

University of Ottawa Eye Institute
Surgical Fellowship in
Cornea/External Disease, Anterior Segment, and Refractive Surgery
2015-2016

Duration: 52 weeks: Thursday, July 2, 2015 – Thursday, June 30, 2016

Positions: Two



Supervisors: Kashif Baig, MD, MBA (Fellowship Director)
George Mintsoulis, MD
Setareh Ziai, MD

Application: This position is offered through the SF Match (Program # 4733) and uses its Central Application Service (CAS). Interested and qualified applicants should submit a personal statement, curriculum vitae, and three confidential reference letters through CAS. Non-CAS documents include medical school/residency transcripts and should be submitted to Ginette Snook. American/foreign medical graduates must contact Ginette Snook regarding the application process, which involves the Postgraduate Medical Education Office. Applications for the 2015-16 year are due on Friday, October 24, 2014. Interview notifications will be made by Friday, October 31, 2014. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014. The Match takes place on Tuesday, December 16, 2014.

Description: The University of Ottawa Eye Institute offers a one-year post-residency fellowship in Cornea/ External Disease, Anterior Segment, and Refractive Surgery. This is a demanding, hands-on, clinical/surgical fellowship with research and teaching obligations. The training takes place predominantly at the Eye Institute, a 60,000-square-foot, tertiary- and quaternary-level care facility that spans two floors of the General Campus of the Ottawa Hospital. Overall, about 15,000 surgical eye cases and a total of 90,000 patient encounters occur every year at the Eye Institute (General Campus) and the Eye Care Centre (Riverside Campus). The fellowship produces a well-rounded subspecialist comfortable in managing complex cases using clinical acumen and surgical versatility acquired in an innovative teaching environment.

Competition between fellows and residents is a concern in many programs. This fellowship has been crafted to mesh with the residency program so that both the resident and Fellow experience superb medical and surgical training.

Objectives:

- To develop expertise in the medical and surgical management of disorders in Cornea, Anterior Segment, and Refractive Surgery.
- To develop expertise in performing and interpreting diagnostics in Cornea, Anterior Segment, and Refractive Surgery.
- To further develop medical teaching skills.
- To develop a habit of constant learning and innovation.
- To develop an understanding of the research process from design to publication.
- To develop practice management knowledge (EMR, billing, scheduling, etc.).

Location: Medical, surgical, and research activities will predominantly take place at the University of Ottawa Eye Institute at the Ottawa Hospital (General Campus), the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), and the University of Ottawa Medical School. The Eye Institute, CHEO, and the Medical School are all housed within the Ottawa Health Sciences Centre, a single medical campus located on Smyth Road. Educational opportunities may also arise at the Eye Care Centre (Riverside Campus) located very close to the General Campus.

- Surgery:**
- Cornea/Anterior Segment:** The Fellow will assist, perform, and later teach the following partial list of surgeries in both adult and pediatric settings: full-thickness penetrating keratoplasty (PK), endothelial keratoplasty (EK: DSAEK, UT-DSAEK, DMEK), deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK), superficial anterior lamellar keratoplasty (SALK), Intralase-enabled keratoplasty (IEK), lamellar and full-thickness keratoprotheses (KPros), iris reconstruction, dislocated lenses/IOLs, IOL exchange, secondary IOLs (iris-sutured, scleral-sutured, glued, anterior chamber supported, iris-claw), supplementary IOLs, artificial iris implants, ocular surface reconstruction with amniotic membrane, limbal stem cell transplants, anterior segment trauma, and limbal/pars plana approaches to anterior vitrectomy. Each surgical case is recorded digitally in high definition for teaching and presentation purposes. An advanced wet lab facility is available for the Fellow to enhance surgical skills and is used by the Attendings to investigate new and experimental surgical techniques. The wet lab is well equipped with surgical microscopes with video cameras, phacoemulsification machines, instruments, an Eyesi Surgical Simulator, and dedicated personnel to run the facility.
- Cataract:** This is not a fellowship in developing cataract skills as it is expected that the Fellow has mastered basic and intermediate phacoemulsification skills during their residency training. Residents on the Anterior Segment Rotation usually get priority to assist/perform cataract surgery and must achieve the objectives that have been set up for the Rotation. However, the Fellow is expected to be fully involved with the pre-operative assessment and post-operative follow-up of cataract patients to gain familiarity with issues surrounding advanced technology IOLs. Access to the newest IOLs from around the world is available through Health Canada's Special Access Program.
- Refractive:** The Fellow will actively participate in the evaluation of patients seeking femtosecond LASIK, PRK, PTK, phakic IOL, collagen cross-linking, and intracorneal ring surgery. The VISX Star S4 IR excimer laser and IntraLase femtosecond laser are used in the refractive suite. Training on the use of these two laser platforms will occur early in the fellowship year. A dedicated Refractive Surgery team is in place to coordinate clinical trials, patient interactions, and the clinic/surgery schedule.
- Clinics:** The Fellow is expected to be present at the Eye Institute, regardless of scheduled clinical activities, between 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday. All absences must be approved in advance. When not involved in clinical or surgical duties, time must be used to further academic pursuits such as research and teaching. When a Supervisor is away on vacation or conference leave, the Fellow can do research, participate in another Supervisor's clinics, teach, take vacation, and/or perform another pre-approved academic activity.
- Teaching:** The Fellow is expected to teach residents and medical students informally in clinics and the operating room, and more formally in lectures, journal clubs, and Grand Rounds. The Fellow plays an active role in teaching residents by reviewing suturing techniques in the wet lab at the beginning of an Anterior Segment Rotation and helping to ensure resident teaching objectives are met during the rotation. The Fellow is responsible for organizing four journal clubs throughout the year. In addition, the Fellow is expected to do an informal, five-minute presentation each Tuesday afternoon to the Cornea Service on a recent article or a chapter from a Cornea text (Krachmer, Brightbill, etc.). Access to the latest Ophthalmology journals will be available online. Finally, the Fellow is expected to present an interesting or challenging case once a month to the Cornea Service.
- Research:** The Cornea and Refractive Surgery Faculty is involved with multiple clinical trials on an ongoing basis. The Fellow will be expected to be first author on at least one major research project. The Fellow is expected to present at a major Ophthalmology meeting (AAO, ASCRS, ESCRS, EuCornea, Asia Cornea, COS, etc.) and to submit a manuscript for publication in an Ophthalmology journal. The Fellow will also present at the University of Ottawa Department of Ophthalmology Annual Research Day.

