

Primary Care Residency

Category: Primary Care

Emphasis: Ocular Disease, Geriatrics

To provide advanced competency training in primary care optometry through direct patient care, continued education, and scholarly pursuits

- **Program Site:** Jackie Walorski VA Clinic, Mishawaka, IN
- **Program Coordinator:** Mary Wittendorf, OD, FAAO (mary.wittendorf@va.gov)
- **Residency Director:** Christine Allison, OD, FAAO
- **Number of Positions:** 1
- **Program Dates:** July 1 – June 30
- **ORMatch:** 43810
- **Accredited:** The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) has granted Jackie Walorski VA the accreditation status of “Accredited”. Accredited is a classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program generally meets the Standards for accreditation. For more information, see the ACOE’s website at www.theACOE.org or contact the AOCE at accredit@theacoe.org

Program Background

Jackie Walorski VA Clinic (JWC), formerly St. Joseph County VA Clinic, is a 71,000-square-foot facility, which opened in 2017 in Mishawaka, IN. The facility is a multi-specialty outpatient clinic within VA Northern Indiana Health Care System (VANIHCS). Currently, the JWC Eye Clinic has seven fully equipped exam lanes, three optometric technician pre-testing rooms, three imaging rooms, as well as dedicated office space with access to appropriate administrative equipment (i.e., computer, desk, telephone, etc.). The current professional staff is comprised of three full-time optometrists, one fee-basis optometrist, one fee basis ophthalmologist, three full-time optometric technicians, and up to 7-pre-degree optometry students. Ancillary staff includes two full-time advanced medical support assistants. The Eye Clinic also has three full-time contracted opticians to assist Veterans with ordering and adjusting glasses.



Jackie Walorski VA Clinic’s residency is affiliated with Illinois College of Optometry. The optometry residency at VANIHCS – JWC will provide post-doctoral clinic exposure resulting in advanced competency in the evaluation, treatment, and management in primary care optometry with an emphasis on ocular disease. The residency will equip the resident with necessary tools for lifelong learning, thereby enabling continued advanced level competency throughout his or her professional

career. Furthermore, the residency will highlight the responsibility for future contributions to the profession of optometry. The residency will cultivate an enlightening clinical environment and enable VA to develop, recruit, and retain high quality optometric staff benefiting Veterans across the country.

Program Description

The resident will:

- Provide care for a large number of patient encounters using evidence-based medicine (EBM), with much of the patient base presenting with one of more chronic ocular conditions including, but not limited to the following: Age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, ocular hypertension, retinal vascular disease, and cataract
 - Primary eye care, including screenings, wellness exams, and diagnosis/treatment of vision disorders
 - Diagnosis and treatment of ocular diseases, including emergency and urgent care
 - Diagnosis and treatment of ocular manifestations of systemic diseases
- Manage an array of complex and/or multiple ocular problems
- Become proficient in performing and interpreting advanced diagnostic procedures:
 - Optical coherence tomography (Heidelberg HRA+OCT SPECTRALIS with glaucoma, anterior segment, infrared reflectance, multi-color, widefield imaging, enhanced depth imaging, fundus autofluorescence, and OCT angiography modules)
 - Humphrey visual field (Zeiss Humphrey Field Analyzer 3)
 - Haag Streit BX photo slit lamp
 - Zeiss Atlas corneal topographer
 - Topcon TRC 50DX fundus camera
 - VuPad SonomedEscalon ultrasound
 - OCULUS Park 1
- Order and interpret laboratory, radiology, and other diagnostic studies
- Counsel patients and their families
- Interact with other health care providers to ensure continuity of care, including consultations, referrals, and follow-ups

WEEKLY HOURS

Monday: 7:15am – 3:45pm	Clinic all day
Tuesday: 7:15am – 3:45pm	Clinic all day
Wednesday: 7:15am – 3:45pm	Clinic all day
Thursday: 7:15am – 3:45pm	Didactic Education/Administrative Time – AM Clinic – PM
Friday: 7:15am – 3:45pm	Clinic – AM

The resident spends an average of 40-45 hours/week on residency-related activities. There are no on-call duties.

Educational Conferences

Principles of evidence-based medicine will be reinforced with weekly didactic education through journal clubs, lectures, case reviews, ground rounds presentations, etc. at JWC. Additional opportunity will exist for virtual collaboration with VANIHCS – Fort Wayne Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) and Battle Creek VAMC for some of these didactic sessions. The resident is encouraged to attend the annual American Academy of Optometry meeting.

Salary

\$45,590

Benefits

- **Insurance:** Eligible to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program
- **Holidays:** All federal holidays are observed (New Year's Day, Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day)
- **Educational Travel:** "Authorized absence" is granted for attendance at the American Academy of Optometry meeting or equivalent national professional meeting.
- **Leave:**
 - 13 days of paid annual leave, accrued at a rate of 4 hours per pay period
 - Unused leave may be "cashed out" at the conclusion of the program
 - 13 days of paid sick leave, accrued at a rate of 4 hours per pay period
- **Liability:** Liability coverage is provided for care of Veterans and non-Veteran employees while working at the facility. This liability coverage is not extended to care provided through "moonlighting" opportunities.
- **Informational Resources:** There are a host of online library resources available to the resident through VANIHCS and Illinois College of Optometry.

Criteria for Completion

- Successful completion of the program's clinical, education, and professional goals
- A written paper (or equivalent) of publishable quality, completed by the end of the residency period

Completion of Acknowledgment

A certificate is presented upon successful completion of the program.

For more information

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Website: <https://www.va.gov/northern-indiana-health-care/locations/jacke-walorksi-v-a-clinic/>