

# Optometric Residency Program

## PRIMARY EYE CARE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PORTLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER  
PORTLAND, OREGON

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SPONSOR: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, PORTLAND, OREGON

AFFILIATE: PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, FOREST GROVE, OREGON

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### MISSION

This Primary Eye Care Optometric Residency is a one-year post-doctoral training program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Portland, Oregon, and is affiliated with Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon. This residency program offers qualified doctors of optometry an educational opportunity for exceptional and broad-based development as an optometric practitioner. The educational experience will concentrate on the delivery of primary eye and vision care to a predominantly outpatient

veteran population from Oregon and Southwest Washington, and the medically indigent population of Portland. Primary eye and vision care experiences include, but are not limited to, ocular disease management, binocular vision, contact lenses, and low vision. Compassionate and individualized patient care is expected. An interdisciplinary approach to the delivery of health care will be cultivated, and full utilization of the medical center's and university's resources will be encouraged. Residents will also develop clinical didactic teaching skills.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Residency Program Faculty

Amara Callahan, O.D. (VA)  
Molly Cardenal, O.D., F.A.A.O. (VA)  
Weon Jun, O.D., F.A.A.O. (VA/Supervisor)  
Rebecca Kline, O.D.  
Shannon Lutz, O.D. (VA)  
Gerald Melore, O.D. (Pacific University)  
Jonathon Thomas, O.D. (VA)  
Mark A. Williams, O.D. (VA)

### Duration of Agreement

July 1 through June 30

### Number of Positions

Three (3) residency positions per program year.

### Annual Salary

Periodically adjusted by the Office of Academic Affairs VHA. Please contact residency supervisor for current salary information.

### Hours

Residents typically work 40 to 60 hours per week, and the Eye Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Leave

Residents earn 13 days paid annual leave and 13 days paid sick leave per year. There are also ten paid Federal Holidays annually.

### Professional Liability Protection

The U.S. Government accepts responsibility for the actions of its employees during exercise of official duties. 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. The residents' also have liability protection through Pacific University for patient care activities delivered at Pacific University clinics.

### Health Insurance Benefits

The VA provides full medical health insurance to residents.

### Certificate of Completion

A certificate of completion is awarded upon satisfactory completion of residency requirements.

## RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE

### Scholarly Activities

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

### Lecturing

Residents will present a lecture at the annual Northwest Optometric Residents' Conference prior to the completion of the residency program. Residents are also required to present for the Portland VAMC Clinical Seminar at least once per quarter.

## Continuing Education

Residents attend the weekly Portland VAMC Optometry Section Clinical Seminar, and the monthly VISN 20 Optometry Grand Rounds which are the primary didactic components to the program curriculum. The residents are entitled to attend VA and Pacific University sponsored CE at no charge per credit. Residents are also encouraged to attend national and regional continuing education programs. Pacific University provides each resident with a travel stipend, and the VA grants authorized absence for residents to attend supervisor approved CE programs.

## Clinical Privileges

The Optometry Residency Program Director must submit a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter to the VA medical center Director to verify that the residents are properly credentialed. Residents are not privileged at the VA. Their scope of practice at the VA is determined by the clinical privileges of their supervising faculty which are broad. Residents are required to be supervised as per VA Chapter 26 for patient care services delivered at the Portland VAMC. All residents must obtain an Oregon license with ATI certification, and all residents do receive clinical privileges for patient care activities at Pacific University Clinics.

## Performance Evaluations

The residents will receive written evaluations from the Residency Program Supervisor, and the residents will evaluate the residency.

## PROGRAM GOALS

- 1 Enhance the primary eye and vision care assessment and the management skills of the residents through significant broad-based clinical experience.
- 2 Foster the residents' active participation as members of an interdisciplinary health care team.
- 3 Develop the residents' skills as educators.
- 4 Encourage the residents' pursuit of scholarly activities.
- 5 The sponsor and affiliate will provide an excellent facility and administrative support to maximize the residents' environment for learning.