Conference: Conference leave must be approved by the Fellowship Director. Conference time may be taken if the Fellow is presenting at the meeting.

Call: The Fellow is expected to carry a pager/cell phone at all times. Throughout the year, the Fellow is the first point of contact for residents and clinics wishing to discuss an urgent Cornea consult. The Fellow is also expected to be available for weekend/closure clinics, resident calls, and emergency procedures that take place when a supervisor is on call (about 8-9 weeks total). The Fellow will share first call duties with other clinical fellows when residents are not able to take call (mock orals, OKAP, etc.). Finally, the Fellow is expected to be available for weekend follow-ups of post-operative and complex Cornea patients.

Vacation: Two weeks

Evaluations: Formal evaluations of the Fellow's progress in the fellowship will be performed by the Supervisors every four months.

Funding: \$30,000/year for a Fellow without funding support. The Fellow, if deemed eligible by the Ministry of Health, may bill Assistant Fees in Ontario. Funding for research (including associated conference leave) is available on a competitive process through the University Medical Research Fund.

Contact:

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2015-2016

- Duration:** 52 weeks: Thursday, July 2, 2015 – Thursday, June 30, 2016
- Positions:** 1
- Supervisors:** Kashif Baig, MD, MBA (Fellowship Director)
Setareh Ziai, MD
- Application:** Interested and qualified applicants should submit a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, medical school transcript, and three confidential reference letters to Ginette Snook. Foreign medical graduates must contact Ginette Snook regarding the application process, which involves the Postgraduate Medical Education Office. Applications for the 2015-16 year will be reviewed and a selection made on a rolling admission basis.
- Description:** The University of Ottawa Eye Institute offers an active and demanding one-year pre- or post-residency research fellowship in Cornea/External Disease, Anterior Segment, and Refractive Surgery. This is a research fellowship that can offer some clinical experience if proof of medical insurance is provided. The Fellow will have the opportunity to lead a number of studies developed by the corneal team. They will also be encouraged to design and carry out studies of their own interest after approval from the Fellowship Director. The Fellow will become a member of the research study team for all on-going studies in the cornea division. In addition, the Fellow will assist residents and other fellows on their research projects. They will also be given the opportunity to attend professor rounds, grand rounds, resident teaching sessions, and other departmental academic activities.
- Objectives:** To develop expertise in clinical research through design, implementation, and publication.
To gain a better understanding of current research in Cornea/External Disease, Anterior Segment, and Refractive Surgery.
To improve project management skills.
To improve medical knowledge in Ophthalmology.
- Location:** Research and clinical research activities will predominantly take place at the University of Ottawa Eye Institute at the Ottawa Hospital (General Campus), the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), and the University of Ottawa Medical School. The Eye Institute, CHEO, and the Medical School are all housed within the Ottawa Health Sciences Centre, a single medical campus located on Smyth Road. Educational opportunities may also arise at the Eye Care Centre (Riverside Campus) located very close to the General Campus.
- Research:** The Cornea and Refractive Surgery Faculty is involved with multiple clinical trials on an ongoing basis. The Fellow will be expected to be first author on several major research projects. The Fellow is expected to present at a major Ophthalmology meeting (AAO, ASCRS, ESCRS, EuCornea, Asia Cornea, COS, etc.) and to submit manuscripts for publication in an Ophthalmology journal. The Fellow will also present at the University of Ottawa Department of Ophthalmology Annual Research Day. Access to the latest Ophthalmology journals will be available online.
- Conference:** Conference leave must be approved by the Fellowship Director. Conference time may be taken if the Fellow is presenting at the meeting.

Vacation: Two weeks + time off for residency interviews (if applicable)

Evaluations: Formal evaluations of the Fellow's progress in the fellowship will be performed by the Fellowship Director every four months.

Funding: The Fellow is encouraged to secure their own financial support (grants, scholarships, etc.). Additional funding may be provided by the University of Ottawa Eye Institute through an unrestricted educational grant. Funding for research (including associated conference leave) is available on a competitive process through the University of Ottawa Medical Research Fund.

Contact:

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