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An Overview of the Illinois College of Optometry, Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation Residency Program

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HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

The ICO Binocular Vision & Pediatric Residency Program began in 1990. Dr. Janice Scharre served as the first Program Coordinator and held that position until 1995. Dr. Susan Cotter held the position of Program Coordinator from 1995-97, and then Dr. Valerie Kattouf held the position until 2003. Dr. Christine Allison began the position in 2003 and is the current program coordinator. Sixty residents have completed the program, with two residents currently participating in the program.

The program's Mission Statement is:

Offering advanced competency in pediatrics and binocular vision management through education, scholarship, and patient care.

THE PROGRAM

The Program begins on July 1 and runs for 53 weeks.

The resident's will be provided advanced clinical education in the areas of binocular vision, perception, pediatric optometry, and developmental disabilities. The resident's provide direct care to patients in the Binocular Vision/Pediatric Optometry Clinic and the Developmental Disabilities Clinic at ICO. The patients' range in age from infants to adults, with a large variety of conditions. Residents perform comprehensive eye examinations, visual efficiency evaluations, strabismus/amblyopia evaluations, developmental disability examinations, visual perceptual evaluations, and vision therapy on a routine basis.

In order to keep their therapeutic skills fresh, the residents spend one session per week for the entire length of the program in the Urgent Care Service of the Center for Advanced Ophthalmic Care at ICO. This is an urgent care clinic where the residents will be seeing a variety of anterior segment and posterior segment emergency patients.

The residents teach in one 3rd year laboratory per quarter for the Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters. The labs that they teach are the Treatment of Binocular Vision Disorders Lab (VT procedures), the Strabismus/Amblyopia Lab (strabismus testing procedures), and the Infant/Child Development and Management Lab (visual-perceptual testing procedures). The residents also start precepting students in the Binocular Vision and Pediatric Clinic beginning in the Winter quarter.

To develop skills in the area of Pediatric Low Vision, the residents take two trips to the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, where they examine pediatric low vision patients and provide them with low vision devices provided by the

Lions Clubs. They also have the opportunity to work with one of our Pediatric Low Vision Specialists in the Pediatric department on campus. The residents also participate at two Special Olympics Lions Club International Opening Eyes Screening events. One called Medfest, is held in the Fall each year at the United Center, and the other is during the summer at the Illinois State Summer Special Olympics Games.

The residents are required to give three Grand Rounds presentations to the 4th year students and the faculty based on cases that they see at ICO. Each presentation is to be given in a power point format and lasts approximately 15 minutes.

In order to provide flexibility in the program, the residents can select to work one session in another service at ICO, outside of the pediatric service. For instance, they may choose to work one session in the Cornea/Contact Lens Service, the Neuro Service, the Glaucoma Service, the Primary Care Clinic, or the Low Vision Service.

Tables 1-2 show the teaching, and research responsibilities required for the program.

Figures 1-4 show an example of one of the previous resident's schedules for the year.

Why Do a Residency Program?

- Increased competency with all examination techniques
- Increased experience with challenging cases
- Increased ability to examine infants and toddlers
- Increased experience with public speaking
- Increased marketability for the future
- Increased ability to work in education or hospital-based optometry
- Increased confidence in your own skills and knowledge

TABLE 1
Teaching Responsibilities

1. Provide clinical consultation to optometry student interns, under the supervision of experienced clinical faculty.
2. Participate in clinical grand rounds for fourth year optometry students, other residents, and optometric faculty.
3. Provide didactic or laboratory instruction to students in courses pertaining to binocular vision and vision perception.
4. Provide didactic instruction and lead discussion groups for optometry students in the Binocular Vision & Pediatric Seminar groups.
5. Opportunities to provide continuing education to optometrists or other health care professionals through grand rounds and other presentations.

TABLE 2
Research Responsibilities

1. Required (one or the other):
 - a. A completed research project of publishable quality.
 - b. Literature review or case report of publishable quality.
2. Recommended: Presentation of research or patient case report at state, regional, national, or international meetings.

FIGURE 1
Example of a Starting Summer Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM	DAY	Visual Perceptual Lab TA	Direct Care Peds Patients	Development Time and Peds Resident Conferences	Vision Therapy 9:00-1:00	
PM	OFF	Peds Pts with Peds MD on campus	Direct Care Peds Patients	Urgent Care Service	Faculty Conference Series & Resident's Conference	
EVE		Vision Therapy	Direct Care Peds Patients			

FIGURE 2
Example of a Fall Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM	DAY	Vision Therapy Lab TA	Direct Care of Peds Patients	Direct Care Peds Patients	Development Time and Peds Resident Conferences	Vision Therapy 9:00-1:00
PM	OFF	Peds Pts with MD on campus or Peds Low Vision		Urgent Care Service	Faculty Conference Series & Resident's Conference	
EVE		Vision Therapy	Direct Care of Peds Pts			

FIGURE 3
Example of a Winter Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM	DAY	Cornea/Contact Lens Resident selected session		Strabismus Testing Lab TA	Development Time and Peds Resident Conferences	Vision Therapy 9:00-1:00
PM	OFF	Peds Pts with MD on campus or Peds Low Vision	Peds Clinic Precept Students	Urgent Care Service	Faculty Conference Series & Resident's Conference	
EVE		Vision Therapy	Direct care of patients			

FIGURE 4
Example of a Spring Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM	DAY	Primary Care Resident selected session	Direct care of Peds Patients	Peds Clinic Precept Students	Development Time and Peds Resident Conferences	Vision Therapy 9:00-1:00
PM	OFF	Peds Pts with MD on campus or Peds Low Vision		Urgent Care Service	Faculty Conference Series & Resident's Conference	
EVE		Vision Therapy	Direct care of patients			

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