

Optometric Residency Program

PRIMARY EYE CARE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA SOUTHERN OREGON REHABILITATION CENTER & CLINICS
WHITE CITY, OREGON

SPONSOR: VA SOUTHERN OREGON REHABILITATION CENTER & CLINICS
AFFILIATE: PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, FOREST GROVE, OREGON

MISSION

The residency program at VA SORCC is a one-year post-doctoral educational program centered on clinical training which results in the resident's attainment of advanced competencies in eye, vision, and health care. The program will emphasize delivery of Primary Eye Care to both Inpatient

and Outpatient veterans enrolled at the facility. The program seeks to advance the competency, confidence, knowledge, and skill level of the practicing optometrist within a multi-disciplinary health care setting.





VA SORCC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

GENERAL INFORMATION

Residency Program Supervisors

MARK OSTERMEIER, O.D., received his Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of California at Berkeley School of Optometry in 1988. He began his career working for Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Vallejo CA, and was in private practice from 1991–1997. He has worked at VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics since 1993.

AARON SEVERSON, O.D., received his Doctor of Optometry degree from The University of California at Berkeley School of Optometry in 2009. He joined the staff at VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics in June 2010.

MICHAEL SOMOGYI, O.D., received his Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of California at Berkeley School of Optometry in 2007. He has been working part-time at VA SORCC since October 2007.

Duration of Agreement

July 1 through June 30 (actual dates may vary).

Number of Positions

One (1) residency position per program year.

Annual Salary

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

Hours

Regular clinic hours for the resident will be 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. As with any clinical position, hours of attendance vary.

Benefits

Each resident accrues four (4) hours of annual leave and two (2) hours of sick leave during each 2-week pay period. In addition, there are ten (10) paid Federal holidays during the residency year. The resident can also request authorized absence for attendance at continuing education activities.

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 Tort Claim Act in instances of alleged malpractice resulting from performance of their duties in or for the Veterans Health Administration.

Health Insurance Benefits

The resident is provided information about healthcare benefits during the VA SORCC orientation. Optional health insurance coverage is offered to the resident; biweekly premiums will be deducted if the resident elects to enroll in such insurance. Long-term disability insurance is not provided.

Certificate of Completion

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

PROGRAM GOALS

- 1 To advance the competency, knowledge and skill level of the resident through exposure to significant, diverse and challenging patient encounters.
- 2 To improve patient care management skills in a multidisciplinary health care team setting.
- 3 To enhance the resident's leadership and teaching skills and encourage scholarly interests.
- 4 Stimulate a commitment to service and life-long learning by the resident.

RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE

Strengths of the Program

The main emphasis of this program is clinical assessment and management of both Inpatients and Outpatients in a multidisciplinary, healthcare environment. The education experience will concentrate on the delivery of primary eye and vision care, with a secondary emphasis on ocular manifestations of systemic disease, ocular disease and ocular side effects of systemic medications.

Each resident will be examining approximately 1500 patients at the VA SORCC eye clinic. Approximately 90 percent of the resident's time will be involved with direct patient care, including providing clinical preceptorship of fourth year student interns. Other activities will include didactic and scholarly activities, Blind Rehabilitation Center orientation and observation of ophthalmic surgery. The resident will perform full comprehensive primary and secondary eye examinations, consult with various health care practitioners in co-management of systemic conditions and ocular manifestations, prescribe oral and topical therapeutic medication, perform non-invasive procedures and order laboratory and radiology studies as indicated for diagnosis and management.

Didactic and scholarly training is emphasized by the involvement of the resident in precepting optometry student interns, participation in weekly optometry team meetings, and presentation of a study/review/report at the annual Northwest Residents Conference.

Scholarly Activities

The resident is required to complete a study/review/report and to present this work at the annual Northwest Residents Conference. The resident will also present case reports at the weekly optometry team meeting.

Continuing Education

The resident is entitled to attend VA and Pacific University sponsored CE at no charge for credit hours. A nominal fee for printed materials and meals may be required for some Pacific University functions. Authorized absence from clinical responsibilities can be granted for attendance at supervisor approved CE conferences.

Lecturing

The resident will present a lecture at the annual Northwest Optometric Residents Conference prior to the completion of the residency program. The resident will also present case reports at the weekly optometry team meeting.

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. The resident must obtain an Oregon license with ATI certification. The scope of practice at the VA is determined by the clinical privileges of the supervising faculty which are equivalent to the scope of practice permitted by Oregon Law which allow optometrists to treat ocular conditions including foreign bodies and glaucoma, to prescribe topical and oral medications, to order any laboratory testing and to order any medical imaging. When a staff optometrist wants a patient to have surgery (for conditions such as pterygia, cataracts or retinal detachment) the optometrist places a computerized consult to local fee basis optometry or regional VA ophthalmology clinics. Staff optometry may arrange for expedited local fee out of ophthalmology services for emergent and urgent ocular conditions.

