# DotHouse Health

## Residency in Primary Care Optometry

## Emphasis Areas: Community Health and Ocular Disease

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Grace Jeong, O.D.
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**SITE LOCATION:** DotHouse Health
1353 Dorchester Avenue
Dorchester, MA 02122

**ESTABLISHED:** 1995

**NUMBER OF POSITIONS:** One

### INTRODUCTION:

The Eye Care Service is a busy primary eye care practice housed in a state of the art Eye Care Center within an urban multidisciplinary health center. Its providers serve several thousand Dorchester residents each year. The DotHouse Health's long standing affiliations with the New England College of Optometry and Boston Medical Center have helped assure that the providers, residents, students and staff are well trained in all aspects of primary care delivery. This state of the art training is combined with an extraordinarily diverse patient base. A commitment to clinical and educational excellence is a top priority. Patients receive the highest, most comprehensive eye care available, as evidenced by both a steady influx of new patients and regular return of previous patients. Eye Care providers are regularly involved in continuing education and consultation with colleagues in search of better techniques and practical knowledge. Monthly in-service eye seminars and specialty clinics emphasize relevant clinical issues and train providers in oral case presentations.

### DOTHOUSE RESIDENCY PROGRAM MISSION:

The mission of the Residency in Primary Care Optometry at DotHouse Health is to provide:

- A graduate optometrist with advanced training in the delivery of the full range of eye care services within a community-based multi-disciplinary health care setting.
- The resident will provide comprehensive eye care to a broad range of patients in a diverse urban eye care practice and utilize other health care services and providers within and beyond the agency. Emphasis is placed on diagnosis and treatment of the full spectrum of ocular and visual conditions.
- The resident will also participate in community health initiatives that target underserved and at-risk populations.
- This program will provide opportunities for didactic activities and scholarship and enable the resident to apply this knowledge and expertise to clinical care and life-long learning.

### PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

**GOAL 1.** To provide the resident with a wide variety of primary eye care experiences and exposure to a varied patient population resulting in a high level of excellence in the delivery of the broad diversity of eye care services.

- Objective 1A: The program curriculum will provide for direct clinical care to a wide variety of patients located within the Greater Dorchester community. The resident will achieve beyond entry-level expertise in the areas of refraction, management of binocular and accommodative disorders, ocular disease and systemic disorders, pediatric optometry and contact lenses.

Other specific clinical areas will be identified and emphasized by the resident by mutual agreement.

- Objective 1B: The resident will learn to recognize and diagnose distinctive signs and symptoms for the vast majority of normally encountered ocular diseases as well as infrequently encountered conditions and presentations. This includes learning the differential diagnosis, data analysis and appropriate testing strategies.
- Objective 1C: The resident will acquire the knowledge base and clinical expertise to determine optimal treatment and management regimens for the full range of ocular diseases. In all cases, management will include thorough patient education to increase compliance and understanding. The resident's knowledge of potential systemic and ocular side-effects of ophthalmic and common systemic agents will be strengthened.
- Objective 1D: The resident will supplement his optometric training with in-house rotations through Pediatrics and Primary Care Medicine and through external rotations in urban ophthalmology practices and other specific sites determined by mutual agreement.

**GOAL 2.** To train the resident in proactive effective decision-making and increased patient management responsibilities.

- Objective 2A. The resident will be closely supervised by the attending faculty during the first few months of the residency. There will be a phased-in process with structured interaction to ensure the highest quality of patient care and verify the resident's acquisition of relevant concepts and knowledge. Once licensure and credentialing are obtained, there will be a gradual relaxation of oversight while encouraging the resident to assume greater responsibility for patient care, case management and interprovider communication and collaboration.
- Objective 2B. Through interactions with the staff optometrists and ophthalmologists and other in-house medical providers, the resident will strengthen his skills in case analysis, case management and decision-making. The resident will learn to extend his communication channels beyond the Eye Care Service to include available human and clinical resources within and beyond the agency.
- Objective 2C. The resident will be required to communicate with referring providers and consultants. These collaborations will improve the resident's understanding of optimal patient care and its relationship to good inter-provider communication.

**GOAL 3.** To stimulate and provide guidance to the resident in the development and completion of scholarly activities and to encourage the resident to participate in clinical research and scholarship relevant to the needs of the community.

- Objective 3A. The resident will be required (in collaboration with the residency faculty) to prepare and submit an abstract for a poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the AAO.
- Objective 3B. The resident will be required to prepare and present 4 case reports during the year in the Eye Care Service Monthly Clinical Seminar series.
- Objective 3C. The resident will be required to prepare and give at least one presentation to the medical residents in the DotHouse-Boston Medical Center weekly Primary Care and Pediatric Medical Resident seminar series.
- Objective 3D. The resident will be required to give a formal presentation on a relevant community health project or topic at the Annual NECO Spring Residency Conference.
- Objective 3E. The resident will be required to complete a manuscript of publishable quality. The final paper will be submitted at or around the time of the Annual NECO Spring Residency conference.

