



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

**SONAL TULI, M.D., PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

*For Information, please contact:*

**Ms. Karen Janicki, Residency Administrator  
Department of Ophthalmology  
University of Florida  
Box 100284  
Gainesville, FL 32610-0284**

**Call: (352) 273-8778  
Or e-mail: [kjanicki@eye.ufl.edu](mailto:kjanicki@eye.ufl.edu)**

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



College Medicine  
Department of Ophthalmology

PO Box 100284  
Gainesville, FL 32610-0284  
352-273-8778  
352-392-7839 Fax

## Summer/Fall 2009

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in a residency position in the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology beginning July 1, 2011. 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. 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 Ophthalmology Matching Program, so you must register with that program whether or not you also decide to be part of their Centralized Application Service (CAS). If you do choose to use the CAS, carefully follow their instructions. **The deadline for receiving your application is October 16, 2009.** Applications not completed by that date (excluding the Dean's letter) cannot be considered. The Dean's letter and transcripts must be received no later than **November 13, 2009.**

We grant interviews to approximately forty applicants. The interviews will be held on 4 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,

John Troupe, M.D.  
Co-Director, Selection Committee

Ramakrishna Ratnakaram, M.D.  
Co-Director, Selection Committee

# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

***The University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology's mission is three-fold. We have a strong commitment to the education of 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. We seek to provide the highest quality health care to every patient who comes to this hospital for eye care. Finally, we are committed to advance the field of ophthalmology by pursuing research in the field of ophthalmology.***

## GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESIDENCY 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 health care, and disease prevention.
8. Residents will be able to successfully complete the written and oral qualifying examinations of the American Board of Ophthalmology.

## FACILITIES

Shands HealthCare is a private, not-for-profit healthcare system affiliated with the University of Florida and its Health Science Center campus in Gainesville. The system includes eight Shands hospitals and two home-health agencies. Shands is affiliated with more than 80 UF outpatient practices located throughout North Central and Northeast Florida.

Shands is a leader for healthcare referrals in the state of Florida and the healthcare system is among the most respected in the Southeast. UF and community physicians on our medical staff provide care in more than 100 specialty and sub-specialty medical areas, from primary care to highly complex care including cancer, cardiovascular, neurosurgery and transplantation services. Patients come to us from every county in the state, throughout the nation and more than a dozen countries.

Our more than 13,000 employees, 2,300 volunteers and 1,500 UF and community physicians contribute to our excellent reputation and share a common vision, “the Science of Hope.”

The Shands HealthCare system is comprised of:

- Two academic medical centers
  - [Shands at the University of Florida](#) (Gainesville)
  - [Shands Jacksonville](#) (Jacksonville)
- Shands children's services
  - [Shands Children's Hospital at UF](#)
- Four community hospitals
  - [Shands AGH](#) (Gainesville)
  - [Shands Live Oak](#) (Live Oak)
  - [Shands Lake Shore](#) (Lake City)
  - [Shands Starke](#) (Starke)
- Two specialty hospitals
  - [Shands Rehab Hospital](#) (Gainesville)
  - Shands Vista Behavioral Health (Gainesville)
- Outpatient programs
  - [Shands HomeCare](#) (North Florida)
  - [Shands Rehab Centers](#) (Gainesville)
- [University of Florida Physician Practices](#) (Gainesville and Jacksonville)

Shands at UF 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 Florida Surgical Center offer the most modern ophthalmic equipment for all types of ophthalmic surgery.

The Eye Center facilities are primarily located in the Shands Medical Plaza. The Eye Center is currently 13,500 square feet with 25 exam lanes and diagnostic and surgical facilities. The Eye Specialists at Hampton Oaks Eye Clinic is the Department of Ophthalmology's satellite clinic. It has 8 exam lanes, diagnostic equipment, and a refractive surgery suite with a VISX S4IR Excimer laser, an Intralase and a Pentacam.

