

**RESIDENT'S GUIDE  
TO  
RESOURCES IN  
RESEARCH AND  
SCHOLARSHIP**

**COMPILED BY THE  
COUNCIL ON RESEARCH  
AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION  
SIXTH EDITION  
2003**



## INTRODUCTION

The Council on Research (COR) was established by the American Optometric Association in 1986 to promote research in Optometry. The goals of the COR include:

1. To facilitate and assist in the coordination of Optometric Research.
2. To provide assistance in the development of research proposals.
3. To provide a central source of information relating research to the profession.
4. To develop research objectives.
5. To identify sources of research funding.
6. To be an advocate for Optometric Research
7. To foster cooperation between and within research communities.
8. To assist in the development of research resources.

Summer Workshops- Since its inception, the COR has co-sponsored with the American Academy of Optometry Research Committee seven Summer Research Institutes for the development of optometric expertise in clinical eye research. Emanating from these workshops have been many “working groups” that have designed clinical research questions in a number of important clinical areas, including: myopia, glaucoma, contact lenses, binocular vision and low vision. The National Eye Institute has funded several of these efforts: the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) Study, the Vision in Preschoolers (VIP) Study, the Low Vision Intervention Study (LoVIS) and the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Ethnicity and Refractive Error (CLEERE) Study.

The ninth Summer Invitational Research Institute is slated for August 2004. This program will provide training to clinical educators and researchers, particularly in the areas of problem identification, study design, biostatistics and epidemiology. For more information, contact Dr. Whitener at AOA’s Alexandria office..

Annual ARVO Reception- The COR also co-sponsors with the American Academy of Optometry an annual reception at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Meeting held each year in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. This, the largest vision research meeting in the world, is an excellent opportunity for Optometric Researchers to meet and interact with colleagues from every walk of scientific life.

Research Resources- During the Georgetown Conferences, sponsored by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry and the American Optometric Association, COR was instrumental in designing and conducting the program on Optometric Research that resulted in a renewed commitment to the research endeavor and a significant prioritization of research topics and resources within the profession.

Resident's Guide- This guide represents a logical extension of the Council's responsibility toward the future development of Optometric Research. Residents are a growing segment of Optometric Post-graduate Trainees. Their potential future contribution as not only competent practitioners, but also clinical researchers throughout their practice life makes any program of information and resources we could offer a worthwhile endeavor. In this guide, we have surveyed a large group of optometric organizations to determine what sort of travel, grant and other support might be available to residents. The results of this survey have been summarized here. The reader should be aware that this information may contain inaccuracies and that information may have changed since the publication of this synopsis. The reader is, therefore, advised to make direct contact with each agency offering a residency benefit to obtain specific, currently correct information regarding each benefit. We hope this guide is valuable to all who use it. Comments, additions and revisions are welcome. Please forward them to

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## ***TRAVEL GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS***

### ***AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY (AAO)***

The *Section on Cornea and Contact Lenses* of the ***AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY*** offers Travel Grants to attend each AAO Meeting for Residents in cornea and contact lens residency programs.

For more information and an application, please contact:

Jenny L. Smythe, OD, MS  
Pacific University College of Optometry  
2043 College Way  
Forest Grove, OR 97116  
Phone: (503) 352-2770  
Email: [smythej@pacificu.edu](mailto:smythej@pacificu.edu)

### ***IN ADDITION:***

The ***AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY (AAO)*** offers a number of travel fellowships each year for students and residents to attend the *Academy's Annual Meeting in December* and the *ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology)* annual meeting in May.

For more information and guidelines go to:

<http://www.aaopt.org/about/awards/students/index.asp#student> or contact:

Student Travel Fellowships  
American Academy of Optometry  
6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 506  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 984-1441  
FAX (301) 984-4737  
Email: [AAOptom@aol.com](mailto:AAOptom@aol.com)

### ***NEW JERSEY ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY***

The ***NEW JERSEY ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY*** provides two (2) \$500 travel grants to sponsor a student or resident interested in presenting a paper or poster at the upcoming American Academy of Optometry meeting in December.

Preference is given to New Jersey residents.

