

# Optometric Residency Program

**PRIMARY EYE CARE**  
REFRACTIVE & SURGICAL CO-MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT MEMORIAL  
VA MEDICAL CENTER  
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

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**SPONSORS:** PACIFIC CATARACT AND LASER INSTITUTE (PCLI), KENNEWICK, WA  
JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT MEMORIAL VA MEDICAL CENTER, WALLA WALLA, WA  
**AFFILIATE:** PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, FOREST GROVE, OREGON

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## MISSION

The Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) of Walla Walla, Washington, in partnership with Pacific University College of Optometry (PUCO) of Forest Grove, Oregon, and Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute (PCLI) of Kennewick, Washington, have jointly developed a one-year residency program in optometry. The fundamental mission of this training program is to provide qualified post-doctoral practitioners with a structured educational experience which will deepen their

development into exceptional optometric clinicians in the areas of primary care, ocular disease, geriatrics and surgical co-management. Upon completion of the residency, the doctor will emerge with enhanced clinical skills, knowledge and experience which elevate him/her beyond entry-level practice, thus making residents suitable candidates for optometry positions in VHA optometry, co-management and/or multidisciplinary settings.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Residency Program Supervisors

Barbara J. Hetrick, O.D., F.A.A.O. is a 1981 graduate of The Ohio State University who completed a residency in hospital-based optometry at the Chillicothe VAMC and Columbus VAOPC in 1982. Dr. Hetrick was in private practice for ten years in La Grande, Oregon before joining Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute as a clinic director from 1992–1994. She has been the Chief, Optometry Service, for the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VAMC since 1994, developing both the student and residency programs. An active participant in many professional activities, Dr. Hetrick also belongs to the NAVAIO, AAO, AOA and AFOS. She enjoys riding horses, white water rafting and wilderness adventures.

Bruce G. Flint, OD is a 1982 graduate of Southern California College of Optometry who embraced medical eyecare and surgical co-management after 15 years of private practice experience in Burley & Ketchum, Idaho. In 1998, Dr. Flint completed a residency at the VAMC Albuquerque, New Mexico, and worked for Central Ohio Eye Institute before joining Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute in 1999. Dr. Flint lives in Kennewick, Washington where he enjoys hunting, fishing, and both water and snow skiing.

### Additional Faculty

R. Rich Ryan, O.D., C.O.V.D.  
Brian Johnson, O.D.  
Jeffrey R. Urness, O.D.

### Guest Faculty

Jason W. Leng, M.D.  
James I. McNeill, M.D.  
James P. Guzek, M.D.  
Gordon E. Johns, M.D.  
Ronald K. Sugiyama, M.D.  
VAMC Medical Staff

### Duration of Agreement

July 1 through June 30 (actual dates may vary)

### Number of Positions

Two (2) residency positions available each year

### Annual Salary

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

### Hours

The VA Eye Clinic is open for patient care from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. As with any clinical position, hours of attendance vary. The resident commutes at his/her own expense one day each week to Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute's Kennewick Surgicenter.

### Benefits

Residents earn 13 days of annual leave and 13 days sick leave annually. In addition, there are ten paid federal holidays annually, and the resident can request authorized absence for attendance at continuing education activities. The VA resident is covered for malpractice by the sponsor and clinical affiliate for professional activities undertaken in the fulfillment of official duties. Federal Employee Health Benefits enrollment is provided.

### ACMO Examination

The resident is expected to sit for the Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry examination administered annually by the NBEO in June near the completion of the program year. Test expenses are the responsibility of the resident, while the program grants administrative leave.

### Certificate of Completion

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

### Accreditation

This residency program began in 1998, receiving full accreditation from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education of the AOA in 1999 with renewal in 2006.



## PROGRAM GOALS

- 1** Strengthen the resident's primary care management skills.
- 2** Enhance the resident's capacity to provide appropriate care to elderly patients.
- 3** Increase the resident's knowledge of and competence in advanced medical optometry.
- 4** Increase knowledge and skill in co-management of medical-surgical eye conditions.
- 5** Stimulate in the resident an appreciation for scholarly activity and lifelong learning.

## RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE

### Strengths of the Program

The primary care aspects of the Wainwright program reflect very complex care with approximately 90% of patients having some identifiable ocular condition, such as cataract, diabetic retinopathy, anterior surface disease, glaucoma, or macular degeneration. Optometry is the only eye specialty provider at the Walla Walla location allowing for very broad clinical privileges.

The veteran population allows ample opportunity to develop skills in geriatrics and practical low vision. VA specialty services in our sister facilities at Portland, Puget Sound and Spokane include cataract, cornea, glaucoma, retina, low vision and blind rehabilitation allowing the resident to gain experience in managing patients across the continuum of care.

The resident gains shoulder-to-shoulder experience with ophthalmic surgeons in refractive and surgical care at PCLI's state of the art Kennewick surgicenter, which has been serving area doctors of optometry as a consulting and secondary care facility since 1990. Flexible scheduling allows ample opportunity for observation experiences in the private sector and for attendance at outside continuing education events.

### Scholarly Activities

The resident is expected to prepare a manuscript of publishable quality and present at least two clinical case presentations.

