



## VA Lowell Outpatient Clinic (Boston Healthcare System)

### Residency in Ocular Disease

### Emphasis Area: Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry

<b>PROGRAM COORDINATOR:</b>	Emily Carell, OD, FAAO
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<b>SITE LOCATION:</b>	130 Marshall Road, Lowell, MA 01852
<b>NUMBER OF POSITIONS:</b>	One
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	Department of Veterans Affairs
<b>ACADEMIC AFFILIATION:</b>	The New England College of Optometry
<b>ESTABLISHED:</b>	2021
<b>ACCREDITATION:</b>	ACOE accredited (contact <a href="mailto:accredit@theacoe.org">accredit@theacoe.org</a> )

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To cultivate the growth of the optometric resident through patient care of our Veteran population with advanced ocular and systemic disease in an outpatient setting. Through one on one mentorship, the resident will develop the skills of evidence-based ocular disease treatment and management and demonstrate the role of optometry working alongside other medical providers, while engaging in didactic activities to start a career of exceptional patient care and lifelong learning.

#### **RESIDENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- To provide clinical training and exposure to patients with advanced ocular and systemic disease
  - Objective 1: The resident will provide direct patient care allowing them to develop ocular disease management and treatment skills.
  - Objective 2: The resident will utilize and become proficient in advanced techniques and equipment including gonioscopy, scleral depression, optical coherence tomography and visual field analysis.
  - Objective 3: The resident will be required to research the unfamiliar clinical conditions that they encounter.
  - Objective 4: The resident will consistently corroborate ocular and systemic conditions and involve additional medical specialties when indicated.
  - Objective 5: The resident will rotate through ophthalmic subspecialties at a local MD/OD practice to work alongside specialists, observe surgery and see a high volume of cases.
- To ensure independent analytical and management skills are developed
  - Objective 1: The resident will review each patient with the attending for the first three months.
  - Objective 2: For months three through six, the resident will consult the attending on routine exams, only if they feel it is indicated (if deemed at an appropriate level by the attending as defined in the supervision policy).



- Objective 3: For the last six months for the residency, the resident will only consult the attending on the more complicated cases, or if they feel it is indicated (if deemed at an appropriate level by the attending as defined in the supervision policy).
- To demonstrate the role of optometry in an outpatient clinic and understand how to access emergency care when needed
  - Objective 1: The resident will be in direct communication about patients with providers from other specialties within the VA as well as privately.
  - Objective 2: The resident will acquire the skills to facilitate efficient referrals to other VAs and local facilities including ophthalmology and other medical services. The resident will be responsible for ensuring this happens for their patients.
  - Objective 3: The resident will rotate through other services within the Lowell clinic to understand outpatient clinic care and other modalities of patient care.
- To foster self-study and contribution to the optometric community through scholarly activities
  - Objective 1: The resident will prepare and submit an abstract for the American Academy of Optometry Residents Day.
  - Objective 2: The resident will participate in three literature reviews, informal case reports and periodic clinical enhancement sessions (ex: case reviews, clinical skills) with the optometric students assigned to this site.
  - Objective 3: The resident will be required to attend the New England College of Optometry residency conferences and present at the final spring session.
  - Objective 4: Throughout the year, the resident will write and edit a manuscript case report of publishable quality. While not required, they will be encouraged to submit for publication to a journal of their choice by the end of the residency year.
  - Objective 5: The resident will present at least one 1-hour CE lecture for the primary care staff throughout the VISN.
- To provide teaching opportunities if they are interested in pursuing a clinical teaching career
  - Objective 1: The resident will participate in precepting of optometry students assigned to the clinic primarily during the second half of the residency.
  - Objective 2: The resident will be a resource for the students for clinical skills and concepts.

### **RESIDENT ACTIVITIES:**

- Provide outpatient primary eye care
- Complete patient evaluations requested by other providers in the clinic
- Perform advanced optometric clinical skills and result interpretation
  - Including OCT imaging including anterior and posterior segment along with OCT-angiography, fundus photography, scleral depression, automated perimetry interpretation, gonioscopy



- Utilize additional testing and imaging including laboratory results, CT, MRI and carotid ultrasounds
- Collaborate with other medical providers to expose the role of optometry and work together to provide cohesive patient care
- Be a resource for the students within the clinic for patient care, interesting cases and clinical skills
- Attend weekly Optometry Grand Rounds on Friday afternoon and NECO-sponsored educational sessions including participating in the spring residency conference
- Partake in ophthalmological rotations at local MD/OD practice
- Deliver CE lecture to the VISN Primary Care staff
- Clinical teaching option of precepting of fourth year students in the second half of the residency. Residents will also be encouraged to take on the clinical and didactic tutoring opportunities through The New England College of Optometry

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:** One year: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
**CLINIC HOURS (pending walk ins):** Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 4:30PM

**ORIENTATION:** Optional day prior to start date; mandatory day one orientation

**STIPEND:** \$50,032

**INSURANCE:**  
**Liability insurance:** Not necessary; covered while working for the VA under the Federal Tort Claims Act  
**Health insurance:** Offered through the VA

**LEAVE:**  
**Annual leave (vacation):** 13 days  
**Sick leave:** 13 days  
**Administrative leave:** Granted by Program Coordinator

- CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION OF THE RESIDENCY:**
- The resident is required to attend all scheduled clinic sessions while maintaining appropriate clinic conduct and attention to infection control rules and regulations governing the Department of Veterans Affairs and The New England College of Optometry.
  - The resident must deliver patient care at a level acceptable to the program coordinator.
  - The resident must demonstrate the advanced competencies outlined in the Residency Handbook.
  - The resident is required to maintain the provided patient log to document all patient encounters.



- The resident is required to keep an activity log of supplemental non-clinical actions.
- The resident is required to complete all didactic activities detailed in the program description.
- The resident is to complete a manuscript for publication.
- The resident will complete and review periodic evaluations in a timely manner.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. United States citizenship is required to qualify for VHA appointment in a paid VA optometry resident position funded by the Office of Academic Affiliations. Reference: VA Handbook 5005/57, Part II, Chapter 3, Paragraph 3.g.(1) & (5)(c), dated June 14, 2012.
2. Applicants must have earned an OD degree from an ACOE accredited school or college of optometry by the time of entry into residency.
3. Applicants must have taken and passed parts I, II, and III of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry prior to the completion of the residency program.
4. All resident candidates must apply through the National Matching Services application at [www.natmatch.com/ormatch](http://www.natmatch.com/ormatch). The deadline for submission will be January 31, 2024.
5. Applications must include the following:
  - Cover letter
  - Curriculum vitae
  - NBEO scores (when available)
  - Official optometry school transcript
  - 3 letters of recommendation
6. Interviews will be arranged for qualified candidates either face to face or remotely at the discretion of the program coordinator.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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or

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