

Ocular Disease/Low Vision Rehabilitation Residency

New Category: Ocular Disease

Emphasis: Low Vision Rehabilitation

Our mission is to offer a one-year post-doctoral clinical experience in a multidisciplinary hospital-based setting, providing advanced competency in the comprehensive management of ocular disease and low vision rehabilitation. This foundation enables the optometrist to practice beyond entry level in a variety of practice modalities.

- **Program Sites:** Jesse Brown VA Medical Center & Hines VAH Blind Rehabilitation Center, Chicago
- **Program Coordinator:** Jennifer Brown, OD (jennifer.brown1befc6@va.gov)
- **Residency Director:** Christine Allison, OD
- **Number of Positions:** 3
- **Program Dates:** July 1-June 30
 - **1 Week Orientation Prior to July 1**
- Accredited, ACOE is the accrediting body, www.theACOE.org
- **ORMatch:** 15521

Program Description

The ocular disease program at Jesse Brown is located in a joint optometry/ophthalmology eye clinic with shared facilities and equipment. Full scope optometric services are provided by seven optometry attendings and three optometry residents, and rotation optometry students. Full scope ophthalmology services are provided by ophthalmology fellows and residents as well as attending ophthalmologists all from the University of Illinois Chicago and Northwestern University Departments of Ophthalmology.

Program Design

Equivalent of:

- 3 days/week in ocular disease at Jesse Brown
 - includes about ½ day/week in specialty Contact Lens Clinic
- 1 day/week in Low vision rehabilitation at Hines Blind Rehabilitation Center
- 1 day/week in didactic education at Jesse Brown

The **Ocular Disease** portion of the program is at Jesse Brown VAMC.

- Residents gain a large amount of experience managing complex ophthalmic conditions in a busy hospital-based clinic. The patient population has a high prevalence of ocular and systemic disease. Residents will gain experience with interdisciplinary communication with multiple medical specialties.

The **Low Vision** part of the program is located at the Hines VA Hospital Central Blind Rehabilitation Center.

- Residents are immersed in both outpatient and in-patient delivery of low vision, including interaction with a multi-disciplinary rehabilitation team. Residents also have exposure to unique end-stage ocular disease presentations.

The **Contact Lens** portion of the program is at Jesse Brown VAMC:

- Residents gain experience fitting medical necessary contact lenses for a variety of corneal conditions using scleral, RGP, and soft contact lenses

Educational Conferences

Clinical conferences, seminars, and rounds take place at JBVAMC, University of Illinois Chicago Department of Ophthalmology, and the Illinois Eye Institute at the Illinois College of Optometry. The resident is expected to attend weekly optometric conferences at JBVAMC and weekly Grand Rounds at UIC Dept. of Ophthalmology. Residents are also expected to attend the American Academy of Optometry Annual Meeting.

Salary

\$49,551 per year as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs

Benefits

- **Health:** Health insurance is available.
- **Holidays:** All federal holidays are observed. (Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Indigenous Peoples Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day)
- **Vacation:** Residents accrue four hours of annual leave and four hours of sick leave per two-week pay period. Annual leave must be taken at times that do not interfere with patient care or educational activities. No vacation leave is granted during the last two weeks of the program in June.
- **Liability:** Liability coverage is provided via the Federal Tort Act for the care of veterans and nonveteran employees referred by Administrative Medicine. Liability coverage does not include care provided outside of the VA setting.
- **Information Resources:** The VA has numerous ophthalmic, primary care, and healthcare specialty online journal and textbook subscriptions as well as a VA medical library. Full ICO library access is also granted to residents.

Eligibility Criteria

- ORMatch registration, which includes:
 - A page of applicant contact, educational, and NBEO information
 - Letter of Intent
 - CV
 - Unofficial transcript uploaded by the applicant
 - 3 letters of reference submitted by individuals chosen by the applicant
 - (at least two should be clinical)
- Be a citizen of the United States
 - Have a US social security number
 - Males must be registered with the Selective Service System as required by Federal law
- Graduation from an ACOE accredited school / college of optometry
- Pass all three parts of NBEO (official scores will be sent to ORMatch from NBEO)
- Interview at Jesse Brown & Hines VA
- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has mandated that anyone in contact with patients within the Veterans Health Administration, including health professions trainees (HPTs), receive the COVID vaccination prior to the employment start date.

Criteria for Completion

1. Completion of full 12 months of clinical experience.
2. Case presentation at ICO Grand Rounds by 11 months.

3. Complete manuscript or case report of publishable quality by 12 months. An Academy case report for fellowship is also acceptable.

Completion of Acknowledgment

A certificate is presented upon successful completion of the program.

For more information

Jennifer Brown, OD, FAAO (jennifer.brown1befc6@va.gov)

Program Coordinator

Phone: 312-569-7505

Website: www.chicagovaoptometryresidency.org