1. **What are the program’s strengths?**

The ICO Primary Care/Ocular Disease Residency program provides residents a large volume of patients with complex ocular and oculo-systemic conditions. The Emergency Eye Clinic and after hour’s on-call is an invaluable experience. Additionally, the ability to somewhat tailor the program to resident interests by elective rotations in Cornea/Contact Lens, Pediatrics/Binocular Vision, Low Vision, Comprehensive Ophthalmology and/or teaching options in lab or didactic classes is a strength of the program. The program also benefits from the leadership and experience of highly trained residency Faculty with a variety of expertise and backgrounds. Residents participate in many clinical educational conferences, thus rounding out the framework to allow our residents to practice the highest level of optometric care.

For more than 25 years, this residency program has been training residents to become skilled clinicians and leaders in the profession. Since its inception, over 100 residents have completed the program. These graduates have gone on to work in all aspects of optometric practice across the country: private practice, OD/MD practices, Optometry School Faculty, VA staff and commercial practice.

2. **What do you look for in an applicant?**

We look for intelligent and compassionate individuals who are team players and enjoy learning in a large, fast-paced eye clinic with high patient volume.

3. **Do I need to send official copies of NBEO scores?**

Official copies are not needed as the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) will provide Score Report Data for each applicant, and ORMatch will distribute the information to the programs designated by the applicant. However, we do ask that unofficial copies are sent to us to complete your application packet, to allow for a more thorough review and interview process. You do NOT need to contact the NBEO or ORMatch for this. Printing out your results from the NBEO website, or emailing a screen shot of the results to Dr. Klemencic are acceptable copies.

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to take NBEO Part III BEFORE January so results will be released before the ORMatch date. If you wait until after this date, we will not have the results before the match, which may affect your application.*
4. **Do I need to send official copies of my Optometry School transcripts?**

Yes, your optometry school transcripts must be official, sent from your school. Copies from the internet or other methods are not accepted.

5. **Can letters of recommendation be sent via email?**

Yes, letters of recommendation may be sent via email to: sklemencic@ico.edu or mailed directly to Dr. Klemencic to the address: 3241 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60616.

6. **Do you have a minimum G.P.A. or NBEO requirement?**

No. However, the vast majority of applicants have an optometry school G.P.A. at a minimum of 3.0. The program is highly competitive. Applicants with a G.P.A. under 3.0 will have their application packet reviewed and an interview may be offered if extenuating circumstances exist. Applicants must have passed NBEO to obtain an Illinois license.

7. **When are interviews offered?**

Interviews take place at the Illinois College of Optometry in February. Dr. Klemencic will email available dates when the applicant is offered an interview. All application materials (ORMatch application, available copies of NBEO scores, 3 letters of recommendation, official optometry school transcripts, CV and letter of intent) must be received by the February 1st deadline in order for the interview to take place.

*Please be aware that for applicants flying in for the interview, it is often more economical to book flights sooner rather than later. Thus, it is suggested that your application materials are sent as soon as possible so that an interview date may be set. This hopefully may allow you to more easily book your flight/hotel and arrange for time off at your externship site.*

8. **Can I contact current residents to ask about their experiences in the program?**

Yes, any of our 5 current residents are happy to discuss the program with you. They may be contacted via email. The current residents’ contact information is:

Dr. Rosie Cha  
Dr. George Hanna  
Dr. Christina Morettin  
Dr. Trisha Patel  
Dr. Hillary Schweih  

rcha@ico.edu  
ghanna@ico.edu  
cmorettin@ico.edu  
tpatel@ico.edu  
hschweih@ico.edu
9. How much direct patient care vs. precepting students is part of the residency program?

In the Primary Care clinic and Emergency clinics the residents only participate in direct patient care from July through the mid-November.

Beginning in the Mid-November through the end of the residency program, the residents participate in 1.5-2.5 days of precepting students and 0.5 day of direct patient care.

If a resident chooses to rotate through cornea/contact lens, pediatrics/binocular vision or low vision, they typically do direct patient care.

