

# VisionAmerica of Birmingham Residency Information Packet

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October 2010

October 11, 2010

To All Residency Candidates:

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation. I'm sure it seems like a long and challenging road but one that you ultimately look back and find very rewarding. I think you will find a residency opportunity just as rewarding. We are excited that you are considering the Ocular Disease Residency at VisionAmerica of Birmingham. Our Residency Program is affiliated with the Residency Programs at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry and was established in 2009. We are fully accredited by the ACOE. Below, you will find some general information about our program. As you go through this information, please feel free to contact me with any questions. You may email me at [pbatson@eyehealthpartners.com](mailto:pbatson@eyehealthpartners.com) or call me at our office at 205-943-4600.

Sincerely,

*Paul*

Paul D. Batson, O.D.

Center Director

Supervisor of Residency in Ocular Disease

VisionAmerica of Birmingham

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## **VisionAmerica Overview**

VisionAmerica of Birmingham is a multi-specialty secondary and tertiary referral center that has served the optometric community in Alabama for over 20 years. Our mission at VisionAmerica is to provide a comprehensive eye care delivery system which advocates the cooperative efforts of optometry and ophthalmology through clinical care, education and research. Our Birmingham office provides the following specialties: anterior segment diseases, cornea, oculoplastic, retina, refractive surgery, pediatric and strabismus with a staff of 8 ophthalmologist and 2 optometrist.

## **Residency Mission Statement**

The mission of the residency programs at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry (UABSO) is to develop, maintain, advance, and promote postdoctoral clinical training programs of excellence in the major areas of optometric care, including ocular disease.

The mission of the Residency in Ocular Disease at VisionAmerica of Birmingham aims to provide advanced clinical training for post-graduate optometrists, allowing residents completing the program to deliver a high level of secondary eye care, serve as teachers in optometric or other professional environments, and serve the profession of optometry as experts and leaders in secondary eye care.

## **Goals**

Goal I: To emphasize the clinical care of a challenging and diverse patient base in order to develop the resident's skill in diagnosing and managing ocular disease.

Goal II: Develop or enhance the resident's didactic presentation skills.

Goal III: To enhance the resident's teaching experience through scholarly development and clinical preceptor responsibilities.

Goal IV: To provide didactic training for the resident.

Goal V: To gain exposure to the political aspects of optometry at a local and state level.

Goal VI: To emphasize the administrative aspects of the management of a multispecialty co-management center.

### **Written curriculum description.**

The curriculum for the Residency in Ocular Disease is centered on clinical care. The resident is involved in patient care activities approximately four days per week. The remainder of the residents' time is devoted to such academic interests as administrative training, conferences, symposia, case presentations and discussion, and research. The resident spends 40 hours per week in regularly scheduled activities but is expected to be available for rotating emergency coverage after-hours. The residency is a 13 month full-time training program.

The residency in ocular disease is an independence-building, educational enterprise for which the primary focus is the attainment of superior skills in patient care and management of a wide array of clinical conditions within ocular disease as well as the administration of a multispecialty, multi-physician co-management center. One of the strengths of the program is the challenging and diverse patient base the resident will be exposed to in the VisionAmerica of Birmingham practice. The patient encounters include a large diversity of diagnostic and management challenges and are considered by the Residency Supervisor to be appropriate for training of residents in ocular disease. Residency faculty are experts in ocular disease and will guide the resident in learning to diagnosis and manage the often serious and/or complex conditions encountered in the VisionAmerica of Birmingham practice. The program also offers frequent exposure to the administrative aspects of a multispecialty, multi-physician co-management center. Teaching opportunities for the resident in the form of presentations are planned and occur regularly throughout the year, primarily in the monthly resident/intern conferences, to foster interest in delivering continuing education lectures. The resident will have the opportunity to experience clinical teaching through regular supervision of student interns. The program will also include training and exposure to the management of a multi-specialty, multi-physician co-management center. Finally, the resident is exposed to the political aspects of optometry through the Birmingham-area optometric society meetings and involvement in the American Optometric Association and Alabama Optometric Association.

**Criteria for residency completion are as follows:**

- The resident is required to deliver clinical services at a level which is satisfactory to the Residency Supervisor.
- The resident is required to keep a record of patient encounters. Cases are reviewed periodically by the residency supervisor.
- The resident is required to write a paper based on original research, literature review, or a clinical case suitable for publication in a refereed ophthalmic journal.
- The resident is expected to perform in a professional manner in the delivery of patient care services and to observe those proprieties of conduct and courtesies that are consistent with the rules and regulations of VisionAmerica.
- The resident is required to participate in and complete the requirements set forth in the curriculum.

**The program admission eligibility criteria are as follows:**

All residency programs utilize the Optometric Residency Matching Service (ORMS). Admission eligibility criteria include:

- Applicant must comply with all ORMS procedures and submit an ORMS application with all supporting documentation by the February 1 deadline as described at [www.optometryresident.org](http://www.optometryresident.org).
- Applicant must have earned an O.D. degree by the time of matriculation, from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.
- Applicant must have passed parts I, II, and III of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.
- An interview with each final applicant may be required.
- VisionAmerica of Birmingham affirms that all residency applicants are evaluated without regard to sex, race, color, creed, national origin, or non-disqualifying physical disability.”

### **General Residency Information:**

- The duration of the resident's training program is 13 months from July 1 until July 31 of the following year.
- Each resident is expected to participate in residency activities 40 hours per week. He/she is also expected to provide emergency coverage for the clinic during day, night, and weekend hours on a rotating basis (approximately every fourth week).
- The current annual salary for a resident is \$38,000 plus benefits. The resident's salary is not contingent upon productivity of the resident.
- Health benefits are single-member coverage provided at a small fee. Professional benefits are \$2000 per year for continuing education, professional dues, and subscriptions. Leave benefits are 5 days for continuing education and 10 days vacation.
- Resident's professional liability protection for all VisionAmerica services at VisionAmerica clinical settings is provided by Eye Health Partners of Alabama, Inc. with Zurich American. This insurance also covers action taken subsequent to the residency for acts that occurred during the residency which were undertaken as part of the training program.
- Moonlighting is permitted but only on weekends that the resident is not on call. Any moonlighting is not covered by the professional liability policy provided by Zurich American, and the resident will need to secure his/her own professional liability policy for professional activities that are not a part of the residency program, such as moonlighting.
- Requirements for residency completion and awarding of certificate are as follows:
  - The resident is required to deliver clinical services at a level which is satisfactory to the Residency Supervisor.
  - The resident is required to keep a record of patient encounters. Cases are reviewed periodically by the Residency Supervisor.
  - The resident is required to write a paper based on original research, literature review, or clinical case for publication in a refereed ophthalmic journal.
  - The resident is expected to perform in a professional manner in the delivery of patient care services and to observe those proprieties of conduct and courtesies that are consistent with the rules and regulations of VisionAmerica.
  - The resident is required to participate in and complete the requirements set forth in the curriculum.

The Residency Supervisor informs the Director of Residency Programs when the resident has successfully completed all program requirements, including completion of the publishable-quality paper. When the Director of Residency is informed by the Residency Supervisor that the Resident in Ocular Disease has successfully completed all program requirements, the Director of Residency Programs recommends to the Dean the granting of a certificate.