

**RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY UNIVERSITY
OF FLORIDA**

**Sonal Tuli, M.D., Chair
Casey Beal, M.D., Program Director**

For Information, please contact:

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***Applications are due in the Summer/Fall two
years prior to the July 1 program starting date.***

Summer/Fall 2020

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in a residency position in the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology beginning July 1, 2022. We are enclosing a description of our residency program for your information.

The Department of Ophthalmology selects residents largely on the basis of medical school standing & grades, the quality of your 3 letters of recommendation, and various relevant professional and personal attributes. We're looking for residents who epitomize generosity, integrity and community. A demonstrated previous interest in the field of ophthalmology i.e. research, volunteer work, etc. is helpful, but not necessary.

Our department participates in the San Francisco Ophthalmology Matching Program, so you must be registered with them in order to apply to our program. **The deadline for receiving your application is October 9, 2020.** Applications not completed by that date cannot be considered.

We grant interviews to approximately forty applicants. The interviews will be held on 3 selected dates in November and/or December. The personal interview is an important part of the application process and is a requirement for acceptance into our program. We truly appreciate your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

Christina Kuruppacherry
Residency Program Administrator
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Florida

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The University Of Florida Department Of Ophthalmology's mission is three-fold. First, we seek to provide quality health care to every patient who comes to this hospital for eye care. Second, it is a departmental goal to pursue research in the field of ophthalmology. Lastly, our department educates residents in the field of ophthalmology so that by the time of graduation, each individual is capable of providing high quality, compassionate, and ethical care to patients who come to them with their ophthalmologic problems.

FACILITIES

The UF Health Shands health care system encompasses five acute care hospitals; two specialty hospitals and the largest not-for-profit home care company in the Southeast United States. The UF Health Shands system offers the most comprehensive range of health care services in North Central Florida. It is dedicated to improving and maintaining the health of the people in our area, not only through medical treatment and diagnostic care but also through a variety of community education programs and preventive health services.

The UF Health Shands system includes Shands at the University of Florida, Shands Cancer Hospital, Shands at Starke, Shands at Lake Shore, Shands at Live Oak, Upreach Rehabilitation Hospital, Shands at Vista, Shands HomeCare and Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida.

Since its opening in 1958, Shands at the University of Florida has had many medical firsts, including Florida's first open heart surgery in 1959 and the first organ transplants in the 1960's.

The 996-bed private, not-for-profit hospital has become one of the most comprehensive hospitals in the Southeast, specializing in tertiary care for critically ill patients. UF Health Shands hospital has 87,000 admissions each year and 1.15 million outpatient visits. It is the only pediatric and adult level 1 trauma center in the area.

UF Health Shands has a threefold mission: to provide patient care, education and research. The hospital is part of the University of Florida Health Science Center, an innovative academic medical center that includes colleges in medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, health professions and veterinary medicine. This relationship

provides a combination of basic science and clinical research capabilities, resulting in a comprehensive array of health care services ranging from routine to highly specialized. The operating rooms at Shands offer the most modern ophthalmic equipment for all types of ophthalmic surgery.

Outpatient surgical facilities at the Florida Surgical Center and Children's Surgery Center have been developed in addition to that at Shands Hospital, and the Department of Ophthalmology is a frequent user of these facilities.

The Eye Center is located at UF Health The Oaks facility. Our state of the art ophthalmology center was just built and opened in February of 2020. Everything is new from the ground up! The Eye Center is currently over 40,000 square feet with 66 eye exam lanes, 3 minor procedure rooms, onsite LASIK suite, and includes corneal topography, optical coherent tomography, digital fluorescein angiography, ultrasound and electrophysiology equipment, as well as a photography unit and the aforementioned laser suites, which include a phototherapy/Visudyne unit. As of August 2020, we have a 5 room dedicated Eye/ENT outpatient surgical center onsite. The entire building is 125,000 square feet and also includes two 40 person conference rooms.

