



VA OPTOMETRIC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of this two-year post-residency VA Optometric Research Fellowship Program is to ensure the continuation and future development of VA optometric research in age-related eye diseases and vision disorders, to improve visual rehabilitation capabilities, and to enhance visual outcomes.

Selected fellows will receive guidance from one or more researchers with proven records of optometric clinical research, or research relevant to optometry, such as biomedical research, rehabilitation research and development, and health services research and development.

Research, education, and clinical fellowship training experiences may focus on areas such as: eye and vision disorders; age-related vision loss from macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic eye disease, etc.; use of new technologies, including telemedicine, for glaucoma, diabetic and other eye disease conditions; low vision rehabilitation strategies; low vision device development and evaluation; dual sensory impairment issues; visual rehabilitation outcomes, etc.

BENEFITS OF A VA FELLOWSHIP

- An outstanding two-year clinical research and patient care experience serving a challenging and rewarding veteran population
- A stimulating interdisciplinary environment where the fellow learns to conduct research and coordinate quality optometric eye care with other health care services to maximize patient care outcomes and learning experiences
- Research and academic opportunities mentored by experienced clinicians and researchers who are among the most published optometrists and vision scientists worldwide
- Vacation, national holidays, and sick days along with authorized absence for approved continuing education
- Competitive annual stipend
- Health & Life Insurance plans available

Each VA fellowship program is unique as experiences and opportunities are different at each site. More specific fellowship program information can be obtained by contacting the individual sites.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP TRAINING

The fellowship program is designed to develop individual potential for research careers relevant to VA optometry. At least 75% of fellowship time is to be devoted to biomedical, clinical, rehabilitation, or health services research, including didactic education related to research. Up to 25% of fellowship time may be allotted to advanced clinical and/or teaching activities.

RESIDENCY COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

Successful completion of an ACOE accredited optometry residency program in geriatrics, hospital-based, ocular disease, low vision rehabilitation, or primary eye care is required.

OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and have a full and unrestricted therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (TPA) license to practice optometry in any state, commonwealth, or territory of the United States, or in the District of Columbia before the beginning of the fellowship. The license does not have to be from the state where the fellowship program is located.

APPLICATION

VA Form 10-2850b, Application for Residents, National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination results, evidence of TPA optometry licensure, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) certification, evidence of education/training, U.S. citizenship documentation, and reference letters should be sent directly to the Coordinator of the VA Optometric Research Fellowship Program site(s) of interest to the candidate.

VA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM SITES

Alabama

Birmingham VA Medical Center

Optometry (112-C)

700 South 19th Street

Birmingham, AL 35233

(205) 933-8101 x6118

Fellowship Areas: Ocular Disease, Visual Impairment
& Low Vision Rehabilitation, Geriatrics, Health
Services Research & Development

Fellowship Coordinator: Lyman C. Norden, O.D.;

Lyman.Norden@va.gov

Affiliated School/College of Optometry: University of
Alabama at Birmingham – School of Optometry

Number of Fellows: 1 – 1st Year, 1 – 2nd Year

California

VA Palo Alto Healthcare System

Palo Alto VA Medical Center

WBRC/Optometry (124)

3801 Miranda Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94304

(650) 493-5000 x64358

Fellowship Areas: Visual Impairment & Low Vision
Rehabilitation, Gerontology, Dual Sensory
Impairment, Telemedicine, Rehabilitation Research
& Development

Fellowship Coordinator: Gregory Goodrich, Ph.D.;

Gregory.Goodrich@va.gov

Affiliated School/College of Optometry: University of
California, Berkeley – School of Optometry

Number of Fellows: 1 – 1st Year, 1 – 2nd Year

Massachusetts

VA Boston Healthcare System

Jamaica Plain Division

Optometry Clinic (112B)

150 S. Huntington Avenue

Boston, MA 02130

(617) 232-9500 x6041

Fellowship Areas: Vision Rehabilitation, Clinical
Trials, Telemedicine, Epidemiology, Geriatrics

Fellowship Coordinator: Barry M. Fisch, O.D.;

Barry.Fisch@va.gov or FischB@neco.edu

Affiliated School/College of Optometry: The
New England College of Optometry

Number of Fellows: 1 – 1st Year, 1 – 2nd Year



VA OPTOMETRIC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

VA OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS & VA OPTOMETRIC SERVICE

Contact Persons:

Dr. John Townsend in VA Optometric Service at:

John.Townsend@va.gov or

(410) 779-1576

Dr. Robert Zeiss in

VA Office of Academic Affiliations at:

Robert.Zeiss@va.gov or

(202) 357-4028

Fellowship Program details may be viewed at:
www.va.gov/optometry/ or www.va.gov/oaa/