SERGEANT ERNEST I. "BOOTS" THOMAS VA CLINIC TALLAHASSEE, FL

Joni Scott-Weideman, OD, FAAO
Brady Hanlon, OD, FAAO
Brandon Sanders, OD
Melissa Boyer, OD
SERGEANT ERNEST I. “BOOTS” THOMAS
VA CLINIC
TALLAHASSEE, FL
CLINIC FEATURES

SCHEDULE / FLOW
- Hours 7:30 – 4:00
- 5 Techs to assist with work-up and ancillary testing
  - Doctors – attending, resident, and student also help when needed

FACILITY
- Current building opened in fall of 2016, so all of the equipment is relatively new

LAYOUT
- 13 complete exam rooms (no sharing)
  - Haag-Streit slit lamps w/teaching tubes
  - Illuminated phoropters
- 4 tech work-up rooms

LAYOUT (cont’d)
- 5 specialty testing rooms
  - 2 Humphrey Visual Field Analyzers
  - 2 Ocular Coherence Tomographes (OCT)
    - 1 with angiogram
  - Ocular Response Analyzer / Pachymeter
  - 2 fundus cameras w/ Fundus Autofluorescence
  - Zeiss Clarus wide-field camera w/ Fundus Autofluorescence
  - VEP/ERG unit
  - Low vision room
  - Contact lens room
  - Conference room
  - Computer workroom for externs
PHILOSOPHY / PURPOSE

• HISTORY
  • Externship program since mid-2000s, Residency since late 2000s
  • Currently affiliated with the following schools: IU, ICO, Midwestern AZ & Chicago, MCPHS, IAUPR, NOVA, UAB

• Educating and encouraging student and resident doctors to becoming independent clinicians
  • Our trainees are assigned their own exam room in which to work, and we encourage you to “drive the bus”
  • Didactic education (journal club, presentation, etc) one morning each week
  • Rotate with local retinal and cornea/glaucoma specialist
  • Our attending doctors are in our clinic because of our desire to teach
    • 2 of us sold our private practices to join a VA team to teach
    • Our clinic chief started both our student and resident programs
    • The 4th attending actually was a resident in our program over 10 years ago
AREA ATTRACTIONS

• Nature lovers
  • Nearest beach, St. George Island, is a little under 2 hours away
  • Numerous fresh water springs for kayaking, paddle boarding, etc
  • Numerous hiking, biking trails

• Sports fans
  • 2 universities here in town (FSU, FAMU)
  • Jacksonville is ~2.5 hours away for NFL fans

• Theme Parks
  • Weekend trip (~4 hours) to Orlando for Disney/Universal Studios/Sea World or to Tampa for Busch Gardens
  • ~1 hour to Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, GA
BRANDON.SANDERS2@VA.GOV
OFFICE: 850-513-7598
TEXT: 615-439-8900