Certain halls are designed for specific patients or problems; among these are pediatric ophthalmology, retina, corneal and external disease, glaucoma, low vision, contact lens, oculoplastics and neuro-ophthalmology. Also within the outpatient department are ancillary facilities, which include:

1. A visual physiology laboratory where electroretinography, electro-oculography, dark adaptation testing and color vision testing are performed. In addition, laser interferometry, visually evoked responses, contrast sensitivity testing, and glare disability testing are used in the pre- and post-surgical evaluation of patients with ocular media opacities.
2. A photography laboratory fully equipped for standard still photography, stereo slit-lamp photography, specular photo microscopy of the corneal endothelium, corneal topography, color retinal photography, and digital fluorescein angiography of the anterior segment and retina. Additional equipment includes an Orbscan and a Retcam.
3. An ophthalmic ultrasound unit equipped for both A-mode and B-mode ultrasonography of the eye and orbit, which are used for the diagnosis of intraocular and orbital pathology as well as measurement of ocular dimensions for the calculation of intraocular lens power. Additionally, we have added an Ultrasonic BioMicroscope (UBM), IOLmaster and LenStar.
4. A visual field unit consisting of several Goldmann perimeters and Humphrey perimeters, which are automated, computerized field analyzers.
5. Facilities for sophisticated glaucoma evaluation, including the Heidelberg scanning laser tomography system, provocative testing, and tonography.
6. A contact lens unit is located near the examining rooms and has been specifically designed for contact lens patients and for storage and care of contact lenses.

7. Four minor treatment rooms equipped for minor surgical and diagnostic procedures. These rooms are equipped with an operating table, an operating microscope, and specialized equipment that includes surgical instruments, and a cryotherapy machine.
8. Many lasers, including argon, argon-krypton, and a neodymium: YAG--for the treatment of glaucoma, post-cataract membranes, and vitreoretinal diseases are located at the Oaks. Photodynamic therapy for age-related macular degeneration is also available.

Approximately 30,000 outpatients are seen here annually.

The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SG VHS) is a comprehensive and integrated health care delivery system for veterans that includes two hospitals, the Gainesville Veterans Administration Medical Center (GVA) and 30 miles north, the Lake City VAMC (LCVA).

The Gainesville Veterans Administration Medical Center is a modern 474-bed hospital that is located directly across the street from Shands Hospital and is connected to it by an underground tunnel. It serves the health care needs of those veterans of the United States Armed Forces who live in North and Central Florida. The training programs at this center are fully integrated into the university's programs, and the attending staff are full-time faculty members of the University of Florida. The GVAMC is among the top three VA hospitals in the country as to the number of surgical beds and surgical procedures performed. Ophthalmology plays a prominent role in generating these statistics.

A modern, well-equipped operating room designed for ophthalmic surgery is located within the VA surgical suite. The room is outfitted with a brand new Zeiss operating microscope, including facilities for recording surgical procedures; an Alcon phacoemulsification unit for cataract surgery; a vitrectomy machine for vitreous surgery, and all the other standard surgical instruments for performing up-to-date ophthalmic surgery.

The eye clinic of the VA Medical Center is located on the fourth floor of the hospital. Within the eye clinic are twelve fully equipped examining lanes for use by the four residents on the rotation, attending faculty, and optometry residents. A minor treatment room for performing minor surgical and laser procedures is located within the clinic. Full-time personnel within the eye clinic include a departmental secretary, full-time ophthalmic technologists, two clerks in the reception area and one to two ophthalmic technology students or residents on rotation. The eye clinic at the VA medical centers sees 19,000 visits/yearly. The VA Hospital in Lake City has now come under the Gainesville VA Hospital and the five senior residents now perform an additional 200-300 cataract surgeries per year at this facility.

The GVA 4th floor eye clinic was renovated and expanded in 1998 and, when that expansion was found insufficient, a satellite eye clinic was opened on the first floor. These two clinics are a 1-minute walk apart from each other. Optometry works out of

the first floor clinic. Ophthalmology works in the 4th floor clinic. There are a total of 12 exam lanes in the 4th floor clinic and 5 lanes on the 1st floor. The 4th floor eye clinic has 2 automated perimeters, a manual perimeter, laser interferometry, ophthalmic photography, A/B scan ultrasound, digital fluorescein angiography, a laser room (with YAG and Argon lasers), and a large minor procedures room (complete with new operating scope). The first floor clinic houses a low vision suite, too.

In addition to the medical staff, there is a secretary, RN, 5 ophthalmic technicians, 3 optometrists, 2 optometry students, and 1 optometry resident. Also, ophthalmic technology students from the parent institution rotate to the GVA eye clinics. There is office space for the technologists, optometrists, and medical staff, as well as a large break room. Finally, GVA has a full medical library down the hall from the 4th floor eye clinic, and ophthalmic resources are regularly added. GVA currently has one operating suite dedicated to ophthalmology. It is equipped with a Zeiss microscope, new Accurus vitrectomy system, an Alcon phacoemulsification unit, and the other necessary instrumentation for modern ophthalmic surgery. A video recording unit is in place in the O.R. for resident review of surgeries later. A second operating microscope and phacoemulsification machine allow intraocular surgeries to be done in 2 rooms on certain days.

