

# Residency in Ocular Disease with an emphasis in Brain Injury and Rehabilitation

## Audie Murphy Memorial VA Hospital

Audie Murphy Memorial VA Hospital  
7400 Merton Minter Blvd.  
San Antonio, TX 78229



**Program Coordinator:** Gregg Wentworth, O.D., MBA, FAAO

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Program Mission

The mission of the Residency in Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Ocular Disease is to provide advanced clinical training in the diagnosis, treatment and vision rehabilitation of veterans with severe traumatic brain injury(TBI) , acquired brain injury(ABI) and visual deficits of acquired neurological disease or postsurgical cerebral complications with additional training in advanced ocular pathology.

#### Program Goals

The goals of the program include the following:

- Strengthen the resident's clinical skills and to gain confidence in working with patients presenting with Polytrauma TBI/ABI or acquired neurological deficits
- To gain experience working as part of a multidisciplinary team in managing polytrauma patients.
- Provide the resident with experience in clinical and didactic teaching.
- Engage the resident in scholarly activities

<b>Program Length</b>	12 months (52 weeks)
<b>Start Date</b>	July 1
<b>Positions</b>	2
<b>Compensation</b>	\$44,373
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	40 hrs (there are no on-call responsibilities)
<b>Accreditation Status</b>	Accredited
<b>Application Deadline</b>	February 1
<b>ORMatch Matching Service</b>	Yes

#### Program Description

The resident will provide optometric care to patients with a diverse range of ocular and neurologic conditions in the Audie Murphy Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital and affiliated clinics. The resident will split their time between seeing patients in the Polytrauma Unit and the Eye Clinic of the hospital. The program will include training in diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of polytrauma-related visual complications, adjustment and eventual reintegration into the community with an

improved quality of life. In the Eye Clinic, the resident will receive training in the diagnosis and management of a wide variety of ocular disease conditions, including glaucoma, retinal, and anterior segment disorders.

### **Educational Opportunities**

The resident will engage in direct supervised patient care experiences in the Polytrauma and Eye clinics of the Audie Murphy VA Hospital. The resident shall participate in Grand Rounds, seminars, and journal clubs. The resident is encouraged to attend continuing education events in the San Antonio area and national optometric conferences. In addition, close interaction with clinical faculty in varied clinical settings provides the resident with enhanced clinical skills and knowledge base.

### **Certificate of Completion**

A certificate of completion will be awarded to the resident upon satisfactory completion of residency requirements. The completion requirements of the program are:

- Successful completion of all of the residency program's goals and objectives
- Completed one paper of publishable quality (research paper, literature review, case report)
- Deliver one presentation on an optometric topic
- Submission of all residency evaluation forms (activity logs, exit evaluations)
- Successful completion of NBEO Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3

## **RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE**

### **Polytrauma Rehabilitation**

The resident will spend approximately 40% of their time providing care to patients in the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center of the Audie Murphy Veterans Administration Hospital. Patients seen here will have suffered significant traumatic injuries, including multi-organ system, head and spinal cord trauma. The resident will learn how to evaluate and care for polytrauma victims as part of a multidisciplinary team.

### **Ocular Disease Diagnosis and Management**

Approximately 40% of the resident's time will be spent in the Eye Clinic of the Audie Murphy Veterans Administration Hospital. Here the resident will provide general eye care to a large and diverse population of patients with a high prevalence of ocular and systemic disease. The resident will be trained in the diagnosis and management of ocular disease by specialists in retina, cornea and glaucoma, among other specialties. By the conclusion of the residency program the resident will be eligible to sit for the Ocular Disease Management Certification

### **Scholarly Activities**

The resident is required to write at least one paper of publishable quality by the end of the residency. The resident is required to make one presentation on an optometric topic. This may take any of several possible forms, including a seminar, continuing education lecture, guest lecture in an optometry course, or a paper or poster presentation at an academic meeting. Residents participate in journal club, grand rounds, and seminar programs at the VA hospital, University of Texas at San Antonio Health Science

Center, and the Rosenberg School of Optometry. The resident will also participate in the education of optometry externs at the VA Hospital.

## **WORKSITE**

The resident will typically work at the Audie Murphy Veterans Administration Hospital and affiliated clinics in the San Antonio area. The hospital consists of a 615-bed acute care facility built in 1973, providing primary, secondary, and tertiary health care in medicine, surgery, neuropsychiatry, and rehabilitation medicine. Ambulatory care programs provides primary services to eligible veterans throughout South Texas.

The San Antonio Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center at the Audie Murphy Hospital is one of five facilities in the country designed to provide intensive rehabilitative care to Veterans and Service members who suffered severe injuries (including brain injuries) to more than one organ system. The facility serves as a regional referral center for acute medical and rehabilitation care, and as a hub for research and education. Regardless of the source of injury (e.g., combat-related, accidents, other) or nature of the disorder (e.g., brain injury, stroke, amputation, blindness, polytrauma), VA Polytrauma System of Care provides state-of-the-science, comprehensive evidenced-based rehabilitation services to improve and maintain the physical and cognitive function of all patients in its care.

### **Employment Benefits**

The resident receives employment benefits as an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs. These include health insurance, life insurance, professional liability protection, paid vacation, paid holidays and paid sick leave.

Leave benefits consist of thirteen days of annual leave and thirteen days of sick leave. Residents are also provided ten federal holidays during the residency year. Residents are eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program and the Federal Employee Group Life Insurance Program. The Federal Tort Claims Act provides the resident with professional liability protection while providing patient care as a component of the residency.

In addition, residents are eligible for a \$500 travel stipend from the Rosenberg School of Optometry to help defray the cost of attending a national optometric conference during the course of the residency program.

Residents are able to attend continuing education sponsored by the Rosenberg School of Optometry at no charge for credit hours.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The Audie Murphy Optometry Residency Program participates in ORMatch. It is therefore necessary to both register with ORMatch and to file an application directly with the Audie Murphy VA residency

program coordinator. Copies of the application form and more information can be obtained by contacting the residency program coordinator.

### **Selection Procedure**

- The program coordinator and faculty decide which candidates to rank for the match and determine the sequential ranking of those candidates based on the application materials, the interview, and input from previous instructors.
- Final candidate selections are reviewed by the Residency Director and the approved list is submitted to ORMatch by the Residency Coordinator.
- ORMatch contacts the program with the results of the match.
- The program coordinator and the program director contact the matched candidates and confirm their intent to enroll in the residency program.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

1. Candidates must earn the degree of Doctor of Optometry from a school or college of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education prior to the starting date of the residency.
2. Successful completion of NBEO examinations.
3. Candidates must be eligible to be licensed as a therapeutic optometrist in the State of Texas.
4. Candidates must be a US citizen.

### **Non-discrimination**

The Audie Murphy Optometry Residency Program provides equal educational opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran status, age, or sex.

### **CALL OR EMAIL TODAY**

For additional information about this residency opportunity, please contact:

**Gregg Wentworth, OD, MBA, FAAO**

**Residency Program Coordinator**

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