RESIDENCY IN OCULAR DISEASE/PRIMARY EYE CARE
VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

PROGRAM CO-DIRECTORS:
Jamaica Plain: Tak Chau, OD
West Roxbury: Lisa Fanciullo, OD
Brockton: Kevin Toolin, OD

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: Nine (9)

RESIDENTS WILL BE PRIMARILY BASED AT ONE CAMPUS AS OUTLINED BELOW:
3 at Jamaica Plain
2 at West Roxbury
4 at Brockton

This program is jointly sponsored by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the New England College of Optometry.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The mission of the Optometry Residency Program at the VA Boston Healthcare System is to foster the residents’ development of advanced diagnostic and patient management skills in the care of patients with visual problems, ocular disease, and ocular manifestations of systemic disease in a multidisciplinary hospital-based setting. This is accomplished by mentored clinical training and facilitation of resident involvement in an interdisciplinary approach to patient care and is supported by a strong didactic curriculum.

RESIDENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
- Train optometrists in advanced competency in primary and secondary eye care services.
- Develop the residents’ diagnostic and patient management skills in the care of patients with visual problems, ocular disease, and ocular manifestations of systemic disease in a hospital-based setting.
- Develop the residents’ ability to function as a member of a health care team through participation in an interdisciplinary health delivery system.
- Promote critical thinking and facility with clinical research methods and tools by requiring the residents to present case reports, formal lectures, and a poster at a regional or national optometric conference and to prepare a publication quality manuscript.
- Prepare interested candidates for a career in clinical teaching.
RESIDENT ACTIVITIES:

- Provision of primary optometric care to both outpatients and inpatients.
- Provide support to the emergency room and respond to emergent inpatient consultation requests.
- Provide after-hours on-call coverage to the hospital for all eye care needs presenting after normal business hours.
- **Advanced Skills:** Residents are trained in pachymetry, gonioscopy, scleral depression, fundus contact lens exam, automated perimetry interpretation, anterior and posterior segment OCT, fluorescein angiography interpretation, slit lamp and fundus photography, and B-scan ultrasound.
- **Glaucoma:** Residents rotate to the VA Boston Glaucoma Service where they examine patients in conjunction with a glaucoma specialist from the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. This rotation offers experience in the medical management of all forms and stages of glaucoma as well as post-operative care of patients who have undergone various surgical interventions for their disease.
- **Retina:** Residents rotate through the VA Boston Retina Service where they work side-by-side with retina fellows and ophthalmology residents. Exposure to fundus angiography (FA/ICG) and OCT enhances their understanding of disease processes. Residents also rotate to the retina service at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston where they care for a wide demographic of retina patients and participate in office procedures including laser photocoagulation, pneumatic retinopexy, cryoretinopexy, and intravitreal injections.
- **Cornea:** Residents rotate through VA Boston Cornea Service where they are guided by cornea specialists in the care of patients with advanced surface disease and other corneal pathologies. Post-operative care of cornea patients is conducted in a collaborative fashion. Additionally, residents rotate through the Boston Foundation for Sight where they are exposed to an international patient base contending with advanced and uncommon surface pathologies (e.g. graft versus host disease, Stevens Johnson syndrome) and acquire an appreciation of the utility of the scleral contact lens.
- **Uveitis:** Residents rotate through VA Boston Uveitis Clinic where they are supervised by a Fellowship-trained Ocular Immunologist.
- **Post-op Cataract Care:** Residents rotate to Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston, a large, private, internationally renowned ophthalmology consortium in Boston. Residents observe surgery in the operating suite and are involved in the post-operative assessment of cataract patients.
- **Opportunity to collaborate with various medical and surgical subspecialties** including neurology, neurosurgery, vascular, geriatrics, and dermatology. A close working relationship with primary care physicians, sub-specialists, and other health care providers produces an environment fostering growth of knowledge in the area of systemic diseases and associated ocular manifestations and facilitates an appreciation for the complete package of care required to manage complex issues.
- **Clinical Teaching:**
  a) Residents may supervise optometry students in the second half of the year.
  b) Residents participate in the education of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, medical residents, and other sub-specialists rotating through the eye clinic and/or collaborating on individual cases.
  c) Paid clinical and didactic tutoring opportunities have been available through the New England College of Optometry.
- **Didactic Activities:**
  a) In-House Optometry Grand Rounds every Friday afternoon
  b) Thrice yearly Literature Review
  c) In-House Medical and Surgical Rounds/Panel Case Discussions
  d) NECO-sponsored educational sessions
- **Academic Challenges:**
  a) case reports
  b) formal lectures
c) a poster presentation at a regional or national meeting

d) a publication quality manuscript.

**TIME COMMITMENT:**
This residency is one calendar year in length, commencing on July 1, 2016 and running through June 30, 2017
Clinic hours are M-F 8:00AM to 5:00PM, excepting emergencies. Each resident is on-call every 9th week.

**STIPEND:**
The current salary is $34,944

**PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE:**
Liability insurance is not needed while working for the VA in your capacity as a United States government employee, therefore, the VA does not provide liability insurance. While at NECO affiliated clinics, coverage is provided under the College's umbrella policy.

**HEALTH BENEFITS:**
Health insurance benefits are offered through the VA.

**LEAVE:**
Annual leave (vacation): 13 days
Sick leave: 13 days
Administrative leave: Official business, such as taking a state licensing exam or attending an educational meeting, can be requested as administrative leave (not charged against vacation time) and is usually granted if not excessive or in conflict with our ability to provide patient care.

**CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION OF THE RESIDENCY:**
1. The resident is required to deliver patient care services at a level satisfactory to those responsible for the supervision of the residency program.
2. The resident is expected to perform in a professional manner in the delivery of patient care services and to observe those proprieties of conduct and courtesies that are consistent with the rules and regulations governing the Department of Veterans Affairs and the College.
3. The resident is required to keep a log of all patient care encounters, specifying if referral for subspecialty care was needed.
4. The resident is required to participate in the didactic activities enumerated above and to complete all required academic work in a satisfactory manner.
Periodic evaluations will take place to ensure that appropriate progress is being made and that all deficiencies are addressed in a timely manner.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- While there is no discrimination based on gender, age, race, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, 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 an OD degree from an accredited school or college of optometry by the time of entry into residency.
- Applicants must have taken and passed the TMOD and Basic and Clinical Science examinations of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.
- All resident candidates must complete the National Matching Services application:
  - www.natmatch.com/ormatch. The deadline for submission will be January 29, 2016.
- Candidates must submit the following to our application coordinator (See below.):
  a) cover letter
  b) curriculum vitae
  c) NBEO scores
  d) official copy of optometry school transcript
  e) 3 letters of recommendation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Gerald Selvin, OD
Chief, Optometry Section
Application Coordinator
VA Boston Healthcare System
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