Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center Externship
Our Team!
Teamwork

• We work together to provide the best possible care for our nation’s Veterans
• We work hard to keep our clinic busy and efficient, while giving each patient the time they need
• We are integrated into the medical center and serve as part of the Veterans’ whole health care team
• We mostly do outpatient care, but also regularly see inpatient Veterans
Patient Demographics

- Ages: 20 – 100 (Average Age: 65 years old)
- Gender: ~85% Male, 15% Female
- Race: ~45% Caucasian, 55% African American
- No pediatrics or contact lens fitting

Patient Encounters

- Routine/Refractive (~25%)
- Ocular Disease (~70%)
- Binocular Vision (~5%)
WHAT TO EXPECT...
Systemic Disease

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Hyperlipidemia
- CVA
- Carotid Artery Disease
- Heart Disease
- COPD
- Sleep Apnea
- Neurocognitive disorders
Posterior Segment Disease
THE BIG THREE
Vascular Disease
Glaucoma
Macular Degeneration
Externship

• Affiliations with UABSO (3 externs) and ICO (1 extern)
• Extern hours 7:30 am-3:30 pm
• You will receive a packet of information from our Education Coordinator that you must complete and return at least 30 days before your rotation
• You must get fingerprinted at the facility before your rotation begins
Contact Information

Lisa Schifanella, O.D., M.S. (Clinic Chief, Residency Supervisor)
Brooke Polinksy, O.D. (Staff Optometrist)
Ellie Prewitt, O.D., F.A.A.O. (Externship Supervisor)

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