Primary Care Optometry Student Program – Salem, Virginia
Where is Salem, Virginia?

Metropolitan area around Roanoke, VA
What’s so great about that?

- Washington, DC (within 4hrs)
- Charlotte, NC (within 3hrs)
- Beach (within 5hrs)
- Smith Mountain Lake (local)
- Charlottesville, VA (home of UVA) and Blacksburg, VA (home of VA Tech)
- Natural Bridge, Luray Caverns
- Skyline Drive, Blue Ridge Pkwy, Appalachian Trail
- Monticello, Appomatox, Biltmore Estates
- Salem Red Sox Baseball
- MANY local festivals and an active downtown
  - Market Street!!!, Music on the Market
  - Strawberry Festival, Greek Festival, Festival in the Park, Local Colors International Festival
  - First Fridays (downtown party), Downtown Thursday night’s Dance Party (Party in the Park)
  - Marine Mud Run, Canoe Racing
  - NUMEROUS excellent restaurants and fine dining
Smith Mountain Lake
(a.k.a. Lake Winnipesaukee in the 1991 movie *What About Bob?* with Bill Murray)
Other Area Attractions

Appomattox Court House where Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865, thus ending the Civil War.

Monticello near Charlottesville, VA

Bridge at the Peaks of Otter

Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC

Salem Red Sox Baseball
Other Area Attractions

- Natural Bridge
- Cascade Falls
- Tanabark Overlook: Blue Ridge Pkwy
- View from Dragon’s Tooth: Appalachian Trail
- Luray Caverns: The Great Stalacpipe Organ (left) is the world’s largest working organ at over one 3.5 acres in size
What about the Medical Center?

- 282-bed facility providing a broad range of health care services to veterans in western and central Virginia.
- Range of medical, surgical and psychiatric services
- Tertiary referral center for short & long-term psychiatric care
- Specialties:
  - Cardiac catheterization, Cardiac rehabilitation
  - Neurology; Oncology; Geriatrics
  - Post-traumatic stress disorders
  - Women’s health
  - Spinal-cord injuries; Extended Care
  - Dentistry
Salem VA Medical Center

- Academic affiliations also exist with:
  - University of Virginia School of Medicine
  - Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Teaching arrangements with numerous allied health professions
Orientation

- Training in medical center policies & procedures
- Use of computerized patient record system (CPRS)

Dr. Slagle is obviously up to something here!
What Do We Have To Offer?
Newly Enlarged and Renovated Clinic
Newly Enlarged and Renovated
Ancillary Equipment in the Clinic

- OCT3
- Humphrey Visual Field Analyzer
- Digital Fundus Cameras
- Stereo Disc Camera
- Pachymeter
- Ultrasound (A-scan / B-scan)

Fundus Photography and OCT Room
Hospital-based Primary-care Optometry

- Emphasis on management of ocular disease for a primarily geriatric population in a multidisciplinary environment
- Large population of patients with diabetes, HTN, glaucoma, macular degeneration
- Most patients with an average of 6-10 medical problems

Minor Procedures Room / Supply Room
Use of state-of-the-art computerized patient record system (CPRS) with direct access to all medical notes, lab reports and radiology images
Didactic Program—Attendings

Lecture series featuring internal medicine topics—taught by attendings
- Infectious Disease
- Cardiology
- Rheumatology
- Radiology
- Hematology
- Neurology
- Endocrinology

Kenan Tiemeyer, Roanoke glass artist: Fantasy (above) and Eye of God—Light Mandala (left)
Didactic Program—Residents

- Lecture series featuring ocular topics—taught by residents
  - Ocular Trauma
  - Retina
    - Inherited
    - Vascular
  - Diabetes and the Eye
  - Cornea
  - Neuro-ophthalmic Dz
  - Ocular Infections

MACULAR DEGENERATION
Clinic Staff

- **Optometrists** (3 full-time; 1 part-time)

- **Ophthalmologists**
  - full-time glaucoma specialist
  - 1 general ophthalmologist
  - part-time
    - One neuro-ophthalmologist
    - Two general ophthalmologists
    - Retina Specialists
    - Oculoplastics

- 4 **Ophthalmic technicians**

- 1 **Optician** in separate clinic

- 3 full-time clerks, 2 volunteers
Meet the Staff:
Daniel Eckermann, OD, FAAO
Chief, Optometry Section

