease, low vision and systemic disease. This includes direct patient care in both optometry and ophthalmology clinics, instruction of optometry trainees, interaction with other health care providers, and participation in didactic education as well as other scholarly activities.

RESIDENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The following section is designed to help you understand the mission, goals and objectives of the residency as well as how your progress towards those goals and objectives are measured. Measurement tools are included following each objective in parentheses.

Goal 1 – Clinical activities

The resident will receive advanced clinical training in the diagnosis and management of primary care/ocular disease in the veteran population.

Specific objectives/outcome as assessed by record review, patient logs and direct observation/supervision:

- a) Participate in patient care including comprehensive, follow-up, special procedures, student intern precepting and patient observation/contact in specialty clinics (measured by patient log).
- b) Demonstrate ability to properly manage patients with a large diversity of clinical



conditions. This includes but is not limited to: anterior and posterior segment disease, low vision, and traumatic brain injury/polytraumatic injury. Emphasis will be in gaining an understanding between ocular and systemic disorders. (direct observation/record review

- c) Approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of all patient encounters in direct patient care in ophthalmology in the following subspecialties: retina, cornea, glaucoma, oculoplastics, neurophthalmology, and general ophthalmology.

Goal 2 – Clinical activities

The resident will function as a member of an interdisciplinary, hospital-based team

- a) Resident will complete requests for eye care made by other health care providers (direct observation/record review).
- b) Demonstrate the ability to manage patients with multiple medical problems which may require co-management with non-optometric health care providers. This will include the order, interpretation and follow-up on the appropriate laboratory testing and imaging procedures as indicated by the eye exam. (direct observation/record review).

Goal 3 – Instructional activities

The resident will precept fourth year optometry students in the clinical setting beginning the resident's second quarter at the discretion of the Residency Coordinator(s)

- a) Actively supervise fourth year optometry students. Introduce residents to the process of student assessment (direct observation/resident activity log).
- b) Actively organize and teach specialty workshops and advanced clinical skills to optometry students (resident activity log).

Goal 4 – Educational activities

The resident will complete clinical and didactic educational assignments that enhance their clinical and scholarly experience beyond the entry level of the profession. This will include weekly optometric grand rounds, journal review, residency conferences and continuing education courses.

- a) Participate in educational programs within the Optometry Section including Optometry grand rounds and the 4 NECO sponsored residency conferences (100% attendance). This includes participating as a presenter when requested.
- b) Examine patients in Ophthalmology Retina, Neuro Ophthalmology, Glaucoma, Cornea clinics weekly.
- c) Rotate through other clinics in the hospital including; primary care, podiatry and pharmacy.
- d) Attend continuing education outside VAMC Providence as desired and reasonable.

Goal 5 – Educational Activities



The resident will actively contribute to the body of knowledge utilized in the Optometric profession.

- a) Resident will research and lead lectures and presentations pertinent to ocular disease, primary care and systemic disease (resident activity log).
- b) Resident will present two COPE approved lectures during the residency year.
- c) Resident will complete and submit a research paper, literature review or clinical case report of publishable quality to the residency coordinator(s) by the end of the residency.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES:

Residents will participate in the following activities as part of their educational experience:

1. Provide direct one on one patient care to a significant number of patients in both the optometry and ophthalmology subspecialties
2. Supervise fourth year optometry externs in the clinical care of patients
3. Rotate to medical specialty clinics within the Health Care System including; primary care, podiatry and pharmacy
4. Attend educational conferences both within the VAMC Providence and other optometric conferences.
5. Participate in weekly Optometry section grand rounds

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:

This is a one year residency that begins July 1 and ends June 30. The resident's hours are 8:00am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday, though you may be required to be present in the clinic until a later time on occasion. There are no on-call hours. Professional liability is covered for all official resident duties and assignments through the Federal Torts Reform Act.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

The current annual salary for this position is \$38,550, paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Leave is given at the rate of 4 hours of annual leave for every 2 weeks of employment, so essentially 13 paid vacation days per year. Educational leave for other professional activities are granted on a case by case basis by the Program Director. Health care benefits are available to residents and are partially subsidized by the VA.

CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION OF RESIDENCY:

1. Fulfilling the goals and objectives outlined by the residency program
2. The completion of all patient and activity logs in a timely manner
3. To complete all required evaluations in a timely manner
4. Submit a manuscript of publishable quality by the end of the residency year
5. To attend all formal NECO residency conferences
6. To complete and execute two Continuing Education courses at the Providence VA
7. To always display professional conduct as outlined in orientation materials and adherence to VA policies and procedures



8. Demonstrate competency and properly manage patients with a large diversity of clinical conditions while in the service of both optometry and ophthalmology departments

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicants must hold an O.D. degree or expected to obtain an O.D. degree from and AOA/ACOE accredited school or college of Optometry prior to beginning the program.
2. Applicants must have successfully completed Parts I, II, III and TMOD of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and furnish official copies of the results (pending CoVid guidelines).
3. Applicants are expected to seek state licensure prior to beginning the residency.
4. Must be a United States Citizen.
5. A personal interview is strongly encouraged – virtual may be substituted during CoVid.
6. Applicants must apply via the National Matching Services application www.natmatch.com/ormatch. Application deadline is January 31.
7. Three letters of recommendation are required. These should be from faculty members or preceptors the applicant has worked with in the clinical setting.
8. Applicants must also provide a letter of intent and CV
9. Official transcripts from the school or college of optometry are required.
10. The Department of Veterans Affairs evaluates applicants without regard to gender, race, color, creed, age or national origin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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