



Duke Ophthalmology Residency Program

*Training the
next generation
of ophthalmologists*



HISTORY

For 60 years, Duke University has been a national leader in the rapidly changing world of ocular science, educating the best and the brightest. Duke's Ophthalmology Residency Program's enduring stellar reputation is directly related to the internationally renowned eye center, state-of-the-art facilities, a complete range of clinical and surgical experiences, and, most importantly, a deep faculty commitment to resident education. The Duke program's goal is to train highly competent and ethical physicians who will contribute to their field either as comprehensive ophthalmologists or as subspecialists.

More than 350 ophthalmologists have graduated from the Duke program since the 1940s, and many have gone on to academic positions. The three-year residency program at Duke includes clinical rotations (which also provide hands-on surgical experience) in each subspecialty area as well as in comprehensive ophthalmology and ophthalmic pathology. Residents also rotate through local Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. A spectrum of intradepartmental and university-wide research opportunities exists for interested residents.



TRAINING OVERVIEW

Call

Call responsibilities fall primarily to the first- and second-year residents, with supervision by on-call attendings for trauma and subspecialty care. Call covers private Eye Center patients as well as emergency room and inpatient ophthalmology consults for Duke University Hospital and Durham VA Medical Center. First-year residents take first call; second-year residents, second call. Call is taken from home both years. All emergency surgery is done by the second-year resident with the on-call attending physician.

Rotations

FIRST YEAR

Durham VAMC - 20 weeks
Neuro-ophthalmology - 10 weeks
Consults - 10 weeks
Comprehensive - 10 weeks

SECOND YEAR

Retina - 10 weeks
Glaucoma - 10 weeks
Pediatrics - 10 weeks
Durham VAMC - 10 weeks
Asheville VAMC - 10 weeks

THIRD YEAR

Chief, Durham VAMC - 10 weeks
Cornea - 10 weeks
Oculoplastics - 10 weeks
Chief, Asheville VAMC - 10 weeks
Research elective - 10 weeks

“The passion of the residents, fellows, and attendings permeates the culture here. People truly love what they do, and that excitement is contagious. A deep sense of camaraderie is fostered through numerous formal and informal events, like a yearly outing to see the Durham Bulls, faculty hosted parties, an annual resident-faculty basketball game, and coed intramural Eye Center softball teams.”

John P. Berdahl, MD
Class of 2008



SURGICAL EXPERIENCE

Residents gain extensive surgical experience over the three-year training period. They perform surgery on private patients as well as those at the regional VA medical centers. As primary surgeons, most residents perform well over 300 surgeries, including topical clear cornea cataract extraction, glaucoma filtering, corneal transplantation, and vitrectomy. Residents also perform a large number of strabismus, scleral buckling, and oculoplastic procedures. Training in phacoemulsification with implantation of foldable intraocular lenses has become standard. Senior residents routinely perform sutureless clear cornea phacoemulsification for patients under topical anesthesia.

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Lectures and conferences supplement the clinical experience gained in rotations. The program participates in the annual Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program (OKAP). Many resources are available to prepare for this examination, all with the broader goal of ensuring that residents pass the written and oral examinations

required by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

Trainees attend daily conferences, including chief rounds and subspecialty conferences that emphasize case-based learning and evidenced-based medicine. In addition, there is dedicated lecture time from 1-5pm each Friday that encompasses a full range of current ophthalmology practices.

Regular Conferences

Chief Resident Rounds

The chief resident rounds cover an array of topics. The format includes the presentation of cases and topics, review of differential diagnoses for ocular conditions, overview of ocular therapeutics and surgical instrumentation, and discussion about interesting cases from call or clinical settings.

Retinal Imaging Conference

Retina fellows, residents, and faculty present the latest challenges as well as the basics of the diagnosis and treatment of vitreoretinal disease in this highly interactive weekly conference.

Cornea and Glaucoma Rounds

The cornea and glaucoma fellows, residents, and faculty present

clinical cases of medical or surgical interest in this bi-weekly conference.

Neuro-Ophthalmology Rounds

A monthly morning conference emphasizing case-based learning is led by neuro-ophthalmology. Additionally, there is a combined neurology, neurosurgery, and neuro-ophthalmology conference one evening each month.

Oculoplastics and Pediatric Ophthalmology Rounds

The pediatric ophthalmology and oculoplastic faculty, fellows, and residents present interesting cases as well as discuss clinical and surgical aspects of these fields in a monthly morning conference.

Joseph A. Bryan Lecture Series

A prominent lecturer presents the latest in ophthalmologic care and research.

