

## GLAUCOMA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

### UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES

Fellowship Director  
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Glaucoma Faculty  
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#### Purpose and Objectives:

The fellowship in glaucoma will provide an advanced level of competence in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma. At the completion of this training, the fellow should be skilled in managing all aspects of complex and/or severe glaucoma disorders and associated conditions. In-depth education regarding the pathophysiology and treatment of glaucoma and associated disorders going beyond the level of residency training will be provided through an intense and focused development of knowledge, skills, scholarship, and professionalism. Analysis of current glaucoma literature and the ability to meaningfully contribute to our fund of knowledge will be emphasized, as will the development of excellent surgical techniques.

#### Qualification of Applicants:

The applicant must have satisfactorily completed a residency program in ophthalmology, and been accepted through the AUPO fellowship match.

#### Organization of the Program:

This is a twelve month fellowship starting July 7<sup>th</sup> and finishing June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. The fellow will work five days a week under the supervision of the glaucoma faculty, either in clinic or surgery. All practice locations, including the Veterans Administration hospital and satellite offices may be included. At least one half day a week will be protected for non-clinical academic pursuits, either research or education projects. If additional time is needed to pursue a specific research project, the non-clinical hours may increase to one day each week. The fellow is allowed up to three weeks of vacation / interview / educational meeting time away, as well as standard University holidays.

#### Salary:

The fellow will receive a stipend of \$42,000 for the twelve month period. The fellow may apply for grants or awards, which may be used to pay for a portion of the stipend. Funding of the fellowship will be divided equally among the glaucoma faculty, as will the fellow's time with each faculty member.

#### Qualification of Faculty:

Each faculty member is board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and fellowship trained in glaucoma. The fellow will be exposed to different techniques and philosophies between faculty members. Each faculty member restricts their practice to glaucoma, and is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of knowledge, skills, scholarship and professionalism in the subspecialty.

### Clinical Supervision:

The fellowship is structured to allow the fellow maximal responsibility in the performance of clinical and surgical care, evolving as the skill level of the fellow increases. The faculty will provide counsel and supervision while the fellow conducts all aspects of glaucoma specialty care. The fellow is also expected to assist in teaching residents and other students during clinical sessions. The schedule will be arranged so that the current glaucoma resident and fellow split out to separate venues as much as possible. For two half days a month, the fellow may conduct a general ophthalmology clinic, acting as an attending without further faculty supervision, if there are no concurrent glaucoma faculty clinical sessions. The fellow is expected to conduct or assist in unscheduled or emergency glaucoma cases that arise. The fellow may be responsible for dictating operative notes and completing other necessary chart work.

### Clinical Educational Components:

1. The fellow will regularly perform evaluations, including history and examination, applying the techniques of ophthalmology specific to glaucoma and related ocular and systemic conditions.
2. The fellow should become proficient in the use of specialized diagnostic testing including testing of visual function, optic nerve and nerve fiber layer structure, intraocular pressure, pachymetry, and gonioscopy.
3. The fellow must become familiar with the indications for and limitations of pharmacological, laser surgical, and incisional surgical therapies that may be recommended for patients with glaucoma and related conditions.
4. The fellowship should include exposure to a broad variety of all glaucomatous conditions, and should meet the annual minimal standards required of at least 1000 new or established patients, including 150 new patient examinations.
5. Elements of the diagnostic examinations are to include an adequate number of computerized visual fields evaluations, optic nerve and retinal nerve fiber layer imaging, optic disc photography, and other adjunctive studies sufficient to gain expertise in the indications, interpretation, and limitations of these diagnostic modalities.
6. The fellow is expected to perform in excess of the minimal number of required operative procedures, acting as primary surgeon for at least the following: 3 angle or canal procedures, 25 cataract extractions, 5 cyclodestructive procedures, 50 outflow surgeries including trabeculectomy/ExPress shunts or aqueous tube shunts, 2 laser iridotomies, 2 laser trabeculoplasties, and 3 pediatric exams under anesthesia. Combined procedures may be applied to both requirements, if needed. The fellow is expected to be deemed competent in all of these incisional and laser procedures at the completion of the program.

### Conferences:

Guidance through an ongoing review and analysis of pertinent literature, as indicated on a case-by-case basis will occur throughout the year. The fellow is expected to prepare and give at least two of the lectures in the resident glaucoma lecture series. The fellow is also expected to participate in glaucoma service case review and Socratic sessions held with the glaucoma faculty and current resident each second and fourth Monday at 5:00 pm, or other mutually agreed upon time. Participation in at least two glaucoma journal clubs per year is expected. The fellow is encouraged to attend any local or regional glaucoma conferences, if able, and the faculty will work to defray any registration or travel costs.

#### Call Responsibilities:

It is expected that the fellow will cover one week of general attending call for each of the glaucoma faculty. Work hours are not to exceed current standards of the University of Kentucky for physicians in training.

#### Research:

Clinical research is an important part of the program and the fellow will be expected to be involved in clinical research trials, to submit a paper for publication and / or presentation, and to be engaged in additional studies as deemed necessary by faculty. The faculty and fellow will adhere to the Declaration of Helsinki on Rights of Research Human Subjects and to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology's Guidelines for Use of Research Animals. Additional mentorship for design and statistical analysis beyond the glaucoma faculty will also be available from other members of the department or university and can be arranged as needed.

#### Documentation and Verification of Program Activities:

During the orientation period, the fellowship program director will review the AUPO Program Requirements for Fellowship Education in Glaucoma with each fellow. The fellow will keep procedure logs and verification of conferences, journal clubs, lectures, and other meetings throughout the duration of the fellowship. Each quarter, the faculty will provide the fellow with an evaluation of performance, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and verifying that procedure volume goals are being met. The quarterly evaluation will be communicated to the fellow and maintained as part of the permanent record. A reciprocal evaluation process will occur quarterly; the faculty should receive constructive criticism from the fellow regarding all elements of the program so it may continue to improve. The program director will provide a written, final evaluation for the fellow at completion of the program, including a review of performance. The letter will verify that the fellow has demonstrated sufficient professional ability to practice competently and independently, and will be made part of the fellow's permanent record maintained by the university.

#### Grievances and Discipline:

Policies of fair procedure and due process, as established by the University of Kentucky regarding academic discipline and fellow complains / grievances will be upheld. If mental, emotional, or substance-related dysfunction inhibits fellow performance, the faculty will accommodate confidential professional counseling.

#### Accreditation of Fellowship Program:

The University of Kentucky Fellowship Program will apply and uphold all available Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology / American Glaucoma Society accreditation processes.