***Applications must be received by: October 15***

For more details or to receive an application, please contact:

Robert J. Doty, O.D., F.A.A.O.  
New Jersey Academy of Optometry  
70 East Front Street  
Red Bank, NJ 07701  
Phone: (732) 741-0858  
FAX: (732) 219-0180  
Email [bobdoty@comcast.net](mailto:bobdoty@comcast.net)

## ***RESEARCH GRANTS***

### ***AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC FOUNDATION (AOF)***

The ***American Optometric Foundation (AOF)*** offers Ezell research fellowships for anyone entering or continuing a full-time, post-graduate (Masters or Doctorate) course of study and research related to optometric education.

The AOF also offers residency awards to support pediatric optometry and contact lens residents. This program is intended to promote the practice and development of the field of optometry by providing incentive and support to talented optometric residents who demonstrate a passion and commitment to practice, research and education.

The ***AOF*** also has a research grant program that supports private research initiatives by optometrists which have direct clinical implications and expand the body of knowledge in a directly applicable field of optometry. For more information, please contact the AOF at (301) 984-4734 or [christine@aaoptom.org](mailto:christine@aaoptom.org).

The AAO and AOF also invite applications for (1) SOLA Optical-sponsored research grant. This competitive grant will be awarded to fund basic or clinical research in the area of ophthalmic lenses.

### ***AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY (AAO)***

The ***AAO*** and the ***AOF*** invite applications for three (2) **Vistakon-sponsored** research grants. These competitive grants will be awarded to fund basic or clinical research in the area of soft disposable contact lenses.

For further details, please contact:

American Optometric Foundation  
6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 506  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 984-4734  
Email: [christine@aaoptom.org](mailto:christine@aaoptom.org)

## ***COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN VISION DEVELOPMENT (COVD)***

The *College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD)* has a research grant program for COVD student/resident members. The \$750 stipend will support research on vision and learning and travel expenses to present a poster of the project at the COVD Annual Meeting.

***Deadline for submission: May 31st.***

For more information and/or proposal guidelines, please contact:

COVD International Office  
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 310  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
Phone: (888) 268-3770  
Email: [covdoffice@aol.com](mailto:covdoffice@aol.com)

***NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE (NEI)*** Go to [www.nei.nih.gov](http://www.nei.nih.gov) and click onto “researchers”.

The ***NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE (NEI)*** has announced the availability of several special K award programs. ***The Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08)*** supports the development of outstanding clinician research scientists.

The funding mechanism provides support for specialized study for clinically trained professionals such as optometrists and physicians who are committed to a career in research and have potential to develop into independent investigators competing successfully for research funding from NIH and other sources. The award supports 3, 4, or 5 years of supervised research experience with an established investigator in either basic or clinical research including Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

**Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Awards (K23)** - The purpose of the Mentored Patient-oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) is to support the career development of investigators who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on patient-oriented research. This mechanism provides support for a period of supervised study and research for clinically trained professionals who have the potential to develop into productive, clinical investigators focusing on patient-oriented research. For the purposes of this award, patient-oriented research is defined as research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects.; 2) therapeutic interventions; 3) clinical trials, and; 4) the development of new technologies.

Young optometrists who have considered a clinical or basic research career track but have been discouraged by the possibility of having to incur additional debt to obtain this training, will find these programs particularly attractive.

For more information, interested optometrists, optometric residents, and 4th year optometry students should request a copy of the Program Guidelines for these K award programs from:

Chyren Hunter, Ph.D.  
Research Training Officer  
National Eye Institute  
6120 Executive Blvd., MSC 7164  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7164  
(301) 451-2020  
Email: [clh@nei.nih.gov](mailto:clh@nei.nih.gov)

#### **NIH LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL RESEARCHERS AND FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCHERS.**

Information about the NIH Clinical Research and Pediatric Research Loan Repayment Programs, is available on the internet at <http://lrp.info.nih.gov>. Initiated by PL 106-310, these programs will repay up to \$35,000 per year of eligible educational loans, plus the accompanying income tax burden, for two years; they may be renewed. Eligible candidates must be US citizens, permanent residents, or non-citizen nationals with a doctoral-level degree who are pursuing patient-oriented clinical research and are carrying total qualifying educational debt in excess of 20% of annual income. For FY 2002 the eligible NEI affiliation includes first-time support as Principal Investigator on an R01, R03, R21, or U01 research grant; first-time support as director of a subproject on U10 cooperative clinical research grant; support on an F32 or T32 postdoctoral training grant; or support on a K08 or K23 physician scientist training grant. For FY 2003 and beyond eligible individuals may be supported by any Federal Agency or non-profit organization as well as the NEI.

