BIRMINGHAM VA MEDICAL CENTER

BVAMC Eye Clinic
Located in:
Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital
ABOUT THE PRESENTER

- Graduated from UABSO in 2000
- Residency at Tuscaloosa VAMC from 2000-01
- Birmingham VAMC since 2002
ABOUT MY COLLEAGUE

- Dr. Mills graduated from UABSO in 2012
- Dr. Mills did her residency at BVAMC in 2012-2013
- Dr. Mills has directed the student program since August 2019
ABOUT BIRMINGHAM VA MEDICAL CENTER

- 313-bed acute tertiary care facility located in the historic Southside district of the city
- Provides acute tertiary medical and surgical care to veterans of Alabama and surrounding states
- Provides health care services to eligible veterans in VISN 7
OUR MISSION

-To provide Quality Care for America's Heroes
BIRMINGHAM VA MEDICAL CENTER
OUR CLINIC
- We accept 4 externs for each 12-16 week rotation
- Work week is Monday-Friday. Depending on your semester, you may have days off for Federal Holidays
- Primary Preceptors: Dr. Mills and Dr. Tidmore
- We begin seeing patients at 7:30am and usually finish between 4:00-5:00pm
- Clinical experience for externs involves primary eye care for a large diverse population of veterans
OUR VETERAN POPULATION

-A veteran is anyone who has served in the active-duty military
-We predominately see adult males but we are seeing increasing numbers of female veterans as well
-Patient ages range from 20-90+
-Most of our patients have served in the Vietnam War, Peacekeeping Missions (Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Kosovo), Afghanistan/Iraq (OEF/OIF/OND) and we still see a few veterans who served in WWII and Korea
-Many of our patients have multiple comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia
OUR SUPPORT STAFF

Technicians

Linda Nixon
Christie Schifanella

Contract Opticians

Brian Kennedy
Gloria Nelson
Justin Baker

Optometry MSA

Laura White
OUR CLINIC

-The optometry clinic is a fully equipped, 9-lane clinic

-We have an Ophthalmology Service and a Low Vision Service

-The Optometry Service will be on the 1st Floor. The Ophthalmology Service will be on the 2nd Floor. The Low Vision Clinic is on the 7th Floor.
MORE ROTATION DETAILS

- Externs are typically scheduled 3 patients in the morning and 3 patients in the afternoon
- Externs perform their own work-ups and eye exams
- Our opticians assist patients in ordering their glasses and in necessary repairs
- We do not do any contact lens care or see any pediatric patients
OUR EQUIPMENT
OUR EQUIPMENT
COMMONLY SEEN CONDITIONS

- Many of our patients have diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, AMD, and cataracts
- We also see patients with acute red eyes, diplopia, injuries, vision loss, etc.
COMMONLY SEEN CONDITIONS
COMMONLY SEEN CONDITIONS

Macular Pucker
COMMONLY SEEN CONDITIONS
LESS COMMONLY SEEN CONDITIONS
LESS COMMONLY SEEN CONDITIONS
LESS COMMONLY SEEN CONDITIONS
- All of our eye records are done on the computer in the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS)

- With the VA medical record, you have access to that patient’s full medical history including labs, imaging, medications, and notes from other VA clinics (such as primary care, neurology, mental health, radiology, oncology, etc.)

- You can access exam notes from any VA in the country
Natalie Pelly, Class of 2021

“I am so grateful for my time at the Birmingham VA. It is a very supportive family atmosphere that encourages learning and thinking outside of the box. Not only are the attendings wonderful but so are the residents and technicians. I became much more comfortable with managing things like glaucoma and was exposed to all sorts of optic neuropathies. I also enjoyed being able to spend time with my classmates all semester and the hours and location are not bad either. It was an honor serving the men and women who served our country. I truly feel that this rotation has made me grow as a clinician and I will carry the skills and knowledge that I gained throughout my career.”
Dexter Hebert, Class of 2021

"My time at the VA was great! I gained experience diagnosing and treating ocular disease, and my decision making and patient education abilities improved tremendously. While at the VA I started feeling like all the time I had spent here in school was starting to pay off. In a sense it felt like everything was coming together and it was the first time I started feeling confident in my abilities as a clinician."
Jodie May, Class of 2021

“My time at the Birmingham VA helped me to sharpen my skills, think on my feet, and build confidence as a clinician. During the externship I saw many different ocular conditions such as uveitis, corneal foreign bodies, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, idiopathic intracranial hypertension, CRAO, and much more. This was such a rewarding experience and I would highly recommend this externship to anyone looking to push themselves to the next level.”
Linh Bui, Class of 2021

“My experience at the Birmingham VA has exceeded my expectations. At the VA, I get to see a wide variety of ocular disease from a retinal detachment to geographic atrophy. The attendings are the most supportive, knowledgeable doctors. They helped me become a better clinician in managing and treating my patients. The VA is a great place to give back to the veterans that serve our country!”
CONCLUSION

-If you are interested in systemic and ocular disease, the VA is a great place to gain more experience

- We look forward to seeing some of you in our clinic!
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact info:
Dr. Mills Megan.Mills2@va.gov
Dr. Tidmore Eric.Tidmore@va.gov

Thank you!