Optometric Residency Program

OCULAR DISEASE
CORNEA & CONTACT LENSES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SPOKANE VA MEDICAL CENTER
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

SPONSOR: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, SPOKANE, WA
AFFILIATE: PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, FOREST GROVE, OREGON
CLINICAL AFFILIATE: SPOKANE EYE CLINIC, SPOKANE, WA

MISSION

The Spokane Veterans Affairs Medical Center, with Pacific University College of Optometry of Forest Grove, OR, and Spokane Eye Clinic of Spokane, WA, have developed a one-year residency program in optometry. The fundamental mission of this training program is to provide qualified post-doctorate practitioners with a structured educational experience that will expand their development into exceptional optometric clinicians in the areas of primary care, geriatrics, ocular disease, surgical co-management and contact lenses. Upon completion of the residency, the clinician will emerge with enhanced clinical skills, knowledge and experience which will elevate practitioners beyond entry level practice, making residents suitable candidates for optometry positions in co-management, multidisciplinary settings, and/or post graduate optometric education.

Pacific University Oregon

GENERAL INFORMATION

Residency Program Coordinator
Allison Coit, O.D.

Duration of Agreement
July 1 through June 30

Number of Positions
Three (3)

Annual Salary
$31,965 - Salary is not contingent upon productivity of the resident.

Hours
The eye clinic is open Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The residents will be expected to attend regular clinic hours. The residents do not work on Friday.

Leave
Residents earn thirteen days paid annual leave and thirteen days paid sick leave per year. There are also ten paid Federal Holidays annually.

Professional Liability Protection
VA residents are protected by the Federal Government in instances of alleged malpractice or negligence resulting from performance of their duties in or for the Veterans Health Administration.

Health Insurance Benefits
The VA provides full medical health insurance to residents.

Certificate of Completion
A certificate of completion will be awarded to the resident upon satisfactory completion of residency requirements.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Strengthen primary care and vision care skills.
2. Enhance skills in treating the geriatric population.
3. Increase knowledge and skill in co-management of medical-surgical eye conditions.
4. Integrate the resident into the pre-operative and post-operative care of catarct surgery.
5. Strengthen medical and cosmetic fitting of contact lenses.
6. Stimulate an appreciation for scholarly activities and the role of an educator.

RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE

Scholarly Activities
Residents are expected to author a manuscript suitable for publication and to present this work at the annual Northwest Optometric Residents' Conference.

Continuing Education
Residents are encouraged to attend continuing education sponsored by the Pacific University College of Optometry and the Department of Veterans Affairs at no charge for credit hours. A nominal fee for printed materials and meals will be required for some Pacific University functions. Authorized absence (AA) from clinical responsibilities can be granted for attendance of educational conferences.

Lecturing
Residents will present a lecture at the annual Northwest Optometric Residents' Conference prior to the completion of the residency program. Opportunities for participation as a lecturer at Pacific University also exist.

Clinical Privileges
Residents are required to be supervised as per VA Chapter 26. The Optometry Residency Program Supervisor must submit a statement regarding the resident's level of training, which determines the resident's privileges. Optometry Staff privileges at the Spokane VAMC are equivalent to the scope of practice permitted by Washington State Law. These laws can be explained in detail by the state board.

Performance Evaluations
The residents will receive written evaluations from the Residency Program Supervisor on a quarterly basis. The resident will also evaluate the Program Supervisor and the site biannually.

WORKSITE

The resident will work at the Spokane VAMC eye clinic four days per week except in cases of vacation, federal holidays, or authorized absence. The resident will spend one-half day per week at the Spokane Eye Clinic to learn the co-management skills needed for each speciality, as well as the medical and cosmetic fitting of contact lenses.