Application is made yearly, on line to the NIH Office of Loan Repayment, with review performed by a panel of outside scientists convened by the NEI. The review criteria are a personal statement of career goals, current research, proposed research, and letters of recommendation.

Optometrists are eligible to apply and have successfully received these awards.

For more information contact Dr. Chyren Hunter at the National Eye Institute. Telephone 301-451-2020.

## ***POST-GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES***

### ***ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY (ASCO)***

The ***ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY (ASCO)*** has provided a comprehensive manual which describes residency and post-graduate programs throughout the United States. The Residency/Post-Graduate Programs Directory includes information about residencies in contact lens, geriatrics, hospital-based, pediatrics, primary care, ocular disease and rehabilitation, and low vision therapy. There is also information on post-graduate research training programs.

The Directory provides a complete description of each position including requirements, responsibilities, salaries, benefits, and a contact person.

For more information, please contact the Dean or Residency Director of your institution who will have a copy of this binder for your review.

## ***MEMBERSHIPS***

***THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS OFFER SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS TO STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT EACH ORGANIZATION AT THE NUMBERS LISTED BELOW:***

### ***AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION (AOA)***

Optometric residents may continue with free AOA student membership by completing an application. Residents receive all the benefits of full paying members. For more information about benefits, please call 1 (800) 365-2219 ext. 110, Membership Department.

### ***AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY (AAO):***

For membership information call (301) 984-1441 or visit the web site at [www.aaopt.org](http://www.aaopt.org)

Student members must specifically request the Optometry and Vision Science journal.

### ***ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN VISION AND OPHTHALMOLOGY (ARVO):***

Visit the ARVO at [www.arvo.org/arvo/](http://www.arvo.org/arvo/) Membership for residents is \$50 (no journal). Call (301) 571-1844 for more information.

***COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN VISION DEVELOPMENT (COVD)***

COVD allows members of COVD to continue at the yearly student rate (currently \$10 without Journal/\$30 with Journal) during their Residency program.

Membership application and payments should be handled directly with the COVD International Office:

243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 310  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
Phone: (888) 268-3770  
Email: [covdoffice@aol.com](mailto:covdoffice@aol.com)

***OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA***

The *Optical Society of America* offers Student Membership to the OSA. Memberships include networking opportunities, employment assistance, free magazine subscriptions, discounts, and many more benefits.

For more information, please call 1-800-762-6960 or 202-416-1430.

***REDUCED RATES/HOUSING FOR ANNUAL MEETING***

***AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY***

The *American Academy of Optometry* offers special student discounts on housing for their annual Academy meetings. These rates apply to residents as long as you hold a student membership. Room availability at special rates is limited.

Requests are on a first-come, first-served basis. Room assignments are made four students to each available room.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Jonathan Mertz  
301-984-1441  
FAX: 301-984-4737  
Email: [Jonathanm@aaoptom.org](mailto:Jonathanm@aaoptom.org)

## ***COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS IN VISION DEVELOPMENT (COVD)***

The *College Of Optometrists In Vision Development (COVD)* offers free registration for educational courses and the opportunity to obtain a special housing/meal package for their annual meeting to COVD student/resident members. For more information, please contact:

COVD International Office  
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 310  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
Phone: (888) 268-3770  
Email: [covdoffice@aol.com](mailto:covdoffice@aol.com)

## ***JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION***

*Survey of Ophthalmology* is known as the best journal for ophthalmology residents, and you are entitled to a **FREE** subscription during your first year of residency. Your residency director must complete the application form and verify that you are a resident. Call (617) 566-2138 to request an application form.