College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses

The residency program at the College of Optometry at UM-St. Louis provides advanced clinical experience in all aspects of pediatric optometry and pediatric vision patient care. Opportunities exist for working with a number of faculty, as well as participating in the Pupil Project, research and interacting with graduate students. The residency will co-manage cases with other health care and education professionals. The program is flexible and can be adapted to meet the particular needs of the resident.

Participants in the program will:
• Gain extensive and diverse pediatric, binocular vision, vision therapy, and primary care patient experience.
• Gain experience with comprehensive management of learning related vision problems through their participation in the Pupil Project, a joint program with the UM-St. Louis College of Education.
• Develop abilities to educate others by assisting in clinics, laboratories, and seminars.
• Be provided opportunities for advanced study and research on pediatric and binocular vision topics.

General Information

Please email Dr. Julie DeKinder for more information at: dekinderj@umsl.edu

• Application deadline: February 1
• Starting date: On or about July 1
• Length of external programs: 1 year
• Length of internal programs: 54 weeks

Prerequisites:
• Application to Optometry Residency Match
https://optmatch.org
• Curriculum vitae
• Official optometry school transcripts
• Successful completion of NBECO
• Three letters of recommendation
• D.O. degree from an accredited school or college
• Eligibility for state optometry licensure
• Interview

College of Optometry Residency in Pediatrics/Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation

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College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses

The residency program at the College of Optometry at UM-St. Louis provides advanced clinical experience in the theory and clinical application of contact lenses. Participation in advanced contact lenses instruction, research, and rotation through private practice and refractive surgery clinics will be included in this program.

Participants in the program will:
• Strengthen their expertise in contact lenses, especially fitting gas permeable, ortho-keratology, specialty and difficult-to-fit contact lenses
• Gain experience in fitting all types of contact lenses, but especially keratoconic, presbyopic, irregular cornea and post-surgical patients
• Gain experience in clinical research
• Learn to educate and instruct others
• Be given the opportunity to increase expertise in advanced contact lens instruction by prominent contact lens practitioners from across the country

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The residency program at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City provides advanced clinical and academic education in the diagnosis and management of eye and vision problems encountered in pediatric eye care. The program will also strengthen the resident’s ability to co-manage patient care and communicate with practitioners throughout the medical system, such as dermatology, endocrinology, rheumatology and others as directed by the patient’s health status.

Participants in the program will:
• Gain extensive experience in infant eye examinations
• Strengthen their refractive and examination skills with pediatric patients
• Expand their knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of amblyopia
• Increase understanding and treatment options for non-refractive strabismus
• Manage ocular health concerns in the presence of systemic disease.

Ocular Disease and Low Vision Rehabilitation, Kansas City VA Medical Center

This residency at the Eye/VICTORS Clinic, Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri provides a wealth of clinical experience in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with ocular disease. The low vision program provides the resident with advanced low vision experience.

Participants in the program will:
• Learn to perform advanced procedures in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease
• Use new low vision concepts, techniques and devices to rehabilitate people with vision impairments
• Develop an understanding of the eye care literature and expand their learning abilities
• Learn to work as part of a multidisciplinary health care team that includes physicians, social workers, optometrists and ophthalmologists.

Primary Care/Low Vision Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center

This residency program at the Robert J. Dole Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas provides advanced clinical training in primary eye care, pre- and post-surgical care, ocular disease and low vision evaluation.

Participants in the program will:
• Be provided extensive clinical experience with ocular disease management and advanced testing procedures
• Low vision knowledge and skill development with low vision devices, vision aids, and low vision therapy
• Extend ability to resident to function in a multidisciplinary health team setting
• Further ability to understand literature, research and education

Primary Care Marion VA Medical Center

This residency at the Marion Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Marion, Illinois provides extensive clinical training experience in a multidisciplinary health care hospital setting, as well as promoting critical thinking skills.

Participants in the program will:
• Increase their understanding of ocular disease and manage patients with a variety of ocular diseases
• Learn to perform basic low vision examinations and to prescribe appropriate devices for visually impaired patients
• Gain the ability to function as a member of a primary care team through participation in patients with multiple medical problems
• Cultivate the communication skills necessary for academic presentations
• Develop IVI (Intravitreal Injections) skills in a high volume academic retina practice
• Develop comprehensive skills in low vision evaluation and management.

Primary Care St. Louis VA Medical Center

This residency at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri provides advanced clinical training in primary care optometry with an emphasis on geriatric patients and diseases of the elderly.

Participants in the program will:
• Treat and manage a full range of visual problems and diseases of elderly patients
• Work in hospital setting and interact with other healthcare professionals
• Function as part of a multidisciplinary geriatric evaluation team
• Gain experience in ordering imaging studies and laboratory tests
• Rotate through retina ophthalmology subspecialty clinics
• Perform Low Vision examinations
• Provide contact lens care for patients with challenging conditions such as aphakia and corneal irregularity.