THE DIMOCK CENTER

RESIDENCY IN OCULAR DISEASE

Emphasis Areas: Community Health and Primary Care Optometry

PROGRAM CO-COORDINATORS: 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

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, 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 primary care optometry with emphasis in multiple subspecialty areas.

Objectives:

- Provider comprehensive eye examinations for patients across all age groups.
- Evaluate and manage acute and chronic ocular conditions, including urgent and emergent presentations.
- Demonstrate competency in pediatric and infant vision evaluations.
- Perform a range of contact lens fittings and follow up care to soft, rigid, and scleral contact lens patients.
- Develop competency in the evaluation and management of patients requiring low vision care.

Goal 2:

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

Objectives:

- Manage ocular manifestations of systemic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia.
- Apply evidence based clinical decision making in diagnosis and management of ocular disease.
- Work with residency supervisor and a team of preceptors to develop clinical skills including proficiency 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
- 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.

Goal 3:

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

Objectives:

- Participate in interdisciplinary seminars, case discussions, and clinical collaborations.
- Develop appropriate co-management and referral strategies with ophthalmology and other healthcare providers.
- Develop appropriate written and verbal communication skills for interdisciplinary referrals and consultations that are reviewed by the preceptor.

Goal 4:

The resident will develop advanced competency in community-based care.

Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of community health factors that influence patient care through clinical discussions.
- Demonstrate culturally sensitive patient care through respectful clinical interactions, with feedback from preceptors.
- Identify and discuss health disparities affecting the patient population.
- Develop and implement patient education materials or programs that address barriers to care and promote visual health.
- Complete a written community health project that evaluates its process, challenges, and impact on the target population.

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 at least one clinical in-service seminars.
- Participate in journal article reviews and case presentations.
- Conduct four quality assurance record audits.

Goal 6:

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

Objectives:

- The resident will complete a clinical research or public health project of publishable quality.
- The resident will submit an abstract or case report to a national conference.
- The resident will attend four NECO Residency Conferences.
- The resident will give one formal presentation at the NECO John Asark of Residency Conference.

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 contact lens clinic with our onsite contact lens specialist seeing and evaluating general and specialty contact lens fits.
4. Participate in specialty pediatric and infant vision examinations, along with binocular evaluations and vision training with pediatric provider on staff.
5. 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.
6. Participate in pre- and post-operative evaluations for LASIK, PRK, corneal Cross-Linking, and Implantable Collamer Lens surgery with Ophthalmologists and Optometrists at Boston Vision

Interdisciplinary Activities:

1. Participate in multidisciplinary health care teams.
2. Attend Dimock grand rounds and in-service trainings.
3. Prepare and present a PowerPoint session on ocular topics for the health center team
4. Provide written reports or referrals to internists, pediatricians and other health care providers.

Community Health Activities:

1. Review and update current patient education file materials.
2. Create at least one new patient education document.
3. 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. Design and complete a clinical research or public health project of publishable quality.
2. 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. Asark of 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 always demonstrate appropriate professional conduct.
- 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.
- Licensure to practice optometry in Massachusetts by the end of the residency year.

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 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.
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 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 29.

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. All ORMatch rules and processes are followed throughout the application process, match and post-match periods. 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, disabilities or any other characteristics protected under applicable federal or state law.

ACCREDITATION STATUS:

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) has granted The Dimock Center 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, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Resident Coordinator

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