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WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A RESIDENT

monday
MORNING
Eye Clinic
AFTERNOON
Eye Clinic and Case Conferences

tuesday
MORNING
Eye Clinic
AFTERNOON FOR ROTATION ONE
Contact Lens Clinic

wednesday
MORNING
Eye Clinic
AFTERNOON FOR ROTATION TWO
Contact Lens Clinic

thursday
Eye Clinic

friday
Off

Patient Population & Typical Experience

Currently, the Eye Clinic at the Spokane VAMC sees 15,000 patients per year. These patients are generally male with an average age of 66 years. The typical day in the clinic involves general exams, medical follow-ups, and medication review. Diagnosis and treatment of systemic/ocular disease makes up 90 percent of the workload

Clinical Facilities

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Spokane, Washington is a modern facility. Newly updated in Spring of 2001, the clinic is spacious and well-equipped to serve both the veterans and the residency program's needs. Spokane Eye Clinic is the largest surgical co-management site in Spokane, Washington, It currently employs five optometrists and twelve ophthalmologists. The clinic has specialties in pediatrics, oculoplastics, cornea, retina, cataract, and laser corrective surgery. There are 30 exam rooms and three surgical suites.

SPECIALTY AREAS AT THE SPOKANE VA MEDICAL CENTER

Services for the Visually Impaired

The Spokane VAMC has one Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) coordinator, one Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS) and a part time low vision optometrist. The resident will work with the visually impaired team to address the needs of the legally blind and those with low vision at the Spokane VAMC.

Ophthalmology

Cataract surgery is a service now available to veterans. The resident will be involved the pre-operative and post-operative care. Residents will also paticipate in surgery.

Library and Research Resources

Residents are provided access to the library and computer databases of Pacific University. The library at the Spokane VAMC is available for use by the resident twenty-four hours a day.

Weekly Optometric Seminar

Each week, the resident, interns, and residency supervisor meet for a one-hour optometric seminar. Presentations on patient care, literature review, or current treatments are discussed by all in attendance.

Administration Time

The resident will be given administration time depending upon clinic availability. This time should be spent on research, review of charts, and study.

Computer Access/Email/ Telephone Care

Every exam room in the Spokane VAMC Eye Clinic has a computer that will be available to the resident. There is also Internet access on every computer. The resident will be given an email address through the hospital and can choose to have another email address through the Internet access. Telephone care is handled by the optometry assistant and will be passed to the resident on emergent conditions. It will be the resident's responsibility to consult with the Program Director on how the situation should be handled.

SPOKANE LIVING

Housing & Cost of Living

One bedroom apartments in the Spokane area range in cost from $600–$700 per month, and two bedroom apartments range from $700–$800 per month. House rentals range from $600–$900 per month.

Commuting & Parking

Spokane has an excellent bus transit system that comes directly to the VAMC seven times per day. The VAMC also has ample parking for employees.

Recreation

Spokane is a small metropolitan city surrounded by diverse recreational opportunities and spectacular scenery. The 76 lakes and four major rivers within 50 miles of the city provide fishing, swimming, rafting and waterskiing during the summer, while the surrounding mountains provide skiing and other sports during the winter. Downtown Spokane offers a collection of fine restaurants, shopping centers, historic sites and classic
old buildings.

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

Residency Programs
For additional information about this residency opportunity, please contact:

Allison Coit, O.D.
Residency Program Coordinator

Optometry Services
Spokane VA Medical Services
Optometry Residency Program
Eye Clinic 111, 4815 N. Assembly St.
Spokane, WA 99205

509-434-7032 or 509-434-7250
Allison.Coit@va.gov

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1 Candidates must earn the degree of Doctor of Optometry from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education prior to the starting date of the residency.

2 Candidates must have passed the NBEO Part I and have taken Part II by the application deadline. The selected candidate must have passed Part II and be scheduled to sit for Part III.

3 Candidates must be eligible to be licensed as an optometrist in a state, territory, or commonweatlh of the United States, or the District of Columbia.

4 It is the policy of the Spokane VAMC to provide equal opportunity in employment for all qualified persons; to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability; to ensure that the workforce profile will clearly reflect a meaningful distribution and utilization of minority and female employees; and to provide for the prompt, fair and impartial consideration and disposition of complaints involving issues of discrimination on ground of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability, or reprisal.

5 Only United States citizens are eligible candidates for funded residency positions sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

6 Candidates must apply to this residency program throughthe Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) online at *www.natmatch.com/ormatch/*