Chairman's Science of Disease

An Eye Center faculty member and a faculty member from another Duke department speak on a clinical topic paired with a related basic science subject.



“Throughout my medical training I have realized that hands-on learning is critical to becoming an outstanding physician. I have been most impressed by the practical experience we have as ophthalmology residents at Duke. And as a result, I know that I will feel confident in my surgical and clinical skills when I graduate.”

Preeya Gupta, MD
Class of 2010

Special Conferences/Courses

Journal Club

Residents present articles at an informal bi-monthly meeting held at the home of a faculty member. A catered dinner is followed by discussion about a selected topic.

Clinicopathologic Conferences

A quarterly Friday afternoon presentation covers recent cases of pathologic interest at the Eye Center. Moderated by a world-renowned ophthalmic pathologist, these interactive presentations allow for full resident participation.

Duke Symposia

The continuing medical education office organizes two to four symposia each year for local and national ophthalmology professionals. Duke residents attend sessions free of charge.

Special Conferences

Each year residents are included in a variety of special conferences. For example, a faculty cornea specialist prepares residents for certification in refractive surgery. In addition, the program offers training in topics such as presentation skills, the business of medicine, ethics, and career development.

OTHER RESOURCES

Incoming residents are given a full set of the American Academy of

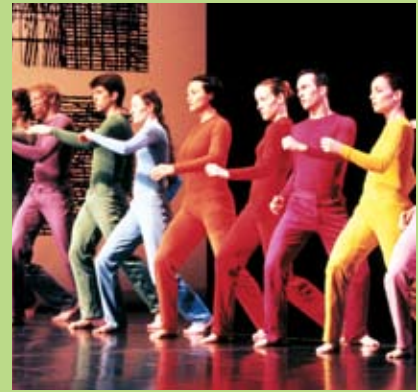
Ophthalmology's (AAO) basic and clinical science course books and other specialized texts. Residents also receive PDAs installed with 200 memos covering ophthalmic topics. There is also a full ophthalmic resident library with current journals, ophthalmic texts, computer, MEDLINE and Internet access, and access to most reference ophthalmic texts on CD-ROM. The easily accessible Duke Medical Center library has additional resources.



RESEARCH

Consistently ranked in the top-ten eye centers by *U.S. News & World Report*, the Duke Eye Center is a leader in applying the latest science to advance the understanding of eye disease and to develop new treatments and cures. Faculty members actively pursue a variety of research interests. Research





laboratories include histology, electron microscopy, digital imaging, biochemistry, and animal research. The Eye Center is also fortunate to have a full-time statistician who assists faculty and residents in research projects.

Ophthalmology residents often perform research in conjunction with one or more faculty members, pursuing projects within that faculty member's area of interest. However, residents who already have defined research interests and wish to work more independently are encouraged to do so. Funding for resident research projects is available through faculty grants or through a departmental fund that has been established for small research projects. The department also provides funding toward resident attendance at scientific meetings during all three years of training.

Resident interest in performing research will naturally vary. The minimum research requirement for Duke Ophthalmology residents is completion of one project each year under the supervision of a faculty preceptor. Project results are presented at the annual Residents and Fellows' Day, a two-day scientific symposium, in June.

DUKE, DURHAM, TRIANGLE AREA AND RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK

Duke Eye Center, part of the Duke University Medical Center, is located in Durham, North Carolina. Durham, along with Raleigh and Chapel Hill, comprise the Triangle area – a place world renowned for its excellent quality of living, beautiful natural areas, exquisite cuisine, numerous cultural events, and, of course, ACC basketball.

Home of Research Triangle Park (RTP), the Triangle is a major player in the biotechnology sector with more than 14 biotech companies located there, including Glaxo-SmithKline, Bayer, BASF, and Biogen IDEC. RTP, the world's largest research park of its kind, is also home to numerous Fortune 500 companies such as IBM, Credit Suisse, Cisco, and Fidelity. In conjunction with local universities, RTP draws people nationally and internationally to the region creating a diverse population, thriving economy, and high-paying jobs.

Centrally located in the state, the Triangle is equally as close to pristine North Carolina beaches as it is to the majestic Appalachian Mountains. Residents enjoy a generally mild year-round climate that lends itself nicely to outdoor activities such as Festival on the Eno, the Sarah P.



