VA Medical Center, Providence, Rhode Island

Residency in Ocular Disease

PROGRAM DIRECTORS: Amanda Hunter, OD (amanda.hunter2@va.gov)
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NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 4 residents
ESTABLISHED IN: 2010

This program is sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and is affiliated with New England College of Optometry.

MISSION STATEMENT:
This residency exists to provide post-graduate optometrists with opportunities to:

1. Enhance their clinical training in optometry with a focus on ocular disease in the outpatient clinic setting beyond the entry level of the evolving practice of optometry. This experience will prepare them to provide excellent eye care to the veteran patients that they serve as well as provide clinical experience that can be carried beyond the residency year to other health care settings.
2. Actively participate in advanced clinical and didactic education in a multidisciplinary setting in the areas of ocular disease, primary eye care, low vision and systemic disease. This includes direct patient care in both optometry and ophthalmology clinics, instruction of optometry trainees, interaction with other health care providers, and participation in didactic education as well as other scholarly activities.

RESIDENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
The following section is designed to help you understand the mission, goals and objectives of the residency as well as how your progress towards those goals and objectives are measured. Measurement tools are included following each objective in parentheses.

Goal 1 – Clinical activities

The resident will receive advanced clinical training in the diagnosis and management of primary care/ocular disease in the veteran population.

Specific objectives/outcome as assessed by record review, patient logs and direct observation/supervision:

a) Demonstrate ability to properly manage patients with a large diversity of clinical conditions. This includes but is not limited to: anterior and posterior segment disease, low vision, and traumatic brain injury/polytraumatic injury. Emphasis will be in gaining an understanding between ocular and systemic disorders. (direct observation/record review)

b) Approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of all patient encounters in DIRECT patient care in ophthalmology in the following subspecialties: retina, cornea, glaucoma, oculoplastics, neurophthalmology, and general ophthalmology.
c) Participate in patient care including comprehensive, follow-up, special procedures, student intern precepting and patient observation/contact in specialty clinics (measured by patient log).

Goal 2 – Clinical activities

The resident will function as a member of an interdisciplinary, hospital-based team

a) Resident will complete requests for eye care made by other health care providers (direct observation/record review).
b) Demonstrate the ability to manage patients with multiple medical problems which may require co-management with non-optometric health care providers. This will include the order, interpretation and follow-up on the appropriate laboratory testing and imaging procedures as indicated by the eye exam. (direct observation/record review).

Goal 3 – Instructional activities

The resident will precept fourth year optometry students in the clinical setting beginning the resident's second quarter at the discretion of the Residency Coordinator(s)

a) Actively supervise fourth year optometry students. Introduce residents to the process of student assessment (direct observation/resident activity log).
b) Actively organize and teach specialty workshops and advanced clinical skills to optometry students (resident activity log).

Goal 4 – Educational activities

The resident will complete clinical and didactic educational assignments that enhance their clinical and scholarly experience beyond the entry level of the profession. This will include weekly optometric grand rounds, journal review, residency conferences and continuing education courses.

a) Participate in educational programs within the Optometry Section including Optometry grand rounds and the 4 NECO sponsored residency conferences (100% attendance). This includes participating as a presenter when requested.
b) Examine patients in Ophthalmology Retina, Neuro Ophthalmology, Glaucoma, Cornea clinics weekly.
c) Rotate through other clinics in the hospital including; primary care, podiatry and pharmacy (optional).
d) Attend continuing education outside VAMC Providence as desired and reasonable.

Goal 5 – Educational Activities

The resident will actively contribute to the body of knowledge utilized in the Optometric profession.

a) Resident will research and lead lectures and presentations pertinent to ocular disease, primary care and systemic disease (resident activity log).
b) Resident will present two continuing education lectures during the residency year.
c) Resident will complete and submit a research paper, literature review or clinical case report of publishable quality to the residency coordinator(s) by the end of the residency.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES:

Residents will participate in the following activities as part of their educational experience:

1. Provide direct one on one patient care to a significant number of patients in optometry
2. Provide direct one on one patient care to a significant number of patients in ophthalmology subspecialties of retina, cornea, neuroophthalmolgy, oculoplastics, advanced glaucoma, and general ophthalmology
3. Supervise fourth year optometry externs in the clinical care of patients
4. Rotate to medical specialty clinics within the Health Care System including; primary care, podiatry and pharmacy (optional)
5. Attend educational conferences both within the VAMC Providence and other optometric conferences.
6. Participate in weekly Optometry section grand rounds

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:

This is a one year residency that begins July 1 and ends June 30. The resident's hours are 8:00am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday, though you may be required to be present in the clinic until a later time on occasion. There are no on-call hours. Professional liability is covered for all official resident duties and assignments through the Federal Torts Reform Act.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

The current annual salary for this position is $52,150 paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Leave is given at the rate of 4 hours of annual leave for every 2 weeks of employment, so essentially 13 paid vacation days per year. Educational leave for other professional activities are granted on a case by case basis by the Program Director. Health care benefits are available to residents and are partially subsidized by the VA.

CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION OF RESIDENCY:

1. 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.
2. Attendance to all scheduled clinic sessions with professional conduct demonstrated at all times.
3. Completion of didactic activities defined by the program curriculum, including attendance at the NECO residency conferences.

4. Completion of the scholarly activities defined by the program curriculum, including presenting two Continuing Education courses at the Providence VA writing a paper of publishable quality, and presenting at the end of year residency conference.
5. Documentation of all clinical activities through maintenance of an accurate patient log.
6. Documentation of all didactic and scholarly activities through maintenance of an accurate activity log.
7. Completion of all required residency evaluations in a timely manner.
8. 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:

1. 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.
2. Applicants must have successfully completed Parts I, II, III and TMOD of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and furnish official copies of the results by the completion of their residency year.
3. Applicants are expected to seek state licensure prior to beginning the residency.
4. Must be a United States Citizen.
5. Applicants must apply via the National Matching Services application www.natmatch.com/ormatch. Application deadline is January 29.
6. Three letters of recommendation are required. These should be from faculty members or preceptors the applicant has worked with in the clinical setting.
7. Applicants must also provide a letter of intent and CV
8. Official transcripts from the school or college of optometry are required.

SELECTION PROCESS:

- The residency program coordinator and faculty review the applications received and determine which candidates will be invited to a personal interview. Onsite interviews are preferred, but virtual interviews may be granted at the discretion of the program coordinator.
- After completion of the interviews, the residency coordinators rank 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.
- The Providence VA Medical Center as well as the New England College of Optometry 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 VA Providence 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 MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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