LCVA has four fully equipped exam lanes, an automated perimetry, and an A-scan unit. There is an optometrist and ophthalmic technician as well as necessary clerical staff. There is a full medical library. There is an operating room with Zeiss microscope and Alcon phacoemulsification unit. All anterior segment procedures can be performed at LCVA. Those patients requiring further work-up beyond that noted above, or needing posterior segment or laser procedures, are referred to GVA. Patient care is seamless between the two hospitals since the two hospitals share a computerized patient record system.

The Naval Hospital in Jacksonville (NAH) provides a military-based hospital setting where residents provide ophthalmic care for a large patient population with a wide range of eye disorders and surgical pathology. At this institution, residents see patients in a general ophthalmologic setting. There are seven fully equipped lanes for ophthalmologic examination. In addition, the clinic is staffed by five corpsmen, one nurse, and one receptionist. There is a fully equipped minor surgery room located in the Eye Clinic. Additional equipment in the clinic includes two perimeters, slit-lamp and fundus camera, fluorescein angiography equipment, topographer, and A and B-scan ultrasound units. Both Argon and YAG lasers are present in the clinic. There is a full medical library located at the Naval Hospital. The operating room is completely equipped for modern ophthalmologic surgery, with an operating microscope, operating phacoemulsification unit, and closed vitrectomy.

The Naval Hospital uses a VISX Star 4 excimer laser for refractive surgery. Naval surgeons are doing 400 refractive surgeries a year and our residents perform many of the surgeries. Residents becoming VISX-certified get a significant refractive surgical experience at NAH, performing approximately 20-40 refractive surgeries per rotation.

They undergo this experience under the tutelage of the full-time faculty members at NAH.

Currently, a PGY-4 resident rotates to NAH for 5 weeks a year (half a week x 10 weeks). The NAH resident commutes from Gainesville to NAH on Mondays and Tuesdays. The resident occasionally goes to NAH on Fridays for additional refractive experience. Residents tell us that the experience they receive at NAH is a worthy one, unparalleled elsewhere in the country.

SPECIALTY SERVICES

For subspecialty care, patients are referred to the University of Florida Eye Clinic at UF Health The Oaks. The fact that many patients are referred from other ophthalmologists means that the yield of pathology is very high relative to the number of patients seen. All patients are examined initially by one of the residents who, after performing a complete diagnostic work-up, will present the patient to the attending faculty member assigned to a given specialty clinic. The faculty member reviews the case and then personally examines the patient. Thus, all patients are seen by both the resident and a faculty member who then agree on a method of management. The resident also participates in all of the surgical interventions with their assigned Attending physician. It is evident then, that the particularly close liaison between faculty and residents on all patients is a major strength of our training program.

The clinical activities of the Department of Ophthalmology are organized into a variety of sub-specialty services, which includes corneal and external disease, refractive surgery, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology, retina and vitreous, oculo-plastics, and contact lenses.

Residency rotations are 10 weeks each. First year residents have two rotations at the Gainesville VAMC, one on Urgent care and two rotations at UF Health at the Oaks. Second year residents have one rotation at the Gainesville VAMC and a rotation in each of the following subspecialties: retina, pediatrics, glaucoma, and cornea. 3rd year residents have one rotation at the Gainesville VAMC, one at the Lake City VAMC, one at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, one of each glaucoma and neuro/plastics.

SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Corneal & External Disease	Sonal Tuli, M.D. Chair Ankit Shah, M.D. Lauren Jeang, M.D.
Glaucoma	Mark Sherwood, M.D. C. Richard Blake, M.D.
Retina	Gibran Khurshid, M.D. Siva Iyer, M.D. Jinghua Chen, M.D.
Oculoplastics	John LiVecchi, M.D.
Pediatric Ophthalmology, ROP and Strabismus	Casey Beal, M.D., Program Director Swati Agarwal, M.D.
Comprehensive Ophthalmology	Eric Grieser, M.D. Dan Dawson, M.D.
Contact Lens & Low Vision	Penny Straughn, O.D. Jessica Cameron, O.D.
Gainesville VA	Michael Wiggins, M.D. Wanda Martinez, M.D. Virginia Petitto, M.D. Jay Riddle, M.D. Alethia Pantazis, M.D.
Lake City VA	Paul Rentiers, M.D. Aldo Fantin, M.D.
Naval Hospital Jacksonville	Catherine Hagan, M.D. Todd Endicott, M.D.
Full-time Research Faculty	John Ash, Ph.D. Wen-Tao Deng, Ph.D. Astra Dinculescu, Ph.D. William Hauswirth, Ph.D. Qiuhong Li, Ph.D. Katerina Lobanova, Ph.D. Jijing Pang, M.D., Ph.D. Clay Smith, Ph.D. Amrisha Verma, Ph.D.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Basic Course in Ophthalmology

During the final four weeks of the joint medicine internship, a basic course in ophthalmology is presented by the faculty of the Department of Ophthalmology to the incoming residents and ophthalmic technology students. This course is not designed to provide all-inclusive coverage of basic and clinical ophthalmology; rather, it gives the residents and ophthalmic technology students a chance to "get their feet wet" in areas that are essential to their examination and care of patients.

During these weeks, lectures are given in ocular anatomy and histology, the basic eye examination, ocular emergencies, ocular pathology, direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy, neuro-ophthalmology, optics and refraction, keratometry and contact lens basics, examination of children, corneal and external eye diseases, glaucoma, gonioscopy, and ocular pharmacology. Practical workshops are included in basic laboratory procedures, OR procedures, retinoscopy, keratometry and refraction, visual field testing, motility testing, and contact lens fitting. Additionally, special lectures are given regarding diagnostic procedures, such as fluorescein angiography and ultrasonography in the diagnosis of retinal and orbital diseases, and electrophysiologic tests in the diagnosis of retinal diseases.

Grand Rounds

Each Friday morning throughout the year, the Department of Ophthalmology meets for grand rounds. Rounds are attended by the residents, faculty, and any other interested observers including medical students, fellows, and local ophthalmologists.

Pearls for Practice Series

Throughout the academic year, visiting professors from other institutions are invited to offer us their knowledge and skills from their areas of expertise. We have been fortunate to attract visitors of the highest caliber who are both excellent teachers and are among the most prominent names in ophthalmology. The program is varied and flexible, occurring usually on Fridays, although special programs may have different schedules. They are attended by all residents, the faculty, and, in addition, a large number of referring ophthalmologists in North Florida who receive continuing medical education credits.

Journal Club

Nine times during the academic year a journal club is held, either at a local restaurant or at the home of one of our faculty members. Several recent journal articles relating to the faculty member's area of expertise, are selected by the faculty member and chief residents. These articles are then assigned for reading and are discussed by the group.

Weekly Lecture Schedule

Didactic sessions are offered every weekday throughout the year. These sessions are held in the morning prior to clinic. Lectures are given in all specialty areas, and OKAP (Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program) preparation is included. Other clinical areas and basic sciences are covered, as well, throughout the year.

GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

1. Residents will possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and judgment to effectively practice general ophthalmology, and will have the background necessary to proceed into subspecialty fellowship training where desired.
2. Residents will demonstrate the technical skills and judgment to be competent general ophthalmologic surgeons, and will be able to identify the indications and limitations of more advanced surgical procedures so that they can make appropriate decisions regarding the referral of patients to sub-specialists.
3. Residents will display the ability to deliver compassionate, appropriate, and effective patient care. They will be able to self-evaluate their own patient care, and participate in continuing education programs, so as to ultimately improve their patient care delivery.
4. Residents will build appropriate communication skills and learn to be effective teachers of ophthalmology to other ophthalmologists, physicians, paramedical personnel, and the public.
5. Residents will be able to discriminate between different research methodologies, including statistical analysis of data, so that they can interpret the ophthalmologic literature and identify those studies that should have significant impact on clinical practice.
6. Residents will practice ophthalmology in a professional, compassionate and ethical manner in accordance with the principles espoused in the Code of Ethics of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. They will exhibit sensitivity to patients, and respect for the patient-physician, and physician-physician relationship.
7. Residents will demonstrate awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context of the health care system, including maintenance of cost-effective practice, understanding risk-benefits of certain treatments, and disease prevention.
8. Residents will be able to successfully complete the written and oral qualifying examinations of the American Board of Ophthalmology.