Also within the outpatient department are ancillary facilities, which include:

1. Photography suite fully equipped for digital slit lamp photography, stereo color fundus photography, specular photo microscopy of the corneal endothelium, corneal topography, and digital fluorescein angiography of the anterior segment and retina. Additional recent additions include an Orbscan, a Pentacam, a Retcam, an HRT and a spectral domain OCT (Spectralis) and a combined HRA-Spectralis.
2. 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 by immersion. Additionally, we have recently added an Ultrasonic BioMicroscope (UBM) and two IOL-Masters.
3. Visual field equipment consisting of several Goldmann and Humphrey perimeters, which are automated, computerized visual field analyzers.
4. Facilities for sophisticated glaucoma evaluation, including the Heidelberg scanning laser tomography system, provocative testing, and tonography.
5. 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.
6. A full service contact lens unit is located near the examining rooms which has contact lens equipment for fitting various complex as well as routine ocular pathologies and refractive errors.

7. A minor treatment room equipped for minor surgical and diagnostic procedures. This room is equipped with an operating table, an operating microscope, and specialized equipment that includes surgical instruments, coagulators, and cryotherapy apparatus.
8. Multiple lasers: Pascal, Argon, neodymium: YAG, frequency doubled YAG, and SLT for the treatment of vitreoretinal diseases, glaucoma, and post-cataract membranes. Photodynamic therapy for age-related macular degeneration is also available.

During peak periods of activity, the Eye Center is large enough to allow 10 ophthalmology residents, four faculty members, six ophthalmic technologists, two orthoptists, and a variety of nursing, secretarial, and administrative personnel to work in an efficient manner. Approximately 23,000 outpatients are examined here annually.

The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SG VHS) is a comprehensive and integrated health care delivery system for veterans. It includes 2 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. All of the attending physicians are faculty members of the University of Florida. The GVAMC is among the top three VA hospitals in the country in number of surgical beds and surgical procedures performed. Ophthalmology plays a prominent role in generating these statistics and consistently does the maximum number of surgical procedures of any service at the VA.

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 as well as the full and part-time faculty, a Physician assistant, technicians and students. Other full-time personnel within the eye clinic include a departmental administrator, two clerks in the reception area and two registered nurses who do all the surgery scheduling. The eye clinic at the VA medical centers sees 17,000 visits per year. By 2011, the eye clinic will be moving to a much larger outpatient facility that is being built in front of the current building.

The 4<sup>th</sup> 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). We are very excited to be one of the few residency sites in the country to have an EyeSi ocular surgical simulator with anterior and posterior segment surgery modules for resident training prior to patient surgery.

A modern, well-equipped operating room designed for ophthalmic surgery is located within the VA surgical suite. The room is outfitted with a Zeiss Lumera operating microscope, including facilities for recording surgical procedures; an Alcon Infinity torsional phacoemulsification unit for cataract surgery; a new Accurus vitrectomy unit, a B&L Millennium ant/post segment unit, ECP unit and all the other standard surgical instruments for performing up-to-date ophthalmic surgery. A second operating microscope and phacoemulsification machine are now available so that intraocular surgeries can be done in 2 rooms on Thursdays making a total of six operating room days a week.

GVA has a full medical library down the hall from the 4th floor eye clinic, and ophthalmic resources are regularly added.

The LCVA has 4 fully equipped exam lanes, an automated perimetry, topography and an A-scan unit. There is a full-time attending physician, 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 Infinity phacoemulsification unit. All anterior segment procedures can be performed at LCVA and the GVA is the referral center for posterior segment surgery from Lake City. Patient care is practically seamless between the 2 hospitals since the 2 hospitals share a high tech computerized patient record system in which is recorded all pertinent patient data.