Performance Evaluations

The resident will receive written evaluations from the Residency Program Supervisor on a quarterly basis. The resident will evaluate the Residency Program Supervisor, attending doctors and the program biannually.

WORKSITE

VA SORCC opened its doors to veterans in 1949 and is the former hospital of Camp White built during World War II. The 145-acre site is seven miles north of Medford, OR. VA SORCC cares for over 15,000 active veterans living in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

The Mission of VA SORCC is to serve as a national resource for eligible veterans, providing quality residential treatment in addictions, mental health, physical and vocational rehabilitation; provide high quality primary outpatient medical and mental healthcare to veterans living in the Southern Oregon and Northern California regions; and strive, in partnership with the veterans served, to optimize social and vocational integration of the veterans into their communities.

The resident will work at the Veterans Affairs Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics. Clinical facilities are spacious and well-equipped to serve both patient needs and the residency program's educational objectives.

Computer Access / Email

Telephone service and computer workstations with email and internet access are available in each exam room within the VA SORCC eye clinic.

WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A RESIDENT

monday

Outpatient and Inpatient exams
Precepting of student interns

tuesday

Glaucoma management/treatment
Case Report and Journal Club Meeting

wednesday

Outpatient and Inpatient exams
Precepting of student interns
Low vision exams

thursday

Outpatient and Inpatient exams
Precepting of student interns

friday

Outpatient & Inpatient exams/Post-op care
Admin time (4 hr)

Library and Research Resources

The resident will have access to the libraries and databases at VA SORCC that includes an assortment of periodicals covering diverse areas of healthcare. Access to the internet for research and educational purposes is available at all computer terminals within the eye clinic and at the facility library. Additionally, the resident can apply for access to library facilities at Pacific University.

Weekly Optometry Team Meetings

On Tuesday mornings during the weekly optometry team meeting, the resident will present interesting cases from the previous weeks' encounters. From these case presentations, an impromptu discussion may take place regarding the diagnosis, management and treatment of the patient. The resident may be assigned a topic to review and present at a later date, or the resident may be given a relevant journal article to read.

Administration Time

The resident is scheduled four (4) hours each week for administrative time. This time is intended to be used for research, preparation of case reports, review of charts and study.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applications will be evaluated by the SORCC Residency Coordinator, who then recommends for appointment of the most qualified applicants to the Director of Residency Programs.

In compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Older Americans Amendments of 1975, and all related regulations; no candidate will be discriminated against based upon race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age or non-disqualifying physical impairment. By law, candidates must be citizens of the United States.

SPECIALTY AREAS

Outpatients and Inpatients

VA SORCC provides primary medical care and mental health services to over 15, 000 veterans living in Southern Oregon and Northern California. In addition, VA SORCC has 600 residential rehabilitation beds with residents receiving specialized services such as Substance Abuse Treatment and Vocational Rehabilitation. Outpatients and Inpatients are eligible to receive comprehensive eye health and vision care at VA SORCC.

Low Vision

Visually impaired and legally blind veterans receive comprehensive eye health and vision care at VA SORCC, along with basic low vision services. Optometry staff members and residents work in conjunction with the Visually Impaired Service Team (VIST) coordinator to provide services to eligible veterans. The resident will also complete a 3-day low vision orientation at American Lake Blind Rehabilitation Center in Tacoma, Washington.





SOUTHERN OREGON LIVING

White City is a small community in Southern Oregon, located midway between Portland and San Francisco near Interstate 5. It is one of several cities and towns nestled in the Rogue Valley, known for its mild climate, beautiful scenery, pear orchards and unique festivals. Area attractions include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland; camping, hiking and boat tours at Crater Lake National Park; specialty shops, cozy inns, museums, excellent dining and historic attractions from the Gold Rush years in Jacksonville. The Oregon Caves National Monument, Redwood National Park and the Pacific Ocean coastline are within short driving distances. There are festivals to enjoy, wineries to explore, scenic roads to travel, rivers to raft, trails to ride, mountains to climb and the wonders of nature at every turn.

The VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics are located on the 145 acre site that was the hospital at Camp White during World War II.

Housing & Cost of Living

Cost of living is slightly below the national average. Rentals range from about \$500–\$700 per month.

Commuting & Parking

White City is a small town, so commuting is not an issue. Those who choose to live in nearby Medford (population around 80,000) will have a 10–15 minute drive to the facility. Ample parking is available on-site without charge. Public transportation by bus is available to and from the facility.

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 citizens of the United States. Candidates must be eligible for state licensure.
- 4 It is the policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics to provide equal opportunity in employment for all qualified persons; to prohibit discrimination 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 Candidates must apply to this residency program through the Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) online at www.natmatch.com/ormatch/
- 6 The application deadline is February 15.
- 7 A personal interview is highly encouraged. Phone interviews may also occur.
- 8 Three letters of reference are required from faculty members who have been most responsible for the clinical education of the applicant.

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

Residency Programs

For additional information about this residency opportunity, please contact:

Mark Ostermeier, O.D.

Residency Program Coordinator
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Optometry Residency Program**
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