Dr. Eckermann is Chief of the Optometry Section. He received his OD degree from Ohio State University in 1984 and completed a VA residency in Chillicothe & Columbus, Ohio in 1985. He came to the Salem VA Medical Center immediately after his residency. He helped establish an affiliation with Southern College of Optometry for the creation of a student externship rotation as well as the residency program, and he is part-time clinical faculty for the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine at Virginia Tech.
Dr. Slagle joined the staff of the Salem VA Medical Center in 2000 and serves as the residency program supervisor. He received his OD degree from Southern College of Optometry in 1999 and completed a residency in primary care at the Memphis VA Medical Center. He previously served as an instructor at Southern College of Optometry and owned/operated a private practice in Rocky Mount, Virginia. He established a student externship program with Pennsylvania College of Optometry and helped establish a residency affiliation with Southern College of Optometry. He is a part-time assistant professor for the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine and at the Virginia Tech Carillion School of Medicine. He serves as an attending in the supervision of students and residents. Dr. Slagle is very active within VHA Optometry and the Armed Forces Optometric Society.
Meet the Staff: Angela Musick, OD, FAAO

Dr. Musick joined the clinic staff in June 2005. She received her OD degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry in 2001 and completed a residency in primary care optometry at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. She previously served as staff optometrist at the Lorain, Ohio VA Outpatient Clinic before coming to Salem and has had private practice experience in Danville, Virginia. She serves as an attending in the supervision and instruction of students and residents. Dr. Musick established student externship programs with UAB and UIW-RSO and is part-time clinical faculty for the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine at Virginia Tech. Dr. Musick is very active within VHA Optometry, the Armed Forces Optometric Society, and the AOA.
Meet the Staff: Technicians

Left to Right: Ms. Adina, Mr. Steve, Ms. Lynne
Meet the Staff: Ophthalmology

Chief of Ophthalmology and Glaucoma Specialist: Junping Li, MD, PhD
Meet the Staff: Optician

Mr. Scott Shortridge
Meet the Staff: Residency Ballgame/Picnic 2010-11

Left to Right: Dr. Slagle (attending), Dr. Tara Whitehead (resident), Dr. Musick (attending), Dr. Meghan Elkins (resident), Dr. Eckermann (Chief)
Meet the Staff:
Post-Residency Photo 2009-10

Well, well…looks like we made improvements with Dr. Ali!

Dr. Oliver Ali graduated from UAB in 2009 and did a residency at the Salem VAMC in 2009-10. He joined the Salem VAMC Eye Clinic as a part-time optometrist in 2011.
Other Training Programs

- Two to four Optometry student externship rotation slots
  - Two to four per quarter / trimester
  - Associations with UAB, SCO, PCO, and UIW-RSO
- Two Optometry Residents
- One Ophthalmology Resident
  - 3rd-year surgical residents rotate through the clinic every 4 months
  - Part of University of Virginia ophthalmology residency program
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VA Tech’s D.O. program) Student Rotations
What is the Schedule Like?

- Optometry works with a compressed schedule
  - 9-hour workdays
  - Patients scheduled every half hour
  - 7:15a to 5:00p (0715 to 1700 military time 😊)
  - Lunch from 12:00p to 12:45p
  - Wednesday mornings: didactic and admin time for journal club, rotations through other clinics, or academic enrichment

This Means…EVERY OTHER FRIDAY OFF!

- Normal operating hours are 8:00a to 4:30p
What Will I Learn?
Our Goals For You

- Enhance & gain **efficiency** in your primary eye care examination skills in high-volume practice
- Strengthen your expertise in **diagnosis** and management of a variety of **eye conditions**
- Increase your **knowledge of systemic diseases**, their impact on the eye, and their treatment
- Learn to **communicate** well with other professionals
Our Goals For You

- Opportunities to gain expertise in treatment of ocular manifestations
- Arrange for you to observe or participate in other clinics, such as retina, primary care, radiology, the ER, or neurology
Anything Else I Need to Know?

- **ON CAMPUS HOUSING PROVIDED**
- Meal Service *(breakfast, lunch and dinner allowance provided by Salem VAMC)*
- Medical Library
  - Access to journals & texts
  - After-hours access
  - Medline searches
- Internet access
- Free access VAMC Fitness Center
THANK YOU!  THANK YOU!
WE ARE HONORED TO SERVE YOU.
For more information

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