In the Advanced Care clinic, residents work with ophthalmologists. They work up patients, help students, perform advanced diagnostic testing, follow the ophthalmologist and observe patients or in-office surgical procedures.

Throughout the year, residents participate in rotating, after hour’s Emergency on-call service. Residents perform direct patient care all year while seeing after hours on-call patients.

*See below for an example resident schedule*

*Example Schedule*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMER Quarter (July – mid August)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-12:30 Emergency Clinic (direct care)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-5:00 Retina/Neuro</td>
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### FALL Quarter (mid-August – mid November)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-12:30 Emergency clinic (direct care)</td>
<td>8:45-12:45 Primary Care (direct care)</td>
<td>8:45-12:45 Primary Care (direct care)</td>
<td>8:30-12:30 Retina</td>
<td>8:00-8:50 ER Conference 9:00-1:00 Development</td>
<td>OFF (unless on-call week*, then 8:30-12:30 ER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-4:00 Glaucoma</td>
<td>1:00-4:00 Office Hours</td>
<td>1:00-4:00 Primary Care Suite 1 (direct care)</td>
<td>1:00-5:00 Primary Care Suite 1 (direct care)</td>
<td>1:30-3:00 Faculty Conference 3:00-5:00 Resident Conference *1-4 ER When on Call</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00-7:30 Primary Care (direct care) OR *4:00-7:30 ER When On-Call</td>
<td>1:30-3:00 Faculty Conference 3:00-5:00 Resident Conference *1-4 ER When on Call</td>
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### WINTER Quarter (mid November – end February)

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-12:30 Emergency Clinic (precept)</td>
<td>8:45-12:45 Primary Care (precept)</td>
<td>9:00-12:30 Retina</td>
<td>8:45-12:45 Primary Care (precept)</td>
<td>8:00-8:50 ER Conference 9-1 Development</td>
<td>OFF (unless on-call week*, then 8:30-12:30 ER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-5:00 Retina/Neuro</td>
<td>1:30-5:20 2nd yr student Lab</td>
<td>1:00-4:00 Glaucoma</td>
<td>1:00-5:00 Primary Care (direct care)</td>
<td>1:30-3:00 Faculty Conference 3:00-5:00 Resident Conference *1-4 ER When on Call</td>
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*ER When On-Call
**SPRING Quarter (end February – end May)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-12:30 Emergency Clinic (precept)</td>
<td>8:30-12:30 Glaucoma</td>
<td>9-1 Injections lab (6 wks) then Primary Care precept(6 wks)</td>
<td>7:30-8:30 Journal Club (bimonthly) 8:30-12:30 Retina</td>
<td>8:00-8:50 ER Conference 9:00-1:00pm Development</td>
<td>OFF (unless on-call week*, then 8:30-12:30 ER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-4:00 Office Hours</td>
<td>1:00-4:00 Primary Care (precept)</td>
<td>1:00-4:00 Primary Care (precept)</td>
<td>1:00-5:00 Contact Lens (direct care)</td>
<td>1:30-3:00 Faculty Conference 3:00-5:00 Resident Conference *1-4 ER When on Call</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-7:30 Primary Care (precept) OR *4:00-7:30 ER When On-Call</td>
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**10. What do applicants who are Canadian citizens need to know regarding immigration/licensure?**

If you graduate from an optometry school in the US, you need to obtain the OPT which enables you to train in the US for an additional year.

If you graduate from an optometry school in Canada, you need to apply for an H1B visa. Because it can take 3 months or more to obtain one of these, you would have to apply for expedited processing (premium processing) which would cost you approximately $1000 (US). You also need to be diligent about applying for IL license and getting your school to send proof of graduation to the appropriate state agency as quickly as possible.

On a related note, in order to ensure that you have a strong application, you need to have taken and passed NBEO I, II and III. (Deadlines for NBEO exams are available on the NBEO website). If you wait until the spring administration for these exams, we won't have the results before the match date, which may hurt your application. You must have passed these exams in order to obtain a license in Illinois.
11. What diagnostic equipment is available at the Illinois College of Optometry/Illinois Eye Institute?

