

THE DIMOCK CENTER RESIDENCY IN OCULAR DISEASE

Emphasis Areas: Community Health and Primary Care
Optometry

PROGRAM CO-COORDINATORS: Nicole Pogue, OD, FAAO and Nikita Aneja, OD, FAAO

SITE LOCATION: The Dimock Center
Eye Care Services
Roxbury, MA 02119
(617) 442-8800 ext 1230

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: One

ESTABLISHED IN: 1994

ACCREDITATION STATUS: ACOE accredited (contact accredit@theacoe.org)

A cooperative program between the New England College of Optometry (NECO) and The Dimock Center.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Residency in Ocular Disease at The Dimock Center is to provide the resident with advanced clinical training and experience in the delivery of optometric care for ocular diseases in an interdisciplinary, primary care setting. Additionally, there will be advanced and specialty training in pediatrics/vision therapy, contact lenses, and low vision. Emphasis is placed on community health and the development of the optometrist as a member of a multidisciplinary health and human service team.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Goal 1:

The resident will gain intensive experience in all areas of primary care optometry with emphasis on the management of ocular disease and complex cases.

Objectives:

- Perform comprehensive eye exams for patients of all ages
- Provide problem specific emergency care for patients with eye injuries, eye infections, etc.
- Apply standards of care and development management strategies for all areas of primary optometric care including:
 - Age appropriate minimum expected data base for comprehensive eye exams.
 - Optometric care of the patient with diabetes, hypertension, HIV, sickle cell, and hypercholesterolemia.
 - Evaluation and management of conjunctivitis, anterior uveitis and ocular injury.
 - Evaluation and management of non-strabismic binocular anomalies.



- Perform a range of contact lens fittings and follow up care to soft, rigid, and scleral contact lens patients.
- Develop an understanding of optometric standards of care.
- Develop an understanding of the principles of managed care.
- Participate in after hours on call service three weeks per month.

Goal 2:

The resident will enhance their skills and competency in the assessment and management of ocular disease

Objectives:

- Work with residency supervisor and a team of preceptors to develop clinical skills including direct supervision in the following areas:
 - Dilated fundus evaluation with 20D/BIO and slit lamp exam with various fundus lenses
 - Undilated fundus evaluation
 - Gonioscopy
 - Anterior and posterior OCT
 - Corneal topography
 - Pachymetry
 - Humphrey Visual Field Analysis
- The resident will develop advanced, beyond entry level skills through practice and/or observations in the following areas:
 - Fitting and management of specialty contact lenses including aspheric, toric, and multifocal soft and RGP lenses.
 - Pediatric and infant vision evaluations.
 - Utilize and interpret age-appropriate procedures to determine the presence and differential diagnosis for amblyopia and strabismus.
 - Utilize and interpret advanced diagnostic techniques such as OCT analysis, visual fields, and pachymetry to develop strategies for the diagnosis, management and nonsurgical treatment of glaucoma.
 - Develop strategies for evaluation and treatment of urgent and emergent clinical calls including appropriate telephone triage and coordination of emergency service referrals.
- Enhance competency in low vision and vision therapy training.
- Participate in journal clubs, seminar series, and grand rounds.
- Conduct quality assurance record audits.

Goal 3:



The resident will learn to function effectively as part of a multidisciplinary health and human service team.

Objectives:

- Participate in interdepartmental seminars and in-service trainings.
- Develop appropriate co-management and referral strategies with ophthalmology, medical services, and other patient care services.
- Work directly with glaucoma specialist at the community health center to treat and manage complex glaucoma cases.
- Develop appropriate written and verbal communication skills for interdisciplinary referrals and consultations.
- Collaborate with non-ophthalmic providers on cases requiring patient co-management.

Goal 4:

The resident will develop advanced competency in community based care.

Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of community health issues that impact care.
- Develop a culturally sensitive approach to patient care.
- Develop an understanding of health disparities.
- Participate in and possibly organize vision screenings, community programs and annual health awareness events.
- Develop and implement patient education materials and programs that improve visual health and eliminate barriers to care.
- Complete a community health project.
- Involve the resident in the development and implementation of community health initiatives designed to improve health disparities (following guidelines from Healthy People 2030, especially the vision objectives).
- Participate in community health initiatives to improve visual health and health disparities of members of the community.
- Participate in clinical research, health services research, public health research, community-based research, or scholarship relevant to the needs of the community.

Goal 5:

The resident will develop clinical instructional and precepting skills to enhance and supplement clinical skills.

Objectives:

- Provide direct clinical supervision to optometric interns.
- Develop and present clinical in-service seminars.
- Conduct journal article reviews and case presentations.

Goal 6:



The resident will gain experience in conducting scholarly and research activities including writing, publication and oral presentations.

