New England College of Optometry

CENTER FOR EYE CARE

NECO Center for Eye Care and Affiliated Sites Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Jennifer Liao, OD, FAAO, FSLS (liaoj@neco.edu)
SITE LOCATIONS: NECO Center for Eye Care-Commonwealth, Boston, MA
Other affiliated sites in the Boston area
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: Two
ESTABLISHED: 1996

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RESIDENCY IN CORNEA AND CONTACT LENSES:

The mission of the Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses at the New England College of Optometry is to produce optometrists with extensive clinical expertise in advanced contact lens fitting and management, diagnosis and management of ocular surface abnormalities and disease, and co-management in corneal and refractive surgery. Through advanced clinical education, teaching assignments and opportunities for scholarly activity, residents will be prepared for leadership careers in clinical eye care, optometric education, and clinical research.

GOALS:

- To provide a diverse, advanced clinical experience in the design and fitting of specialty and medically necessary contact lenses.
- To provide advanced clinical training in the diagnosis and management of corneal and ocular surface disease.
- To provide advanced clinical training in the co-management of post-corneal surgery.
- To provide the resident with experience in clinical and didactic teaching.
- To stimulate life-long learning and academic contributions to the profession by providing the resident with opportunities for research and other scholarly activity.
- To prepare the resident for professional careers with leadership roles in the areas of specialty contact lens care and corneal disease management (clinical practice, education, and/or research).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- To examine, fit and manage a large number of specialty contact lens patients of sufficient diversity to provide a broad-based experience in specialty contact lens types.
- To examine and manage a large number of ocular surface disease patients according to currently accepted standards of care.

- To examine and co-manage a number corneal surgery patients, including appropriate selection, counseling, and co-management according to currently accepted clinical protocols and standards of care, and appropriate contact lens fitting when indicated.
- To develop the resident's teaching skills through clinical supervision, laboratory instruction, and lecture presentations.
- To regularly participate in scholarly activity during the year, and to develop and complete an original manuscript of publishable quality.
- To develop opportunities in both clinical and research areas by expanding the residents' professional network through clinical activities and at professional meetings.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES:

The residents are expected to be engaged in residency related activities for 40 to 50 hours per week. These activities include the following:

- Direct optometric patient care to include contact lens fitting and follow-up care, diagnosis and management of anterior segment disease, and pre-operative and post-operative care of refractive surgery patients. Direct care will occur at several of the following clinical facilities:
  - NECO Center for Eye Care-Commonwealth
    - Contact lens clinic, routine and advanced care
    - Myopia Control clinic
    - Dry eye clinic
  - Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
    - Specialty contact lens clinic
    - Cornea
  - BostonSight: ocular surface disease management with the PROSE device
  - Andover Optometry on Central: private practice experience in fitting specialty contact lens
  - B&L Alden Optical, virtual technical consultation for Alden specialty lens products
  - Boston Vision: refractive and surgical pre-and-post operative care, specialty contact lens management of anterior segment conditions

- Teaching activities to include laboratory instruction in the Contact Lens courses, supervised clinical instruction in the contact lens clinic, and instructing in contact lens workshop programs.
- Scholarly activities to include quarterly educational program that incorporates journal clubs, grand rounds, or other product information; an original case report of publishable quality; and paper / poster presentations at the annual NECO Residency Conference and a national optometry conference. Other scholarly pursuits, such as a research project and publishing a paper, are encouraged.
- On-call rotation at NECO Center for Eye Care (alternating with other residents one week out of every five weeks)

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:

The residency will be one calendar year in length, beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:

The resident will receive an annual stipend of $ 51,000. In addition, the resident will receive health care benefits, two weeks (10 days) of paid vacation, no cost continuing education at the College, a travel stipend to an optometric meeting, and malpractice insurance coverage during residency activities at College affiliated sites.

CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION OF THE RESIDENCY:

- The resident is required to keep a detailed log of all program activities, which will be reviewed by the Program Coordinator and the Director of Residencies. The log will include patient demographics, services provided, level of involvement in the care of the patient, as well as document attendance of education meetings and scholarly activities. The completed log must be submitted to the Program Coordinator every three months and at the end of the residency year.
- The resident is required to attend all clinic sessions assigned, and deliver patient care services at the appropriate clinical skills, expertise and progress as determined by the clinical supervisors / preceptors.
- The resident will be expected to perform in a professional manner in the delivery of patient care services and to observe those 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 will attend all formal NECO residency conferences and any other designated educational programs during the year.
- The resident will complete all program and preceptor evaluations and questionnaires as required in a timely manner.
- The resident is required to write a paper suitable for publication in a reputable optometric journal. The paper should be based upon a suitable clinical case or the resident's original research project. The final paper is due by a determined date at the end of the residency program.
- The resident will be evaluated periodically by clinical faculty and informed of recommendations or suggestions made to enhance performance. Upon evidence of satisfactory performance in meeting all requirements of the program, the resident will be awarded a Certificate of Completion by the College.
- The resident must obtain a license to practice optometry in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Application instructions can be obtained from the Optometric Residency Match (ORMatch) at https://natmatch.com/ormatch.html or from Dr. Jennifer Liao, Residency Program Coordinator at liaoj@neco.edu.

The application deadline to the ORMatch site is **January 29, 2027**.

The application information should include the following:

- Applicants must have earned a Doctor of Optometry degree from a school or college of optometry with an ACOE accreditation status prior to the onset of the program year.
- Applicants must apply through the Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) application at www.natmatch.com/ormatch. The deadline for submission is January 29. Applications must include the following:
    1. Letter of Intent/Personal Statement
    2. Curriculum vitae
    3. Optometry school transcript (individuals invited for an interview should send official transcripts to the address below)
    4. NBEO scores
    5. Three letters of recommendation
- Applicants ideally have passed all parts of the NBEO prior to the residency start date. Any NBEO exam that has not been passed must be taken and passed prior to the end of the residency year. Individuals accepted into a residency program should obtain a license in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as early as possible in the residency year. Licensure to practice must be obtained by the end of the residency year in order to obtain a completion certificate.

The residency application committee reviews all complete applications. Personal interviews are granted to those applicants who are determined to be strong candidates.

NECO does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veteran status or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.

ACCREDITATION STATUS:

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) has granted NECO Center for Eye Care and Affiliates Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses 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 MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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