The IEI has state-of-the-art advanced diagnostic technologies available to enhance patient care which allow residents to become proficient with these procedures:

3 OCT’s (Cirrus™, Spectralis™ with ICG capabilities, and Visante™)
Digital Fundus Camera with Fluorescein Angiography capability
Non-mydriatic fundus camera
Optos™ Optomap with Fluorescein Angiography capability
A & B Scan Ultrasonography
Ultrasound Biomicroscopy
Anterior Segment Cameras (Reseevit™)
ERG, EOG, mfERG
3 corneal topographers
Endothelial cell count analysis
Humphrey™ Visual Fields with GPA™ and VFI Analysis

Ophthalmologists perform in-office laser procedures (SLT, LPI, PRP and focal) as well as perform various in-office ocular injections and surgical procedures (e.g. chalazion removals).

12. Do residents participate in teaching optometry student laboratories?

Yes, but it is not required. Beginning in the Fall quarter residents have the option to choose to participate in a clinical optometry student laboratory. Examples of labs residents have previously participated in: Ocular Health lab (BIO, slit lamp, non-contact fundus lenses, gonioscopy etc.); Entrance testing (VA, CT, Pupils etc.); Near testing (NRA, PRA, FCC etc.); Injections for the Optometrist.

All residents participate in the following workshops: resident teaching workshop; punctal dilation and irrigation; scleral depression.

13. What types of conferences do residents attend/participate in?

Emergency Conference: Every Friday at 8:00am residents participate in Emergency Conference, where emergency cases and topics are discussed. Beginning in January, residents’ present clinical topics of their choice, once every ten weeks.

Faculty Conference: Friday 1:30-3:00pm residents attend Faculty Conference where a variety of lectures/updates occur. During each of the Fall Quarter, Winter Quarter and Spring Quarter each resident presents a Grand Rounds presentation to 4th years students and Faculty.
**Resident Conference:** Every Friday 3:00-5:00pm residents participate in lectures by faculty on a wide variety of topics (glaucoma topics, retina topics, neuro topics, cornea/anterior seg topics, medications, preparing posters/papers, reading fluorescein angiography, OCT review, journal club etc.)

14. **How many patients do residents see each year?**

Each resident typically examines between 1700-1900 patients each residency year.

15. **Do residents rotate to clinical sites outside of ICO?**

No, residents spend all of their scheduled residency time at ICO, in the Illinois Eye Institute; the clinic associated with ICO, and is in the same building. The IEI serves a low income, underserved patient population with more than 95,000 annual patient visits. It is the largest ambulatory eye clinic in the Chicago area. This patient base provides ample opportunities for advanced competency training experience in primary care and ocular disease.

16. **If I match with your program, what licensing information do I need to know?**

Residents who match with the program must be eligible for optometric license within the state of Illinois. They must have graduated from an accredited optometry school program and passed all parts of the NBEO examination. Specifics for the IL license may be found through the Illinois Division of Professional Regulation website: [http://www.idfpr.com/dprdefault.asp](http://www.idfpr.com/dprdefault.asp). The current application fee for IL license is $505 (subject to change; fees determined by IDFPR). Currently, there is no law examination required to obtain an IL optometric license. The Illinois license is renewed 3/31 every even year.

After a resident matches with our program, the license application materials with specific instructions on how to complete the application and deadlines are given to the resident. Because we have some narcotic controlled substance prescribing ability in the state of IL, once an Illinois license is obtained, the resident must also apply for a federal DEA license. Information regarding DEA license applications can be found at: [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/). The current application fee for a DEA (drug enforcement administration) license is $731 (subject to change; fees determined by office of diversion control). The DEA license is renewed every 3 years.

Currently, we reimburse the residents licensing fees for a prorated amount equivalent to 1 year of licensing for each of the Illinois and DEA license ($250 for the IL license and ~$240 for the DEA license).