## WORKSITES

The optometry residents' primary worksite is at the Portland VA Medical Center (PVAMC) Portland Division Hospital. The residents also routinely work at the Portland VAMC Vancouver Division Eye Clinic, Hillsboro CBOC and the clinics of the Pacific University College of Optometry.

### Clinical Facilities

The PVAMC serves as the quaternary referral center for Oregon, Southern Washington and parts of Idaho for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The PVAMC is composed of two main divisions and three Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). The PVAMC's Eye Care Team (Ophthalmology & Optometry) has clinical facilities at both the Portland and Vancouver Divisions, the Hillsboro CBOC and the Bend CBOC. All of the clinical facilities are well equipped and adequate in size to serve both the patients' needs and the residency program's educational objectives.

### Portland Division VA Eye Clinic

The Eye Care Team's clinical facility at the PVAMC Portland Division is shared by Optometry and Ophthalmology, and it includes 18 general eye exam rooms, one low vision room, and additional exam rooms for VF, digital retinal imaging, OCT, minor procedures, lasers, IOL Master, corneal topography, echography, etc.

### Vancouver Division VA Eye Clinic

The optometry residents also work at the PVAMC's Vancouver Division in Vancouver, Washington which is about 10 miles (16 km) north of Portland. The eye clinic has 4 general exam rooms, one low vision room and additional exam rooms for special testing. Modern instrumentation includes Digital Retina Camera, Humphrey Field Analyzer II, Cirrus Optical Coherence Tomography and Heidelberg Retinal Tomograph. While most patient visits are for outpatients, this location also serves inpatients from the Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care (RLTC) Division & Community Living Center.

### Hillsboro CBOC VA Eye Clinic

The clinic is located in Hillsboro, Oregon, which is about 17 miles (27 km) west of Portland. The eye clinic has 4 general exam rooms with additional exam rooms for special testing. Modern instrumentation includes Digital Retina Camera, Humphrey Field Analyzer II, Cirrus Optical Coherence Tomography and Heidelberg Retinal Tomograph.

## Pacific University Lid Clinics

The residents rotate to multiple Pacific University clinic sites to participate in care in an internal referral clinic for minor lid procedures.

### On-Call Duty

On a rotating basis, the optometry residents serve as the primary on-call provider after hours for the clinics of Pacific University College of Optometry. Clinical faculty provide back-up call for consultation and supervision of these on-call duties.

### Patient Demographics

The patient population at the PVAMC is 95% male with a mean age of 65. Patients present to the VA eye clinics with a wide variety of challenging ocular, visual, and systemic health problems. Supplemental clinical rotations at Pacific University clinics provide experience with a broader patient demographic including pediatrics.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Low Vision/VIST/BROS Program

Legally blind and visually impaired patients receive comprehensive examinations in our Low Vision Clinic as a component of their rehabilitation program. The residents work with an interdisciplinary rehabilitation team including of Optometry, the Visual Impairment Service Team (VIST) Coordinator, Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS), Low Vision Therapist, Low Vision Support Assistant and Orientation & Mobility Specialist.

### Ophthalmic Imaging

A full-time ocular photographer is available at the Portland VAMC location. Residents can schedule patients for fluorescein angiograms, anterior or posterior segment photos, stereo fundus photos, endothelial cell counts, and ophthalmic A and B ultrasonography.

### Library and Research Resources

Residents are provided access to the library resources of the PVAMC, Pacific University, and Oregon Health Sciences University. Access to the extensive ophthalmic library at the Casey Eye Institute is also available.

### Computer Access

Computers with VA network and internet access from all PVAMC patient examination rooms and at workstations dedicated to the residents for indirect patient care activities.

## Contact Lens Specialty Clinic

The PVAMC Contact Lens Clinic provides patients with a variety of therapeutic contact lens services including keratoconic, aphakic, post-graft, and prosthetic lens fitting. The Cornea and Contact Lens Resident from Pacific University assists with this weekly specialty clinic.

## Weekly Clinical Seminar

The PVAMC Optometry Section conducts a weekly two hour seminar for didactic presentations and clinical discussions between program faculty, residents and students.

