

Primary Care and Ocular Disease Residency

Category Title: Primary Care Optometry
Program Area of Emphasis: Ocular Disease

The mission of this Residency in Primary Care and Ocular Disease at James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center is to provide advanced competency and scholarly development for one Department of Defense (DOD) navy optometrist and one civilian Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) optometrist. The Navy optometrist will get the ultimate preparation to meet the mission of the United States Navy in all military settings and as well, function at the highest level within the civilian space.

- **Program Site:** Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC), North Chicago, Illinois
- **Program Coordinator:** Stuart Richer, OD, PhD
- **Residency Director:** Heather McLeod, OD, FAAO
- **Number of Positions:** 2
- **Program Dates:** July for 52 weeks
- **ORMatch** – 1 civilian position (#31337) and 1 (pre-selected) US Navy DOD position

Program Description

In an effort to keep Veterans and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees safe, VA's Secretary will now mandate anyone in contact with patients within the Veterans Health Administration, including health professions trainees (HPTs), receive the COVID vaccination by October 7, 2021.

A partnership between the US Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) provides a combined mission to provide eyecare to active duty military, military dependents, military retirees and veterans. The facility cares for nearly 67,000 eligible beneficiaries throughout the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin region. Additionally, the health care center and its branch clinics ensure that nearly 40,000 Navy recruits transitioning through Naval Station Great Lakes each year are medically qualified.

The optometry clinic on the West Campus is headed by an active duty Navy optometrist, who is supported by at least two civilian optometrists along with one active duty Navy optometry resident. The ophthalmology clinic is supported clinically by two full-time civilian ophthalmologists and several part-time consultants. The ophthalmology specialties available are vitreo-retinal, oculoplastic, cornea, and glaucoma.

The merger of DVA and DOD provides an opportunity for the optometry resident to work closely with other medical disciplines and experience a diverse patient-base to facilitate an advanced clinical training environment in primary care and ocular disease. In addition, this program meets the unique mission of the United States Navy, Veterans Affairs and the FHCC. The residency program is affiliated with the Illinois College of Optometry. Many of the supervising providers are affiliated with either or both the Rosalind Franklin University of

Medicine and Science Chicago Medical School, located adjacent to the FHCC, or the University of Illinois at Chicago Eye and Ear Infirmary.

There are two residency positions available. One position is designated for an Active Duty Navy Optometrist if available. The other position is open to all optometrists. Both residents work full time between the West Campus Optometry and Ophthalmology Clinics providing eye and vision care services for all categories of eligible patients.

Program Design

To provide supervised clinical education experience, resident will:

- Examine a minimum of 1,500 patients in clinic either alone or in conjunction with optometry and/or ophthalmology supervisors during the course of the residency.
- See stat consults sent to the clinic, with mentorship by optometry supervisors during the course of the residency. Minimum of 50 stat consults need to be seen in 12 months.
- See at least 25 cases in which nutritional deficiencies are assessed based on clinical examination, history and lab work.
- Spend a minimum of 8 hours of clinical observation in each of the following clinics: (example) neurology, cardiology (peripheral vascular lab) and primary care clinic.

Educational Conferences

- Present at grand rounds to Illinois College of Optometry students and faculty.
- Attend a national or regional optometric meeting and be encouraged to do a clinical poster during residency.
- Produce a research paper, literature review or case report of publishable quality by the end of the program.
- Participate in monthly journal club discussions to critically review current ophthalmic literature, in order to promote lifetime learning.
- Provide each resident didactic education to support patient care. He/she will attend weekly conference at ICO and/ or bimonthly educational meetings at the medical center. Be provided a recommended reading list and weekly E Mail blasts of pertinent articles.

Salary

Determined by Navy and DVA

Benefits

- **Health:** Health insurance is available.
- **Holidays:** All federal holidays are observed. (Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day)
- **Educational Travel:** "Authorized absence" is granted for attendance at the American Academy of Optometry meeting or equivalent national professional meeting.
- **Vacation:** Residents accrue four hours of "annual leave" (vacation) and four hours of sick leave per two-week pay period. Annual leave must be taken at times that it would not interfere with patient care or educational activities. No vacation leave is granted during the last two weeks of the program in June.
- **Liability:** Liability coverage is provided for care of veterans and nonveteran employees referred by Administrative Medicine for eye care. Liability coverage does not include care provided through "moonlighting."
- **Information Resources:** The VA has numerous ophthalmic, primary care, and healthcare specialty online journal and textbook subscriptions as well as a medical library that can obtain print copies of articles by request. Full ICO library access is also granted to residents.

Criteria for Completion

1. Attendance at all clinical assignments
2. Successful completion of clinical learning objectives
3. Attendance and participation at Thursday PM Faculty Conference/ and ICO Grand Rounds
4. Attendance and participation at regularly scheduled conferences
5. Attendance and participation in course work related to clinical teaching and lecturing
6. A written paper (or equivalent) of publishable quality, completed by the end of the residency period

Completion of Acknowledgment

A residency certificate is presented upon successful completion of the program.

For more information

Residency Coordinator

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