RESIDENCY IN PRIMARY EYE CARE/LOW VISION REHABILITATION
VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Jennifer A. Gustafson, OD, FAAO
PROGRAM SITES: VA Boston Healthcare System and local affiliated sites
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: One

MISSION STATEMENT:
The mission of the Optometric Residency in Primary Eye Care/Low Vision Rehabilitation is to provide comprehensive training in the delivery of highest quality, compassionate Primary Eye Care and Vision Rehabilitation services in a hospital-based environment. The Residency will provide advanced clinical training and opportunities for clinical teaching, educational activities, and didactic learning to cultivate understanding and proficiency in providing full-scope primary eye care and tertiary low vision care.

RESIDENCY GOALS:
Goal One: The resident will acquire advanced competency in primary eye care in a hospital-based outpatient setting.
Objectives:
1. The resident will acquire competency in managing the patient in a primary eye care setting.
2. The resident will develop expertise in the diagnosis and management of a large variety of clinical conditions within ocular disease, including anterior and posterior segment conditions, glaucoma, and acquired (mainly traumatic) brain injury.

Goal Two: The resident will be trained in specialty clinics (i.e. Retina, Cornea, Glaucoma, Uveitis) in order to gain knowledge of advanced diagnoses and treatment options, as well as a firm understanding of how ocular pathologies and anomalies relate to visual function.
Objective:
1. The resident will rotate through specialty ophthalmology clinics at the Jamaica Plain campus and/or other sites off campus.

Goal Three: The resident will gain extensive clinical experience in primary and advanced low vision care to adults in an outpatient hospital setting, as part of an interdisciplinary team.
Objectives:
1. The resident will gain facility in examining and managing visually impaired and legally blind patients with a variety of conditions and functional deficits.
2. The resident will complete requests for eye care encounters made by other health care providers.
3. The resident will participate in the development of rehabilitation plans as part of an interdisciplinary team.

**Goal Four:** The resident will rotate through external low vision clinics in order to gain additional experience in providing low vision care to patients in other settings such as private practice, pediatrics, and/or inpatient care.

Objective:
1. The resident will rotate through external clinics and participate in the evaluation and treatment of patients with low vision and blindness in other settings outside the VA.

**Goal Five:** The resident will screen, diagnose and treat visual abnormalities from acquired brain injury.

Objective:
1. The resident will gain facility in screening, diagnosing, and managing visual sequelae related to acquired brain injury.

**Goal Six:** The resident will participate in a wide range of didactic experiences, to foster critical thinking and set a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Objectives:
1. The resident will attend weekly optometry grand rounds, continuing education courses, and other didactic activities including New England College of Optometry residency conferences.
2. The resident will periodically present case reports during optometry grand rounds.
3. The resident will develop habits of lifelong learning and critical thinking through review of ophthalmic literature, which the resident shall present at optometry grand rounds.

**Goal Seven:** The resident will participate in scholarly activities that encourage scholastic contributions.

Objectives:
1. The resident will participate in formal low vision instruction to optometry students in a laboratory/classroom setting.
2. The resident will complete a submission of an abstract and/or poster presentation at a regional or national meeting.
3. The resident will complete and submit a research paper, literature review, or clinical case reports of publishable quality to the residency coordinator by the end of the residency.
Goal Eight: The resident will participate in clinical precepting of optometric interns.

Objective:
1. The resident will precept fourth year optometry interns in the clinical setting at the discretion of the Residency Coordinator(s).

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:
The residency is one year in length commencing July 1st and ending June 30th of the following year.

WEEKLY HOURS AND ON-CALL DUTIES:
The resident is responsible for 40 duty hours per week. Regular clinic hours are M-F 8:00AM to 5:00 PM, excepting emergencies.

FINANCIAL DETAILS:
The current salary is $34,944.

HEALTH BENEFITS:
Medical health insurance benefits are offered through the VA.

LEAVE:
Each pay period (2 weeks), the resident earns 4 hours of Annual Leave (vacation time) and 4 hours of Sick Leave, for a total of 13 days paid Annual Leave and 13 days paid Sick Leave per year.

Official business, such as taking a state licensing exam or attending an educational meeting, can be requested as administrative leave (not charged against annual leave) and is usually granted if not excessive or in conflict with the clinic’s ability to provide patient care.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY PROTECTION:
Liability insurance is not needed as the resident practices as a United States government employee and is covered by the Federal Tort Claims Act.

CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION OF RESIDENCY:
Deliver patient care services in both the primary care optometry clinic and the low vision rehabilitation clinic at a level deemed satisfactory by the clinical supervisors, and consistent with the rules and regulations governing the Department of Veterans Affairs and the College. Maintain a detailed and accurate log of all patient care encounters. Complete all didactic and non-clinical activities, including all formal NECO residency conferences. Complete a publishable quality paper. Complete all NECO program and preceptor evaluations and surveys as required.
A certificate of completion from the New England College of Optometry and the Department of Veterans Affairs will be presented upon completion.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**
1) The applicant must be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for residency consideration in a VA Medical Center.
2) An O.D. degree from an accredited school or college of optometry
3) Successful completion of Parts I and II of the NBEO examinations, including TMOD

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**
- Applications are submitted through the Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) at: [https://natmatch.com/ormatch.html](https://natmatch.com/ormatch.html) by **January 29, 2016**. Final ORMatch rank order lists are needed by February 26, 2016.
- Candidates must submit the following to the program (contact information below):
  1) Cover Letter
  2) Curriculum vitae
  3) Official NBEO scores
  4) Official transcripts of optometric education
  5) Three letters of recommendation

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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