Location

- New Port Richey, FL, is located on the west coast of Florida approximately 40 miles northwest of Tampa.

- Due to the environment here it is also called the “Nature Coast” but that will be discussed later.
Office
Clinic Staff, Dr. James Rakes

- Indiana University Graduate
- Residency trained at Lexington KY, VA Hospital
- Has worked with over 100 externs and residency director for 26 years there
- Primary Low Vision vision care provider
- Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry
- Adjunct faculty Indiana University and University of Alabama at Birmingham
Clinic Staff, Dr. Christopher Suhr

- Nova Southeastern University Graduate for Optometry and Public Health
- Residency trained at the Tuscaloosa, AL, VA Hospital
- Worked with over 20 externs

- Secondary Low Vision provider
- Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry
- Adjunct faculty Indiana University and University of Alabama at Birmingham
Clinic Staff, Dr. Elizabeth Garland

- Graduate of New England College of Optometry
- Residency trained at the Gainesville, FL, VA Hospital
- Worked with externs there
Ancillary Clinic Staff

- Kim Jones, Optician and Optometric technician
  - performs OCTs
  - performs VFs
  - performs HRTs
  - assists in patient work ups

- Barry Herscovitch, Optician and manager of optical department

- Sylvia Hannah, Optician
Clinic Information

- Our clinic is part of an outpatient facility that provides care from 7:30 to 5:00.
- The eye clinic operates from 7:30 to 4:30.
- On an average day each of the three providers sees 12-15 patients.
- Of those there is a mix of primary care, secondary care and occasionally tertiary care is coordinated with the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa.
Patient Demographics

- Range in age from 20-101
- Most pts are 55+
- Mostly males
- Mostly nice guys 😊
Demographics con’t

- There are a lot of diabetic patients
- A large number of glaucoma patients compared to many other sites
- There are usually 2 or 3 ocular urgencies a day
- There are also many opportunities for interesting cases on a weekly basis
Responsibilities of the Extern

- See patients! You will not be a glorified tech!
- Externs will be involved in the urgent care patients that present to the clinic
- With the demographics of the country changing you will be involved in diabetic eye exams
- Learn to run the ancillary testing equipment
Toys!!!

- In our clinic we have all of the newer technology that schools have but not all sites may have available to use.
- These include: an HRT3, a retinal camera, Topcon 3-D OCT 1000, and HVF analyzer.
- All of the above equipment you will be able to use and interpret at the end of the rotation.
Humphrey Visual Field
Retinal Camera
Low Vision

- There is a program that is called VIST that works with patients who are significantly visually impaired and are in need of assistance.
- Due to this we have a great deal of resources available for low vision.
- Externs will work one on one with the VIST coordinator and attending OD
CCTVs
Low Vision Aids...
Other Work Experience

- The James A. Haley VA ophthalmology department has offered to provide training if the extern wishes to do this.
- Monthly there are grand rounds and educational seminars sponsored by the University of South Florida Ophthalmology Department.
- We are actively pursuing more educational options for our externs.
Reasons for Coming to Florida

- You have your own patients that are yours until you are done.
- You will have three different providers to work with and learn different philosophies.
- You will see a different modality of practice (i.e. federal service).
- You will get to interact with students from other schools.
Reasons continued

- We work with the externs to have academic posters and papers with them (2 out of 3 of last year's students had a poster accepted). This is very important if you wish to become a Fellow in the future.
- No pressure is placed on the students. We understand that you are here to learn from us and undue pressure is not necessary.
Most important reason...

- You will have significant one on one interaction with your attendings. We all have an open door philosophy and it is currently set up to one student per doctor so you don’t have to fight in line to get the attending and you have their undivided attention!
Ok more reasons...

- We are about an hour from Tampa which has Busch Gardens, Adventure Island, Hyde Park, Ybor City, Channelside District and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Lightning.
- We are an hour from St Petersburg which has a historic district and the Tampa Bay Rays.
- We are about 2.5 hrs from Orlando and all of those theme parks.
But Most Importantly....

- We are minutes from the beach!!!
Contact Info:

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