Duke Gardens, and Jordan Lake. Cultural attractions such as the popular American Dance Festival and Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in Durham and Artsposure! and the First Friday Art Walk in Raleigh provide activities for art, dance, and film lovers year round. Sports enthusiasts may enjoy Duke, North Carolina State, and UNC-Chapel Hill universities' heated rivalries as well as professional sports teams, such as the NHL Stanley Cup Champion Carolina Hurricanes or the Durham Bulls baseball team.

FACILITIES

Wadsworth & Albert Eye Research Institute (AERI)

Two buildings, adjacent to the main Duke University Hospital, house the Duke Eye Center. The Joseph A.C. Wadsworth Building,

originally built in 1973 and expanded to 93,000 square-feet in 1990, contains most of the Eye Center's primary care services. Six fully equipped and modern operating rooms form the core of the center's surgery complex.

Opened in April 2005, the AERI, a five-story 72,000 square-foot state-of-the-art building, has two full floors dedicated to cutting-edge research laboratory space. The other three floors house the expanded Pediatric and Adult Strabismus Service, faculty offices, an auditorium, and a resource center.

Veterans Affairs Medical Centers

Rotations at two regional Veterans Affairs medical centers give residents the opportunity to care for patients with graduated levels of autonomy. The VA medical centers have active surgical programs.

The Durham VA Medical Center is located near the Eye Center and an Eye Center faculty member is the chief of ophthalmology. Duke ophthalmology faculty members participate in more than 16,000 patient visits and perform more than 770 surgeries annually at the VA Medical Center. The outpatient eye clinic at the VA, which is located in the recently built ambulatory care facility, is spacious and superbly

equipped. It includes six examination lanes, two laser rooms, a minor procedures room, a photography room, a visual field room, a nursing intake area, and a resident's room which serves as a combined library, computer center, and lounge. The equipment in the operating room is state-of-the-art, including instrumentation for anterior segment surgery, and advanced vitreoretinal procedures. The Ophthalmology Service operating room and OR staff work full shifts three to four days per week.

The second- and third-year residents also rotate at the Asheville VA Medical Center, located on the outskirts of Asheville, North Carolina, a well-known resort area in Western North Carolina. Residents rotating through Asheville live in comfortable, furnished apartments near the medical center. The clinical faculty includes two comprehensive ophthalmologists as well as subspecialists in glaucoma, oculoplastics, cornea, and retina. Resident responsibilities include general and subspecialty clinics, minor room and laser procedures, and one to two days of surgery per week. Residents also have the opportunity to spend time with community ophthalmologists in a private practice setting.



RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Pratap Challa, MD
Assistant Professor of
Ophthalmology,
Glaucoma Service

Pratap Challa, MD, has directed the Ophthalmology Residency Program at Duke Eye Center since 2001, overseeing all resident training and education. A graduate of the University of Florida College of Medicine, Challa specializes in glaucoma management including medical, laser, and surgical treatments. As a physician-scientist investigator, Challa has a special research interest in the genetic basis of inherited eye diseases.



“One of my favorite aspects of residency has been the chance to rotate through the VA hospital system as a first-, second- and finally, as a third-year resident. It was a great experience to rotate through the same place at each level of my training and an amazing feeling to gain confidence in my clinical and surgical skills through the years.”

Adrienne Williams Scott, MD
Class of 2006



Chief Resident

Tarra M. Wright, MD
Clinical Associate/Chief Resident,
Department of Ophthalmology

Medical School

Duke University School of Medicine

Internship

Duke University Medical Center,
Department of Internal Medicine

Residency

Background

Tarra M. Wright, MD is trained in comprehensive ophthalmology, focusing on the medical and surgical care of common eye conditions. Her primary responsibility at Duke is overseeing the Ophthalmology Residency program, training ophthalmology residents in the

For more information, please contact:
Renee Wallace, Continuing Medical
Education and Residency Coordinator
2351 Erwin Road, DUMC Box 3802
Durham, NC 27710
(919) 684.6593
walla023@mc.duke.edu



Duke Eye Center
dukeeye.org



Chief Resident

Tarra M. Wright, MD
Clinical Associate/Chief Resident,
Department of Ophthalmology

Medical School

Duke University School of Medicine

Internship

Duke University Medical Center,
Department of Internal Medicine

Residency

Duke Eye Center

Background

Tarra M. Wright, MD is trained in comprehensive ophthalmology, focusing on the medical and surgical care of common eye conditions. Her primary responsibility at Duke is overseeing the Ophthalmology Residency program, training ophthalmology residents in the clinic, operating room, and classroom. She is also a staff ophthalmologist at the Durham VA Medical Center. Her research interests include quality of care measures for glaucoma patients and the treatment of pediatric glaucoma.