VA Lowell Outpatient Clinic (Boston Healthcare System)

Residency in Ocular Disease
Emphasis Area: Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Emily Carell, OD, FAAO
CONTACT/EMAIL: Emily.Carell@va.gov
CONTACT/PHONE: 978-671-9125
SITE LOCATION: 130 Marshall Road, Lowell, MA 01852
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: One
SPONSOR: Department of Veterans Affairs
ACADEMIC AFFILIATION: The New England College of Optometry
ESTABLISHED: 2021

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

Goal 1: The resident will develop advanced competency managing patients with ocular disease.

Objective 1A: The resident will evaluate and manage many patients with a range of ocular disease.

Outcome: The resident will participate in a minimum of 1000 patient encounters with at least half having been diagnosed with an ocular disease.

Objective 1B: The resident will develop advanced competency in managing patients presenting for comprehensive care and problem specific visits, the majority with ocular disease.

Outcome: The resident will demonstrate the ability to appropriately assess and manage patients presenting with diabetes, glaucoma, macula disease, vitreoretinal, optic nerve and anterior segment pathology with advanced competency.

Objective 1C: The resident will develop advanced competency in the techniques required for ocular disease management.

Outcome: The resident will demonstrate the ability to complete and analyze dilated and undilated exams including scleral depression, OCT and OCT angiography, visual fields, gonioscopy and Pentacam imaging.

Objective 1D: The resident will incorporate culturally sensitive patient education and shared decision making into their clinical encounters.

Outcome: The resident will provide patient-centered education that will be

monitored by program faculty as described in the supervision policy and assessed by faculty through periodic evaluations.

Goal Two: The resident will collaborate and communicate with other health care disciplines and demonstrate the role of optometry in patient care.

Objective 2A: The resident will demonstrate the ability to coordinate care and effectively communicate with the interdisciplinary team to maximize patient outcomes.

Objective 2B: 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. These rotations will include glaucoma, retina, oculoplastics and anterior segment/cornea.

Objective 2C: The resident will provide at least one lecture to primary care and clinical staff about eye care related to the primary care provider. The resident will have the option to rotate through other services within the Lowell outpatient clinic.

Goal Three: The resident will perform evidence based, independent care in ocular disease.

Objective 3A: The resident will demonstrate the ability to apply evidence-based clinical decision making into their patient care decisions, which will be confirmed with daily preceptorship and periodic chart reviews.

Objective 3B: The resident will attend and contribute to literature reviews at Optometry rounds.

Objective 3C: The resident will gain autonomy while being supported by the residency faculty, as outlined in the handbook.

Goal Four: The resident will complete didactic requirements throughout the residency year to develop advanced competencies in ocular disease.

Objective 4A: The residents will attend at least one national conference (ex. AAO) during their residency year.

Objective 4B: The resident will attend and contribute informal case reports at Optometry rounds.

Objective 4C: The resident will attend and participate in the NECO Residency Conferences.

Objective 4D: The resident will attend the majority of Optometry Grand Rounds sessions.

Goal Five: The resident will participate in scholarly activities to enhance the optometric profession in ocular disease and cultivate life-long learning skills.

Objective 5A: The resident will deliver two 1-hour CE lectures at Optometry Grand Rounds.

Objective 5B: The resident will develop and deliver a presentation at the NECO Spring Residency Conference.

Objective 5C: The resident will prepare and submit an abstract for the American Academy of Optometry Residents Day.

Objective 5D: The resident will research and write a publishable quality paper during the residency year.

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 undilated and dilated exams, 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, neuroimaging 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
- Deliver two 1-hour CE lectures at Optometry Grand Rounds
- Partake in ophthalmological rotations at local MD/OD practice
- Clinical teaching option (precepting 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, 2027 through June 30, 2028
CLINIC HOURS (pending walk ins):	Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 4:30PM No on-call hours
ORIENTATION:	Optional on-site orientation day with current resident prior to 7/1 start date; mandatory day one orientation at West Roxbury campus
STIPEND:	$52,150
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 (requested 65 days in advance)
Sick leave:	13 days
Administrative leave:	Granted by Program Coordinator

CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION OF THE RESIDENCY

- Demonstration of the advanced clinical skills, knowledge and expertise required to meet the goals and objectives of the program, as determined by the program coordinator and faculty.
- Attendance to all scheduled clinic sessions with professional conduct.
- Completion of didactic activities defined by the program curriculum, including attendance at the NECO residency conferences.
- Completion of the scholarly activities defined by the program curriculum, including CE lectures at two rounds sessions, academy submission, writing a paper of publishable quality and presenting at the end of year residency conference.
- Documentation of all clinical activities through maintenance of an accurate patient log.
- Documentation of all didactic and scholarly activities through maintenance of an accurate activity log.
- Completion of all required residency evaluations in a timely manner.
- Licensure to practice optometry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States by the end of the residency year.

Upon meeting all completion requirements of the program, the resident will be awarded a Certificate of Completion by the New England College of Optometry.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 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.
- 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 have taken and passed parts I, II, and III of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry ideally prior to the residency start date, but absolutely prior to the completion of the residency program.
- All residency candidates must apply through the National Matching Services application at www.natmatch.com/ormatch. The deadline for submission will be January 29th.
- Applications must include the following:
    - Letter of Intent/Personal Statement
    - Curriculum vitae
    - NBEO scores (when available)
    - Official optometry school transcript
    - Three letters of recommendation
- Interviews will be arranged for qualified candidates either face to face or remotely at the discretion of the program coordinator.
- Individuals accepted into a residency program should obtain a license to practice optometry as early as possible in the residency year. Licensure in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States must be obtained by the end of the residency year in order to obtain a completion certificate.

SELECTION PROCESS

The participating institutions and VA comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Public Law 104-91, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and all related regulations, and assures that they do not, and will not, discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, or age under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

1. The residency program coordinator and faculty review the applications received and determine which candidates will be invited to an interview. Onsite interviews are preferred, but virtual interviews may be granted at the discretion of the program coordinator.
2. After completion of the interviews, the residency coordinator ranks the applicants based on their application and interview performance. Emphasis is placed on clinical and academic credentials, letters of recommendation, interpersonal skills and interest in the program. Rankings are submitted to ORMatch by the deadline. All ORMatch rules and processes are followed throughout the application process, match and post-match periods.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) has granted VA Lowell Outpatient Clinic (VA Boston 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, PLEASE CONTACT:

Emily Carell, OD, FAAO
Program Coordinator
Lowell CBOC
130 Marshall Road
Lowell, MA 01852
Phone: 978-671-9125
Email: Emily.Carell@va.gov

or

Nicole Quinn, OD, FAAO
Director of Residencies
New England College of Optometry
424 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 587-5752
QuinnN@neco.edu