RESIDENCY IN OCULAR DISEASE
MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Nadia Zalatimo, O.D.

SITE LOCATION: Manchester VA Medical Center
Manchester, New Hampshire
Manchester is located 50 miles north of Boston

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: Two

ESTABLISHED IN: 1999

ACCREDITATION STATUS: Fully Accredited by the ACOE

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

MISSION:
The mission of the Optometry Residency program at the Manchester VA Medical Center is to produce optometrists with clinical expertise in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease. The resident will develop expertise in the management of patients with multiple, complex medical conditions within a multidisciplinary health care setting. This program will provide the opportunity for advanced clinical and didactic learning that residents can apply to clinical care in many health care settings.

RESIDENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Goal 1: Clinical Care
The resident will be trained to provide advanced clinical experience in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease, including, but not limited to: glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vascular disease, cataract and anterior segment disease.

Objectives will be assessed by patient logs, record review and supervision.
  a. Participate in at least 1350 patient encounters
  b. Demonstrate the ability to formulate and appropriate differential diagnosis of ocular disease (record review and discussion)
  c. Become proficient in fundus photography (direct observation)
     Attending optometrist will review at least 20 photographs within the first 6 months of the program
d. Become proficient in anterior segment photography (direct observation) Attending optometrist will review at least 10 photographs within the first 6 months of the program

e. Become proficient in acquiring and interpreting retinal and NFL images with OCT (direct observation and discussion) Attending optometrist will review at least 20 photographs within the first 6 months of the program

f. Demonstrate the ability to properly select and educate patients for cataract or glaucoma surgery (patient log)

g. Provide direct care for a significant number of glaucoma patients, including appropriate treatment and management. Minimum of 200 cases.

h. Provide direct care for a significant number of patients with retinal conditions, including diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration and retinal vascular disease. This includes appropriate and timely management, including referral to retinal specialist. Minimum of 50 cases in the first 6 months.

i. Become competent in providing basic low vision care
   This includes proper referral to low vision, low vision examination and patient education/training with devices for at least 15 patient encounters (assessed by direct observation/supervision and patient log)

Goal 2: Clinical Care
To develop the resident's ability to function as a member of a health care team through participation in a multidisciplinary setting that provides the opportunity for the resident to provide care to patients with multiple medical problems

   a. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately manage patients with ocular manifestations of systemic disease, including uveitis, retinal vascular disease, neuro-ophthalmic conditions, and others (patient log)
   b. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately order laboratory tests and radiological imaging based on patient conditions, and consult with other subspecialists in the management of such patients (patient log)

Goal 3: Educational Activities
The resident will complete didactic and clinical educational activities to enhance their knowledge and scholarly activity beyond entry level of the profession

   a. Residents will participate in weekly Optometry Conference (90% attendance) and the 4 NECO-sponsored Residency Conferences.
   b. Resident will complete an original case report or research project suitable for publication by the end of the program.
   c. Examine and discuss complex retinal cases with glaucoma subspecialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston
Goal 4: Teaching/Instructional Activities
The resident will participate in didactic and clinical teaching of optometry interns and other health care providers in the medical center

   a. Present lectures and case presentation at Optometry Conference (minimum of monthly)
   b. Opportunity given to lecture at the NH Optometric Association Spring meeting
   c. a. Present (poster/paper) at NECO sponsored spring residency conference
   d. b. Supervise optometry students in the clinical care of patients

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES:
The resident activities include the following:

- Provide direct care for outpatients and inpatients
- Participate in the education of 4th year optometry students via clinical precepting
- Participate in rotations at external sites with ophthalmologic sub-specialists for advanced training and experience including retina, glaucoma, cornea, refractive surgery
- Participate and present in VA Manchester educational conferences, including weekly conference, journal club and grand rounds
- Attend NECO conferences and other educational conferences

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:
This is a one year residency that begins July 1 and ends June 30. The resident’s hours are 7:45am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday. There are no on-call hours.

STIPEND:
The current annual salary for this position is $34,944 paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BENEFITS:

Leave:
   Vacation time: 13 days, accrued at the rate of 4 hours every 2 weeks
   Sick leave: 13 days
   Administrative leave: Available for professional business with approval by the Program Director
**Professional liability coverage:** Provided for all official duties by the VA through the Federal Torts Reform Act.

**Health Insurance:** Health insurance is offered.

**RESIDENCY COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:**

- The resident is required to deliver patient care services at a level satisfactory to those responsible for the supervision of the program
- The resident is expected to perform in a professional manner in the delivery of patient care and to observe the properties of conduct and courtesies that are consistent with the rules and regulations governing each clinical facility at which the resident is assigned
- The resident is required to keep a detailed log of all program activities, including patient care encounters, which will be reviewed by the Program Coordinator and the Director of Residencies
- The resident is required to write a paper suitable for publication in a refereed optometric journal
- The resident will participate in periodic evaluation of resident, faculty and program performance. Upon evidence of satisfactory performance, the resident will be awarded a Certificate of Completion by the New England College of Optometry

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Application instructions can be found at the ORMatch Service. [www.natmatch.com](http://www.natmatch.com) or from Dr Zalatimo. The application deadline is **January 29, 2016**.

- Applicants must hold an O.D. degree from an AOA/ACOE accredited school or college of Optometry prior to beginning the program
- Applicants must have successfully completed Parts I, II, II and TMOD of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and furnish official copies of the results
- Preference is given to United States citizens. Foreign citizens can considered if no qualified US citizens are available to fill the position
- Applicants are expected to seek state licensure prior to the start of the residency
- Three letters of recommendation are required. Letters should be from faculty members or preceptors the applicant has worked with in the clinical setting
- Official transcripts from the school/college of optometry are required
- A personal interview is strongly encouraged
- The Department of Veterans Affairs evaluates applicants without regard to gender, race, color, creed, age, or national origin

For further information on the program, or to arrange a visit, please contact:
Dr. Nadia Zalatimo  
Residency Program Director  
Manchester VA Medical Center  
718 Smyth Road  
Eye Clinic  
Manchester, NH 03104  
Phone: 800-892-8384 x6675  
Email: nadia.zalatimo@va.gov  

or

Dr. Douglas Hoffman  
Director of Residencies  
The New England College of Optometry  
The New England Eye Institute  
940 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 2  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
email: hoffmand@neco.edu

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