RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Sonal Tuli, M.D., Chair/Director
Casey Beal, M.D., Associate 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.
Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in a residency position in the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology beginning July 1, 2019. 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 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 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 September 29, 2017.** Applications not completed by that date will not be considered.

We grant interviews to approximately forty applicants for five positions. The interviews will be held on three 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,

Sonal Tuli, MD and Casey Beal, MD
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Florida
The University Of Florida Department Of Ophthalmology's mission is three-fold. We seek to provide quality health care to every patient who comes to this institution for eye care, to advance ophthalmic knowledge by conducting cutting-edge research, and to educate future generations of ophthalmologists. Our overarching goal is that, by graduation, each resident is a competent ophthalmologist, capable of providing high quality, compassionate, and ethical care to patients who come to them with 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.

Since opening in 1958, Shands at the University of Florida has had many medical firsts, including Florida's first open heart surgery in 1959, the first organ transplants in the 1960's, and the first clinical trial of retinal gene therapy in 2007.

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.
The outpatient surgical facilities are located at the Florida Surgical Center (FSC) and the contiguous Children’s Surgery Center (CSC), while the majority of the inpatient and trauma surgery is performed at Shands Hospital. The Department of Ophthalmology performs the majority of its surgeries at the outpatient surgery facilities. The FSC houses a LenSx laser for FLACS.

The primary Eye Center is located in the Shands Medical Plaza. It is currently 13,500 square feet with 33 exam lanes, and has a full complement of testing equipment. The Eye Specialists at Hampton Oaks Eye Clinic is one of the Department’s satellite clinics. It has eight exam lanes, testing equipment, and an iLasik Refractive surgery suite. The Eye Specialties clinic at Magnolia Parke is the newest satellite clinic that opened in October 2014, and is dedicated to pediatric ophthalmology. All these facilities are located within a 5-mile radius.

Plans are currently underway to build a freestanding Eye/ENT center adjacent to the surgery center. We anticipate moving into the new state-of-the-art facility around the end of 2018. This will consolidate both clinical locations at one site and permit significant expansion of the clinical practice. Its proximity to the surgery center will optimize patient and physician convenience.

Ancillary facilities within the eye clinics include:

1. A visual physiology laboratory where electroretinography, electro-oculography, dark adaptation testing, visual evoked potentials, and color vision testing are performed.
2. A photography laboratory fully equipped for standard still and video photography, slit-lamp photography, specular 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 Optos.
3. An ophthalmic ultrasound unit equipped for both A-mode and B-mode ultrasonography of the eye and orbit, an ultrasound biomicroscopy unit, as well as LenStar units for intraocular lens measurements.
4. A visual field unit consisting of several Goldmann perimeters and Humphrey perimeters.
5. A contact lens unit for fitting cosmetic soft and rigid lenses, as well as specialized and therapeutic contact lenses.
6. A procedure room equipped with an operating table, an operating microscope, and specialized equipment that includes surgical instruments, and a cryotherapy machine.
7. Multiple lasers- argon, Pascal, neodymium:YAG, and PDT.

During peak periods of activity, the Eye Center is large enough to allow up to ten ophthalmology residents, ten faculty members, twenty ophthalmic technologists, two orthoptists, three photographers, and a variety of nursing, secretarial, and administrative
personnel to work in an efficient manner. Approximately 32,000 outpatients are treated 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. The GVAMC is among the top three VA hospitals in the country in the number of surgical beds and surgical procedures performed. Ophthalmology ranks near the top in terms of surgical volume.

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 in a new state-of-the-art outpatient facility on the first floor. A minor treatment room for performing minor surgical and laser procedures is located within the clinic. Four residents rotate at the GVA at one time. The eye clinic sees approximately 19,000 visits/year. The VA Hospital in Lake City is approximately 30 miles from the primary site and has a very busy clinical and surgical service. The senior residents rotate at this location. Primary ophthalmic care at the VA is provided by staff optometrists as well as optometry residents. Complex as well as subspecialty patients, and patients needing surgical intervention are referred to the ophthalmology clinic.

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. The majority of the residents' refractive surgery experience is obtained at the NAH supervised by very experienced naval surgeons. On one rotation during third year, each resident rotates to the NAH 3 days a week.

**SPECIALTY SERVICES**

The majority of ophthalmologists at UF are tertiary care subspecialists. 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 new and the majority
of return patients are examined initially by one of the residents. The faculty member
reviews the case and then personally examines the patient. Thus, all patients seen by
the resident are also seen by a faculty member who then provides feedback. 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 include corneal and external
disease, refractive surgery, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology,
retina and vitreous, oculo-plastics, comprehensive ophthalmology, contact lenses, and
low vision.

Residency rotations are 10 weeks each. First year residents have two rotations at the
Gainesville VAMC, one on Urgent care and two rotations at Shands Medical Plaza.
Second year residents have one rotation at the Gainesville VAMC and four subspecialty
rotations. 3rd year residents have one rotation at the Gainesville VAMC, one at the
Lake City VAMC, one at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville for refractive surgery, and
two subspecialty rotations at Shands.
### SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

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<td>Ankit Shah, M.D.</td>
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<td>Gainesville VA</td>
<td>Michael Wiggins, M.D., Chief</td>
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<td>Full-time Research Faculty</td>
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<td>Sanford Boye, M.S.</td>
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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 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, 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

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, 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. This exceedingly popular series is one of the highlights of our teaching programs.

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. Other clinical areas and basic sciences are covered, as well, throughout the year.

**OKAP review**

The department faculty teaches an OKAP review in February and March of every year. In addition, there is a biweekly resident run OKAP review which covers the entire BCSC book series.
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 ophthalmic 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, 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.