**GOAL 4.** To reinforce learning through clinical preceptorship and clinical teaching of optometry students.

- Objective 4A. The resident will participate in periodic clinical preceptor assignments during the residency year, both within the DotHouse Eye Care Service and through community outreach activities sponsored by The New England College of Optometry Center for Eye Care.

**Goal 5.** The resident will participate in public health initiatives in order to identify and educate those members of the community who do not presently receive adequate care.

- Objective 5A: The resident will participate in at least one community health project that addresses a heath care need of an underserved segment of the Dorchester community.
- Objective 5B: The resident will complete a manuscript of publishable quality or a poster involving clinical research and/or other topics pertaining to an underserved population.

## SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

**Monday**: AM: Pediatric Outreach Screenings in fall/Patient care in spring
PM: Patient care
**Tuesday**: Patient Care: AM, PM, or Ophthalmology (once monthly)
**Weds**: Patient Care AM, Precepting PM, Pediatric resident's meeting in PM
**Thursday**: Patient Care: AM and PM
**Friday**: Patient Care: AM and PM (external rotation in fall, currently a low vision rotation)

Note: There are no on call hours expected. Elective external rotations are subject to change. They are scheduled as needed by mutual agreement and can be tailored to the resident's interests. Residents are paid a separate per diem wage by NECO for vision screenings.

## STIPEND/BENEFIT PACKAGE:

The residency year will begin on July 1 and end on June 30. The annual stipend for 2027-2028 will be $47,380, with a benefit package which includes the following: 75% of individual health care coverage, professional liability insurance, full NECO library privileges, tuition waiver at NECO-sponsored continuing education courses, an $1000 educational stipend, 10 days of earned time off (for vacation and/or sick days) and 5 days of conference time.

**Please note that the ten days of earned time off can be used for either vacation or sick time.

## RESIDENCY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. To attend all scheduled clinic sessions as assigned (not including excused absences) and always demonstrate appropriate professional conduct.
2. To demonstrate the necessary clinical skills, expertise and progress, as well as the appropriate professional attitudes that commensurate with the program's mission, goals and objectives.
3. To attend all formal NECO residency conferences and any other designated educational programs which have been selected by mutual agreement.
4. To complete a scholarship project and submit the corresponding manuscript to the program director by the end of the residency year.
5. To maintain an accurate Patient Log of all patients examined or precepted by the resident as well as a complete Activity Log of all related non-clinical activities during the residency year.

6. To complete all program and preceptor evaluations and questionnaires as required in a timely manner.
7. The resident must obtain a license to practice optometry in Massachusetts by the end of the residency year to be awarded a completion certificate

## MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- 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.
- Successful completion of National Boards Parts I, II and III prior to start of residency
- Applicants must be eligible for optometric licensure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the earliest opportunity. The resident must obtain a license to practice optometry in Massachusetts by the end of the residency year to be awarded a completion certificate.
- Applicants must be available for a personal interview, which may be virtual if in-person is not feasible
- Candidates must apply through ORMatch: www.natmatch.com/ormatch

Applicants should submit the following materials in a timely manner:
-Current curriculum vitae
-Letter of intent
-Official optometry school transcripts
-Official NBEO scores
-3 letters of recommendation

Application Deadline: January 29, 2027

The residency coordinator is notified of applicants through the ORMatch program, administered by National Matching Services. The residency coordinator and assistant residency coordinator assess the completed applications that are submitted through ORMatch and determine which applicants will be invited to interview. Applicants are interviewed by the residency coordinators, current resident and residency faculty who then discuss each candidate and their strengths and weaknesses to jointly determine the DotHouse final ranking. The rank order is submitted to ORMatch by the residency coordinator.

Beyond the set of core requirements, candidates who have distinguished themselves in other areas will enhance their chances of acceptance into this program. Candidates who have unique clinical expertise and are highly proactive and eager to learn are likely to receive additional consideration in the selection process. The successful candidate will demonstrate a strong interest in and commitment to community health optometry. Interpersonal skills, academic performance, clinical experience, and motivational level are strongly considered.

It is the policy of the DHH that all decisions concerning employment are made without regard to the race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex/gender (including pregnancy status, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, handicap or disability, veteran or parental status of the applicant)

## ACCREDITATION STATUS:

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) has granted DotHouse Health Residency in Primary Care Optometry 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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