



VA Manchester Health Care System

Manchester, New Hampshire

Residency in Ocular Disease

Emphasis Areas: Glaucoma and Retina

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SITE LOCATION: Manchester VA Medical Center

718 Smyth Rd

Manchester, New Hampshire

Manchester is located 50 miles north of Boston

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: Three (2 paid, 1 unpaid)

ESTABLISHED: 1999

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 VA Manchester Health Care System 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.



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- 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



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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
- Gain experience in the supervision of optometry students in the clinical care of patients. This will start after January 1 of the residency year and will be no more than 2 sessions per week

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES:

The primary activity of residents is to provide direct care to a high number of patients at the Manchester VA Medical Center. Clinic is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. Residents are expected to perform program-related activities between 40 hours per week on a 10-hour, 4 day per week tour of duty.

These activities include but are not limited to

- Provide direct care for outpatients.
- 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.
- Participate in the education of 4th year optometry students including 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. There are no on-call hours.

STIPEND:

The current annual salary for this position is \$51,635 paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BENEFITS:

Leave:

Vacation time: 10 days

Sick leave: 10 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.



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Health Insurance: Health insurance is offered by the VA

RESIDENCY COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

1. The resident is required to deliver patient care services at a level satisfactory to those responsible for the supervision of the residency program.
2. The resident is expected to perform in a professional manner in the delivery of patient care services and to observe those proprieties of conduct and courtesies that are consistent with the rules and regulations governing the Department of Veterans Affairs and The New England College of Optometry.
3. The resident is required to attend the four NECO residency conferences and other educational programs determined by mutual agreement.
4. The resident is required to present a 45-minute formal lecture in Grand Rounds at least twice during the year.
5. The resident is required to complete and submit a publishable paper
6. The resident is required to maintain an accurate patient log of all patients seen during the residency year, including major ocular diagnosis for all patients.
7. The resident is required to maintain an accurate activity log which reflects all educational activities in which the resident participated.
8. The resident is required to complete program and preceptor evaluations and questionnaires as required in a timely manner.
9. The resident is required to hold a license to practice Optometry in a state/Commonwealth.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must have earned a Doctor of Optometry from a school or college of optometry with an ACOE accreditation status prior to start of the program
- Applicants must have successfully completed Parts I, II, III of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry prior to the completion of the program
- All candidates must complete the National Matching Services application:
 - www.natmach.com/ormatch. The deadline for submission is January 30, 2026
- 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 race, sex, color, religion, or national origin



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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 or Dr. Schoorens with your questions or request for a virtual or in-person tour. We look forward to speaking with you about our program!

ACCREDITATION STATUS:

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) has granted VA Manchester Healthcare System Residency in Ocular Disease the accreditation status of "Accredited." Accredited is a classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program generally meets the Standards for accreditation. For more information, see the ACOE's website at www.theACOE.org or contact the ACOE at accredit@theacoe.org.

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

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