

MEDICAL RETINA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MEDICAL RETINA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM :

Purpose: To prepare one to become an expert in retina disease. This includes managing mainstream as well as difficult medical retina and excludes pediatrics. The program prepares one for a successful private practice and also emphasizes treating macular disease with the latest imaging and pharmacotherapeutic modalities and preparing for working and contracting with pharmaceutical companies in clinical research.

The Fellowship program sponsored by Ronald Frenkel, M.D. F.A.C.S., of the Eye Research Foundation/East Florida Eye Institute offers comprehensive training in the management of Medical Retina disease. This does not include vitreo-retinal surgery in the OR. FA, ICG, Fundus Auto-fluorescence, FAF, IR, and HD-OCT are utilized for the diagnosis of macular disorders. B Scan ultrasound is also employed.

Additionally the fellow is intensely exposed to pharmacotherapies for exudative macular degeneration as it is believed this knowledge is currently of critical importance in ophthalmology and that the fellow will gain a substantial benefit by being expert in this area.

The goal of the fellowship program is to produce well-trained medical retina specialists who want to develop a successful private practice, who also have experience in applied ophthalmic research, and who are competent to diagnose and treat macular diseases. Fellows will work cooperatively in a tutorial capacity under the supervision of Dr. Frenkel to provide direct patient care, to do clinical research, to interact with pharmaceutical companies, and to learn how to manage a private practice. This is accomplished through extensive opportunities for hands-on participation in procedures under supervision in the office

Applicants should have an interest in participating in clinical research. The fellow will have the opportunity to participate in ongoing clinical studies and initiate new clinical trials. The fellowship program is one or two years of clinical and research activity.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT:

Each Fellow receives a stipend of \$60,000 per year, and the fellow is eligible for personal health insurance coverage. Family coverage is available at an additional cost. Malpractice insurance is provided.

Requirements to obtain a Florida license to practice medicine changes from time to time, but should not be problematic for anyone who is a citizen or permanent resident of the USA and had all medical training in the USA. However, you may wish to confirm current requirements from the Florida Department of Health. Once accepted through the matching program, the fellow must himself apply for a license, and this cannot be done by the institution. Moreover, the offer for employment as a fellow is contingent on his obtaining the required license.

The requirements are not always easy to understand, but you can go to the website for information to be mailed to you by on-line request:

<http://clientdoh.doh.state.fl.us/irm00CallCtr/OrderForm.asp>

and ask for “Profession: Medical Doctor”, “Requested Information: Laws and Rules”.

You may also evaluate whether you can obtain a license from the website:

http://doh.state.fl.us/Mqa/medical/me_lic_req.html#Medical%20Doctor

where you can study the rules, or make use of the evaluation tool mentioned in the first paragraph.

Alternatively you can go directly to the evaluation tool at the website:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/irm00las/IndexFR.asp>

and use the evaluation tool for the Board of Medicine.

FELLOW SUPERVISION:

Each fellow will be supervised by Ronald Frenkel, M.D., F.A.C.S., who was retina trained under the supervision of Mark Blumenkranz, MD, and Robert Frank, MD at Kresge Eye Institute/Wayne State University.

Dr. Frenkel has a national and international reputation, has published more than 80 abstracts and manuscripts and chapters, and made over 100 professional presentations. He is a Former Voluntary Professor of Ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, but the fellowship is independent of that institution and is a Member of the American Society of Retina Specialists. Dr. Frenkel is a recipient of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Achievement Award and has an extremely active clinical research presence at the national ophthalmology meetings. He has been selected by Castle Connolly as a top doctor annually for 2008-2013. He is also rated as a Top Doctor by U.S. News and World Report, 2011-13.

TIME ALLOCATION

Adult surgical and laser procedures are performed.

The Fellow will spend approximately 3-4 days in patient care activities and 1-2 days in clinical research each week. The fellow will participate in numerous clinical drug studies.

Fellows will have the opportunity to conduct clinical research with access to computer facilities and the professional advice and guidance of associated physicians, data coordinators, and other staff. The fellow can choose a topic of interest and in the investigation of this topic, will obtain a basic understanding of the clinical research methods involved, and follow the project through until the end of the fellowship.

CURRICULUM:

The fellow will be required to be proficient in the following areas:

1. Diagnosis and treatment of macular degeneration.
2. Diagnosis and treatment of diabetic macular edema.
3. Diagnosis and treatment of vein occlusions.
4. Diagnosis and treatment of other macular disorders and retinal disorders.
5. FA, ICG, SD-OCT, FAF, IR imaging, B Scan ultrasound
6. Retinal blood flow analysis techniques.
7. New retina drug studies
8. Interacting in a substantive way with ophthalmic pharmaceutical companies.
9. Exposure to medical glaucoma

PRIVATE PRACTICE CURRICULUM:

The fellow will become acquainted with the skills necessary for successful private practice management. This is a “real world” fellowship.

EVALUATIONS:

Fellows will be evaluated for medical and surgical knowledge and capabilities every quarter by the faculty during that rotation.

VACATION AND MEETING TIME:

The Fellowship includes 6 legal holidays per year and 2 weeks vacation. The fellowship starts June 20 and ends June 30 of the next year. Two year fellowship may be offered. Vacation time must be planned in cooperation with the other staff members to ensure adequate coverage. Unused vacation time is not paid as salary. The fellow may attend one meeting per year if they author an abstract. Fellows will be reimbursed for travel to meetings up to \$1,000 per academic year.