

Graduate Medical Education Program Information

Specialty: Ophthalmology Department

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GME: Ophthalmology Department

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Mission

The mission of the Ophthalmology Department is to diagnose and treat all diseases, disorders, and trauma of the eye and orbit. We see all active duty members, dependents of active duty, eligible retired members and their eligible dependents. The staff is committed to excellence and fair treatment of all our patients.

Aims

- To train the next generation of navy ophthalmologists to practice innovative, evidence-based medicine in medical centers both stateside and overseas, no matter how isolated they may be, and to possess the ability to maintain a degree of clinical and surgical independence whereby patient safety can be assured.
- To develop and expand, starting in residency, the trainee's ability to participate in humanitarian and trauma care, two key tenets of our field that represent core knowledge, skills, and attributes.

Program Description

- ACGME Fully Accredited: Yes.
- Length of Training: 3 years
- Training Complement: 4 - 4 – 4

The Ophthalmology residency at NMCS D was established in 1984 as a PGY 2-4 program. In 2022, we will welcome the inaugural Ophthalmology categorical internship class and have now transitioned to a four-year (PGY 1-4) program with 3 residents per PGY class. The PGY2 class is made up of a combination of straight through trainees and those returning from a General Medical Officer tour.

Academics

- The NMCS D Department of Ophthalmology Residency Program has provided 60 years of distinguished history in the teaching of military Ophthalmology residents.
- The residency program has graduated over 95 Navy ophthalmologists since 1984.
- AAO Basic Clinical and Science Course
- NMCS D Ophthalmology Review Course
- NMCS D Refractive Surgery Course
- NMCS D Cataract Course.
- Extramural: Bay Area Basic Science Ophthalmology Course (Stanford University); Tri-Service Ocular Trauma Course (Bethesda, Maryland) and Loma Linda Trauma Rotation (Riverside, California).

Clinical Experience

- Ophthalmology has over 31,000 patient visits and over 4200 surgical procedures.
- Our goal is to exceed minimum requirements by 150% in all respective areas.

Surgical Experience

- Extensive experience in preparation for the practice of comprehensive ophthalmology in the U.S. Navy.
- Refractive Surgery: The San Diego Navy Refractive Surgery Center is the leader of all Department of Defense refractive surgery programs. The center has performed over 19,000 surgeries since its inception. The

NMCS D Refractive Surgery Center has and continues to spearhead ground breaking research in pilots and the Special Forces and is the birth place and leader of all Department of Defense refractive surgery programs.

- Trauma rotation: A one month rotation at Loma Linda University's Level 1 Trauma Center offers exposure to the repair of ruptured globes. Exposure to complex cataract and glaucoma surgeries is also augmented.

Outstanding Resident Research

- Residents present at the NMCS D Academic Research Competition and are strongly encouraged to follow-up with publication. We have won the Navy-wide Academic Research competition in both the resident and staff categories. Research topics centered on prevention and operational issues such as refractive surgery in aviation and laser eye injuries.

Military Unique Aspects

- Residents may have the opportunity to rotate on USNS Mercy for humanitarian surgical missions. Benefits include mission planning and surgical management of complex cataracts.
- Residents participate in medical missions to Guatemala on a voluntary basis. This has resulted in helping over 3000 people with 350 surgeries.
- International Military Refractive Surgery Symposium is held annually in San Diego, California.

Academic Curriculum

The academic curriculum is the structural plan for the residency and is based on the ACGME Ophthalmology Residency Program requirements and milestones.

The main elements of the curriculum include:

1. Weekly academic lectures and conferences (MK)
2. Clinical rotations (PC, MK, SBP)
3. Wet labs to include Vivarium, Synthetic, and Simulator work (PC)
4. Journal Club (MK, PBL, PROF)
5. Grand Rounds and Short Topics (MK, PROF, SBP)
6. Supplemental activities include
 - a. QI Projects (PBL, SBP)
 - b. M+M Conference (PBL, SBP)
 - c. Research Project (PBL)
 - d. Op Med and Intern Symposia (PBL, SBP, PROF)
 - e. Military Officer Development (PROF)

For information pertaining to compensation and benefits please visit the NMRTC GME Resources website at <https://sandiego.tricare.mil/Graduate-Medical-Education/GME-Programs/Resources-FAQs>