Objectives:

- The resident will write a case report of publishable quality.
- The resident will complete a clinical research or public health project of publishable quality.
- The resident will attend all NECO Residency Conferences.
- The resident will give a formal presentation at the NECO John Asarkof Residency Conference.
- The resident will attend the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES:

Clinical and Patient Care Activities:

1. Optometric care including diagnosis, management and treatment of ocular and visual conditions.
2. Provide appropriate follow up care for their patients including coordination of any referrals or consultations necessary for optimum care.
3. Participate in biweekly ophthalmology co-management sessions working directly with the onsite ophthalmologist as well as coordinating 4th year interns for ophthalmology clinic.
4. Participate in contact lens clinic with our onsite contact lens specialist seeing and evaluating general and specialty contact lens fits.
5. Participate in specialty pediatric and infant vision examinations, along with binocular evaluations and vision training with pediatric provider on staff.
6. Participate in an offsite low vision rotation working with a low vision specialist to gain a basic understanding of a low vision exam and how to adequately fit patients with low vision devices.

Interdisciplinary Activities:

1. Participate in multidisciplinary health care teams.
2. Attend Dimock grand rounds and in-service trainings.
3. Provide written reports or referrals to internists, pediatricians and other health care providers.

Community Health Activities:

1. Participate in at least one vision screening program apart from the required semester of screenings with NECO first year students.
2. Organize Dimock's participation in at least one annual event such as Glaucoma Awareness Month, Diabetes Awareness Month, or Save Your Vision Week.
3. Review and update current patient education file materials.
4. Create at least one new patient education document.



5. Complete a publication quality manuscript involving clinical research and/or other topics pertaining to improving health disparities.

Clinical Instruction Activities:

1. Provide direct clinical supervision to optometric interns.
2. Participate in journal article review sessions with optometric interns.
3. Responsible for demonstrating specialty testing instruments to interns as needed.

Scholarly Activities:

1. Write a case report of publishable quality.
2. Design and complete a clinical research or public health project of publishable quality.
3. Submit a poster for presentation at an optometric meeting.

Didactic Activities:

1. The resident will attend quarterly NECO residency conferences and will present at the NECO John E. Asarkof Spring Residency Conference.
2. The resident will attend the annual American Academy of Optometry meeting.
3. The resident is encouraged to attend grand round presentations and other continuing education programs of interest to the resident.

RESIDENCY SCHEDULE:

The residency will be one year in length, beginning July 1 continuous through June 30. The resident is scheduled for 36 – 40 hours of clinical contact time per week.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The resident's annual stipend is \$50,000. The resident is entitled to paid leave as follows: two weeks of vacation, one week of professional development and conference time, up to eleven paid holidays and one week of sick time. Benefits include health and dental insurance, workers' compensation insurance, professional liability protection for residency related patient care, educational/travel stipend, NECO library privileges, and tuition waiver of NECO CE programs.

CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION OF RESIDENCY:

- Attend all scheduled clinic sessions as assigned (not including excused absences) and demonstrate appropriate professional conduct at all times.
- Demonstrate the necessary clinical skills, expertise and progress, as well as the appropriate professional attitudes commensurate with the program's mission, goals and objectives.
- Attend all formal NECO residency conferences and any other designated educational programs which have been selected by mutual agreement.
- Complete a scholarship project and submit the corresponding manuscript to the program director by the end of the residency year.



- Maintain an accurate patient log of all patients examined, precepted, or observed as well as a complete activity log of all related non-clinical activities during the residency year.
- Complete all program and preceptor evaluations and questionnaires as required in a timely manner.
- The resident is expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and to observe standards of behavior and conduct in accordance with guidelines established by The Dimock Center and NECO.

Periodic performance evaluations of the resident will be conducted by the clinical faculty and reviewed with the resident. Upon evidence of satisfactory completion of all requirements of the program, the resident will be awarded a certificate of completion by NECO and The Dimock Center.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Eligibility requirements:

1. The applicant must have earned an O.D. degree or will have earned such a degree prior to the start of the residency program, from an ACOE accredited school or college of optometry.
2. The applicant is expected to have taken all three parts of the National Board Examination in Optometry by the time the residency starts. Failure to pass any portion of the National Board exams could result in rescinding of acceptance into the residency program or acceptance on a contingency basis.
3. The resident is expected to obtain licensure in Massachusetts and to obtain a Massachusetts controlled substance number. Failure to obtain licensure in Massachusetts could result in dismissal of the resident.
4. The applicant should have an interest in ocular disease and a commitment to the mission of a community health center.
5. Spanish speaking candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application procedures:

Application instructions can be obtained from the ORMatch Service (ORMatch). <https://natmatch.com/ormatch/> and from Dr. Nikita Aneja, Residency co-coordinator. The application information will include the following:

1. Letter of intent/career objectives
2. Current Curriculum Vitae
3. Official optometry school transcripts
4. Official copies of NBEO results
5. Three letters of recommendation/evaluation including at least two from fourth year clinical instructors, at least one of which is in a primary care optometric setting.
6. An in-person interview is strongly encouraged.
7. Application Deadline January 31.



The program coordinator and faculty decide which candidates to rank based on clinical and academic competence, recommendations, interpersonal skills and interest in community health and ocular disease. Each faculty ranks the year's applicants and the coordinator consolidates these scores into a final ranking of applicants and submits this rank to ORMatch. The resident will be chosen based on credentials and the interview. Applicants will be evaluated without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, national origin or disabilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Nikita Aneja, OD, FAAO
Resident Co-coordinator
The Dimock Center
55 Dimock Street
Roxbury, MA 02119
(617) 442-8800 x 1230
anejan@neco.edu