## VISN 20 Optometry Grand Rounds

On the second Tuesday of each month, one hour of continuing education is presented by live video broadcast from the PVAMC to all Pacific Northwest VA medical centers. These presentations are by a diverse group of interdisciplinary health care providers.

## General Medicine Interns Instruction in Eye Care

Interdisciplinary working relationships between Optometry and General Medicine are enhanced with first-year General Medicine Interns rotating through the Optometry Clinics one-half day per week for clinical instruction in eye care.

## Ophthalmology Section

The Ophthalmology Section of the PVAMC has a close working relationship with the Optometry Section. Services provided by the Ophthalmology Section include general ophthalmology and subspecialist in cornea, glaucoma, neuronophthalmology, oculoplastics, medical retina, strabismus, uveitis, and vitreo-retinal surgery. The Ophthalmology Section also has a strong educational component. Ophthalmology residents and subspecialty fellows from the Oregon Health Sciences University's (OHSU) Casey Eye Institute and the Dever's Memorial Eye Clinic provide patient care services in the integrated eye clinic at the PVAMCs Portland Division.

## Scholarly & Administrative Time

Each residents schedule includes 6 hours per week for indirect patient care time to be used for administrative time, research, independent study and other scholarly pursuits.

## Support & Technical Staff

Eye Care Team services are supported by a variety of staff including clinical facilitators, opticians, health technicians and medical clerks.

## WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A RESIDENT

The one year residency consists of three rotations of four months each.

### ROTATION 1

#### monday

VA Eye Clinic, Vancouver

#### tuesday

VA Eye Clinic, Portland

#### wednesday

Scholarly/Admin. Time w/ Clinical Seminar 1-3 p.m.

#### thursday

VA Eye Clinic, Portland w/ Low Vision in the morning

#### friday

VA Eye Clinic, Hillsboro

### ROTATION 2

#### monday

VA Eye Clinic, Portland w/ Low Vision in the morning

#### tuesday

VA Eye Clinic, Hillsboro

#### wednesday

Scholarly/Admin. Time w/ Clinical Seminar 1-3 p.m.

#### thursday

VA Eye Clinic, Portland

#### friday

VA Eye Clinic, Vancouver

### ROTATION 3

#### monday

VA Eye Clinic, Portland

#### tuesday

PU Lid Clinics

#### wednesday

Scholarly/Admin. Time w/ Clinical Seminar 1-3 p.m.

#### thursday

VA Eye Clinic, Portland w/ Low Vision in the afternoon

#### friday

VA Eye Clinic, Portland



## PORTLAND LIVING

### Housing & Cost of Living

Portland is relatively affordable in comparison to other west coast cities. The overall cost of living is approximately 14% above the national average. Apartment rental rates average approximately \$730 per month in the Portland metropolitan area.

### Commuting & Parking

Optometry residents are providing parking privileges, but parking at the PVAMC Portland Division facility is scarce and employees are encouraged to use public transportation. Tri-Met is the regional public transportation system, which includes buses and light-rail trains.

### Recreation

Portland has been described as the city of books, beer, bikes and blooms. Portland has the personality of a small community and the activities and vitality of a large city. Outdoor adventures are readily accessible with Mt. Hood, the Oregon Coast, forests, and several rivers within 60 miles from the city limits.

## CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

### Residency Programs

For additional information about these residency opportunities, please contact:

#### **Weon Jun, O.D., F.A.A.O.**

Residency Program Supervisor

#### **Director, Low Vision Rehabilitation Services Portland VA Medical Center**

P.O. Box 1034/P-3-EYE  
Portland, OR 97207

503-220-8262 ext. 54400

[weon.jun@va.gov](mailto:weon.jun@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 program.
- 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 the state of Oregon including certification to use topical and nontopical pharmaceutical agents with injections.
- 4** It is the policy of the Portland 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 through the Optometric Residency Matching Services (ORMS), Inc. online at [optometryresident.org](http://optometryresident.org)