### Lecturing

The resident will present a lecture at the Northwest Residents Conference, an annual meeting of programs affiliated with Pacific University College of Optometry, held in June each year.

## Continuing Education

Resident is entitled to attend continuing education sponsored by the Pacific University College of Optometry or 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 from clinical responsibilities can be granted for attendance of educational conferences. Educational activities include monthly VISN 20 Optometry Grand Rounds, clinical case conferences, VA trainings, and observation in VA primary care and specialty departments.

## Clinical Privileges

The resident is required to be supervised as per VA Chapter 26 and Medicare regulations. The Optometry Residency Program Supervisor will maintain a clinical competence record, which determines the resident's privileges. Full scope therapeutic privileges, including oral and injectable agents, are part of optometry staff privileges at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center.

## Performance Evaluations

Performance evaluation is the cornerstone of improving performance, and the residency program provides feedback to the resident by monthly oral reviews, and quarterly written evaluations of the resident by supervisors at the VA Medical Center and at PCLI. The resident evaluates the program quarterly and the administration at least annually.



## **SPECIALTY AREAS**

### **VIST/Low Vision Clinic & Subspecialty Clinics**

Vision rehabilitation and VIST services are emphasized, with the resident receiving low vision and blind rehabilitation instruction at the American Lake division of VA Puget Sound early in the program. The resident observes and assists in cataract, oculoplastics, cornea, complex medical, and refractive surgery clinics at PCLI.

### **Library & Research Resources**

The Walla Walla VA Library employs a medical librarian for research assistance. The resident can also remotely access the library facilities at Pacific University, and participate in many VA online learning activities.

### **On-site Education**

The resident is an active member of the Optometry Team and is involved in continuous quality improvement. The program leads the resident through a structured curriculum designed to broaden and deepen clinical knowledge of ocular disease processes and treatments, and the vision system. Didactic lectures, case reviews, medical records review, and journal club activities offer many opportunities for shared learning.

### **Teaching**

The resident has the opportunity to provide mentoring and clinical instruction to two student interns from Pacific University College of Optometry. Teaching opportunities are available via in-service training for VA and PCLI staff, society meetings, and community events.

## **WORKSITE**

### **Clinical Facilities**

The Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA MC employs 23 primary care providers in six clinic locations across Central & Eastern rural Washington, Northeastern Oregon and North-central Idaho. Laboratory and radiology services along with specialty clinics, mental health and outpatient chemical dependency units are located in Walla Walla. The Eye Clinic has four fully equipped examination rooms, low vision equipment, automated lensometer/refractor/keratometer, Humphreys Visual Field Analyzer, Goldmann perimeter, FDT, Topcon anterior and posterior digital imaging, Stratus OCT, corneal topographer and an optical dispensary along with offices.

The resident spends one day per week at Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute's modern co-management center sixty miles to the west in Kennewick, Washington. The resident builds knowledge of medical diagnostic resources by observing and assisting laboratory, medicine and radiology services, and acting as a resource to other VA primary care providers regarding triage and management of eye conditions.



## WALLA WALLA LIVING

The place is so nice, they named it twice. Walla Walla is known for a temperate climate with four seasons, but little snowfall. 38,000 people reside in Walla Walla and neighboring College Place. Three colleges: Whitman College, Walla Walla University and Walla Walla Community College enroll students from throughout the U.S. The valley's 135 wineries have an international reputation for producing outstanding wines and tourists appreciate downtown Walla Walla's beautifully restored historic buildings. The city features many first-rate art and cultural opportunities, such as local food and wine events, museums, art galleries, a bronze foundry and a Shakespearean Theatre.

Walla Walla is nestled at the foot of the Blue Mountains in the midst of a vast agricultural area. Within 50 miles of the city one can enjoy big-game hunting, skiing, snowmobiling and camping in the mountains. Numerous parks on the banks of the Snake and Columbia Rivers offer fishing, swimming, boating and water-skiing.

The Medical Center occupies the site of Historic Fort Walla Walla, the birthplace of General Jonathan M. Wainwright of WWII fame. Portland is 235 miles west, Spokane is 170 miles north, Seattle is 260 miles west; all along good highways.

### Housing & Cost of Living

Many rental options exist in Walla Walla, ranging in cost from \$450-\$800 monthly rent. With three colleges in the community, rental housing is readily available and shared housing options are common.

### Commuting & Parking

Good bus service is available within the city of Walla Walla. Parking is easy. Many employees ride bicycles, as roads and weather are very bike-friendly. The resident provides his/her own transportation to and from the Kennewick PCLI location one day each week, a scenic 60-mile drive west along the Columbia River. Commercial air service is available in Walla Walla and Pasco.

## 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 citizens of the US.
- 4** Candidates must be eligible for state licensure.
- 5** The Department of Veterans Affairs is an equal opportunity employer for all qualified persons.
- 6** Candidates must apply to this residency program through the Optometric Residency Matching Services (ORMS), Inc. online at [optometryresident.org](http://optometryresident.org)

## CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

For additional information about these residency opportunities, please contact:

**Barbara J. Hetrick, O.D., F.A.A.O.**  
Optometry Service (123)

**Jonathan M. Wainwright**  
**Memorial VA Medical Center**

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