Cornea and Contact Lenses and Ocular Disease Residency

Category Title: Cornea and Contact Lenses
Area of Emphasis: Ocular Disease

Offering advanced competency in cornea and contact lens management and ocular disease through education, scholarship, and patient care.



- **Program Sites:** Illinois College of Optometry/Illinois Eye Institute; Chicago Cornea Consultants
- **Coordinator:** Lindsay A. Sicks, OD lsicks@ico.edu
- **Residency Director:** Christine Allison, OD
- **Number of Positions:** 2
- **Program Dates:** The 53-week program begins the first week of July. This time frame ensures overlap with of incoming and outgoing residents to provide an orientation period.
- **Accredited:** The Accreditation Council on Optometry Education (ACOE) has granted the ICO Cornea and Contact Lens Residency Program the status of "Accredited." Accreditation 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 ACOE at accredit@theacoe.org located at 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 301, St. Louis, MO 63141; 1-800-365-2219
- **ORMatch** #15113
- **Application deadline:** January 15

Program Description

This accredited one-year program focuses on the diagnosis, treatment and management of complex corneal, anterior segment and contact-lens related conditions. The resident will gain experience in patient care and teaching. This unique residency offers clinical experience in both an academic clinic and private practice setting.

Clinical assignments include direct care and precepting responsibilities at the Illinois Eye Institute (Illinois College of Optometry's on-campus clinical teaching facility) in the Cornea and Contact Lens Center for Clinical Excellence, the Center for Advanced Ophthalmic Care, and Urgent Eyecare Services. The clinical work in a private OD/MD practice setting at Chicago Cornea Consultants includes post-operative care, anterior segment care, and specialty contact lens care. The resident will work alongside both optometrists and ophthalmologists in management of advanced anterior and posterior segment conditions throughout the program.

Particular emphasis is placed on the diagnosis and management of corneal and anterior segment pathology as well as the fitting of specialty contact lenses, including: keratoconic, toric, multifocal, specialty soft, piggyback, hybrid, myopia management, and post-operative contact lens fittings. Opportunities for research and customization of the program exist. This challenging program is designed to enable the resident to develop and cultivate advanced clinical competency and confidence in cornea and contact lens management and ocular disease.

Program Objectives/Design

This residency program will enhance the clinician's skills in the diagnosis and management of complex corneal conditions and contact lens fittings including keratoconic, presbyopic, orthokeratology, astigmatic, post-surgical, anterior segment disease, dry eye and urgent care patients. The resident will develop/enhance their advanced diagnostic skills through

experience with various diagnostic testing equipment including corneal topography, specular microscopy, corneal pachymetry, tear osmolarity, MMP-9 inflammation assessment, A/B-scan ultrasonography, optical coherence tomography, and anterior segment photography.

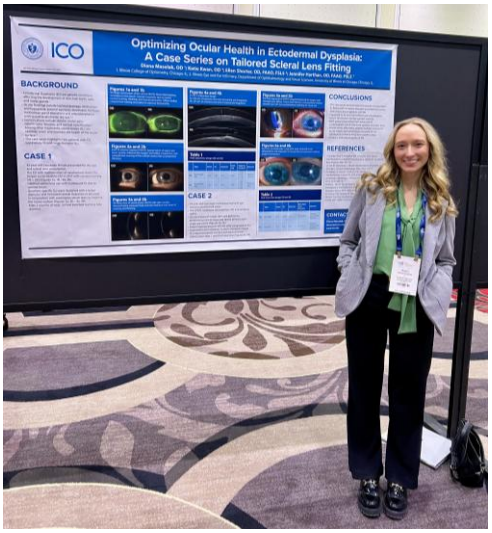
In a typical week, the resident is expected to spend at minimum 44 hours/week on residency-related activities. The resident participates in the following activities (the times listed are approximations and are subject to change):

- Contact Lens: direct care and/or precepting (16 hours)
- Advanced Care/Urgent Care: direct care and/or precepting (8 hours)
- OD/MD Private Practice: direct care (8-10 hours)
- Educational Conference and Rounds (4 hrs)
- Development time (scholarly activity and/or research) (4 hours)
- Office hours (3 hours)

Research Responsibilities

Each resident is required to complete a case report, research study, or literature review of publishable quality. It is recommended that the project be presented at an academic meeting or published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Educational Opportunities



The resident attends and participates in weekly Friday conferences that take place on the ICO campus. At the start of the program, the resident attends an on-campus training session, taught by outside experts in education and instruction, to help develop skills as a clinical educator and effective presenter.

The resident is also supported to attend several conferences throughout the year, including the GPLI Resident Symposium (required), American Academy of Optometry, and Global Specialty Lens Symposium meetings. The resident is allowed 5 days of academic leave to attend meetings and CE (and may need to utilize remaining vacation time as needed to support their attendance). A travel stipend is available from ICO, and grant opportunities for residents are available.

Residency Supervision/ Evaluation Process

The faculty in each clinic supervises and advises the resident. Increasing autonomy develops as the residency progresses. The resident receives quarterly evaluations, in addition to general feedback from the Residency Coordinator. The resident will meet on a weekly basis with the Residency Coordinator for clinical guidance, journal club discussions, and support.

The area supervisors develop each resident's schedule on a quarterly basis. Grand Rounds presentations are given three times a year and are evaluated by the entire faculty. A summary report is generated by the Residency Coordinator and is then forwarded to and discussed with the resident. The resident is also asked to evaluate their residency experience at the completion of the program.

Salary

$55,000 per year

Benefits

- Vacation time: 11 days
- Academic leave: 5 days
- Additional holiday time when the Illinois Eye Institute is closed
- Group medical and dental insurance with prescription drug coverage
- Professional liability insurance for practice/eyecare provided at the Illinois Eye Institute and affiliated sites
- Group term life insurance
- Short-term disability insurance

Criteria for Completion

- Satisfactory completion of all learning objectives
- Attendance at all clinical assignments
- Attendance and participation at Faculty Conference/Grand Rounds and scheduled conferences
- Attendance and participation in all required course work
- A written paper of publishable quality, completed by the end of the residency period

Accreditation

This residency program is currently accredited by the ACOE. The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) is the accrediting body for optometric residency programs. The next site visit is scheduled for Spring 2031.

ACOE contact information:

Email address: accredit@theacoe.org
Mailing address: 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 301, St. Louis, MO 63141
Website: www.theACOE.org
Phone number: 800.365.2219

For more information:

Lindsay A. Sicks, OD, FAAO, FIACLE, FSLS
Illinois College of Optometry
3241 S. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60616
312-949-7110
LSicks@ico.edu