The Naval Hospital in Jacksonville (NAH) provides a military-based hospital setting where residents provide ophthalmic care for a large active duty patient population with a wide range of eye disorders and surgical pathology. This is the major site for refractive surgery for the residents. NAH has a VISX Star 4 excimer laser for refractive surgery. Residents becoming VISX-certified get a significant refractive surgical experience at NAH, performing approximately 80 refractive surgeries per rotation. They undergo this experience under the tutelage of 3 full-time faculty members. The residents also see patients in a general ophthalmologic setting. There are 7 fully equipped lanes for ophthalmologic examination. In addition, the clinic is staffed by 5 corpsmen, 1 nurse, and 1 receptionist. There is a fully equipped minor surgery room located in the Eye Clinic. Additional equipment in the clinic includes 2 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. Residents tell us that the experience they receive at NAH is an immensely worthy one, unparalleled elsewhere in the residency.

## **SPECIALTY SERVICES**

For all clinical activities, patients are usually referred to the specialty services at University of Florida Eye Clinic at the Shands Medical Plaza by outside ophthalmologists and physicians. The fact that most patients are referred means that the yield of pathology is very high relative to the number of patients seen. The majority of 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 strong point 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, contact lenses and low-vision.

## SUB-SPECIALTY SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Corneal and External Disease	Sonal Tuli, M.D., Director <b>Residency Program Director</b> Monali Sakhalkar, M.D. Cameron Johnson, M.D
Refractive Surgery	Cameron Johnson, M.D., Director Sonal Tuli, M.D.
Glaucoma	Mark Sherwood, M.D., Co-Director M. Fran Smith, M.D., Co-Director
Retina/Uveitis	R. Ratnakaram, M.D./ <b>Medical Director</b> Marc Peden, M.D.
Neuro-Ophthalmology	Robert Harbour, M.D. (part-time) Jesse Halpern, M.D. (part-time)
Oculoplastic and Orbital Surgery	Alan Lessner, M.D., Director
Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Nausheen Khuddus, M.D., Director
Gainesville VAMC/Lake City VA	John Troupe, M.D., J.D., Director Karim Samara, M.D. Janis Holt, M.D.
Contact Lens	Penny Straughn, O.D., Director Eileen Harrell, C.O.M.T.
Electrophysiology	William Dawson, Ph.D., Director Harry Rosa Berry Jordan, Ph.D.
Low Vision	Dr. Stephanie Schmiedecke, O.D. Dr. Penny Straughn, O.D.
Orthoptics	Diana Shamis, M.S., Director Eileen Harrell, C.O.M.T., C.O. Donna McDavid, C.O.M.T. Amye Francis, C.O.M.T.
Ophthalmic Photography	Harry Rosa Lisa Ellis, COT
Biochemistry	Clay Smith, Ph.D.
Molecular Genetics	William Hauswirth, Ph.D.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **Basic Course in Ophthalmology**

During the first two weeks of the academic year, a basic course in ophthalmology is presented by the faculty of the Department of Ophthalmology to the incoming residents. This course is not designed to provide all-inclusive coverage of basic and clinical ophthalmology; rather, it gives the residents a chance to "get their feet wet" in areas that are essential to their examination of patients.

During these weeks, lectures are given in ocular anatomy and histology, the basic eye examination, ocular emergencies, elementary 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 including 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, medical students, fellows, paramedical personnel, faculty, and any other interested observers.

### **Pearls for Practice Series**

Four times during 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. Visiting professors spend two days in the department. The program is varied and flexible, occurring usually on Fridays over an entire day, although special programs may have different schedules. They are attended by all residents, the faculty, fellows, and, in addition, a large number of referring ophthalmologists in North Florida who receive continuing medical education credits. This exceedingly popular series is one of the highlights of our teaching programs.

### **Journal Club**

Every other month during the academic year a journal club is held by the faculty of one of the sub-specialties by turn. Several articles, either from the recent months' journals and related to the faculty member's area of expertise, are selected by the faculty member and chief resident. These articles are then assigned for reading and are discussed and critiqued by the group.

## **Weekly Lecture Schedule**

Didactic sessions are offered every weekday throughout the year. These sessions are generally held in the morning prior to the clinics and surgeries. Lectures are given in all specialty areas by the ophthalmology faculty as well as faculty from other departments. In addition, a 6-week board review is done prior to the OKAP (Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program) in-service test. Other clinical areas and basic sciences are covered, as well, throughout the year.