

THE EYE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The NYMC residency program in ophthalmology trains nine residents in all aspects of medical and surgical management of ophthalmic disease. Residents spend time at both WMC and NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan in Manhattan. First-year ophthalmology residents spend most of their time in ophthalmology clinics at WMC. Primary emphasis is on general ophthalmology but there is significant exposure to the subspecialty clinics such as cornea, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology and retina. While in their first year, residents perform minor surgical procedures (such as chalazia) and serve as first assistant in the operating room for more complex cases 2-4 days per month. In addition, first-year residents are able to travel off-site for low-vision and refractive surgery experience 2-4 half days per month. The exposure the residents have in their first year allows them to become comfortable with performing intraocular surgical procedures by their second year. Second-year residents continue to develop their clinical skills in addition to beginning to learn surgical technique. They also participate in the general and subspecialty ophthalmology clinics at WMC, where they also participate in the operating room 1-2 days a week, focusing on oculoplastics and pediatric surgical cases. Third-year residents act as chief residents and are

typically dedicated to the operating room. At both WMC and NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan, the third-year resident operates an average of 3-4 days per week.

RESEARCH IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

The ophthalmic research program is active at NYMC. Sansar C. Sharma, Ph.D., professor of ophthalmology, leads a team of researchers who are engaged in the study of apoptosis, or programmed cell death, in the retina. The research aims to understand the specific steps during apoptosis and to develop strategies to interfere with the death signals that may contribute to the development of glaucoma and other eye disorders. Some of the published studies include the effects of isoflurane on retinal pigment epithelial cells; the therapeutic effects of stem cells on optic nerve compression injury; and the role of steroid treatment in cataract surgery in uveitis patients. Another study reported the effect of intravitreal hemorrhage on retinal angiogenesis in preterm neonate in animal models. More than 25 publications were produced last year. The Department is also active in the area of research into corneal diseases and dry eye. Dr. Zaidman has several active investigative protocols. Dr. Wandel is working on the development of an implantable, trans-corneal glaucoma shunt. Resident research is required.



LOCATION

New York Medical College is located on a 565-acre suburban campus shared with Westchester Medical Center, 15 miles north of New York City. The College is easily accessible by highway and is seven miles from the Tappan Zee/Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. Frequent rail and bus service is available. Directions are available at www.nymc.edu/directions.

ABOUT US

Founded in 1860, New York Medical College (NYMC) is one of the nation's largest private health sciences colleges. A member of the Touro College and University System, NYMC is located in Westchester County, New York, and offers degrees from the School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences and the School of Health Sciences and Practice, as well as a school of dental medicine and a school of nursing. NYMC provides a wide variety of clinical training opportunities for students, residents and practitioners. The College has a strong history of involvement in the social and environmental determinants of health and disease and special concern for the underserved.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

New York Medical College (NYMC) introduces its newly reorganized and growing Department of Ophthalmology under the leadership of its new chair, Kelly Hutcheson, M.D., M.B.A., professor of ophthalmology. The Department of Ophthalmology of NYMC is one of the oldest eye services in the country and has a long legacy of producing quality comprehensive and specialist ophthalmologists. Our teaching program is at the core of our mission, which is tripartite: to provide excellent and compassionate patient-centered care; to provide top-level education to the next generation of ophthalmologists; and to be an incubator for ideas and innovations in ophthalmic research. In the coming years, the program will expand its faculty, strengthen its teaching curriculum and add innovative programs and research opportunities.

Our Department offers ophthalmology medical and surgical training for nine residents and rotating medical students. Our faculty mentors provide clinical, surgical and didactic teaching for our training residents. In addition to our core faculty, we have many accredited part-time faculty members, who actively participate in these endeavors. Resident education sessions include wet labs, conferences and visits to local physician offices. Our principal teaching hospitals are Westchester Medical Center (WMC), a tertiary care facility with a level 1 trauma center and burn center, and Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. These hospitals serve 3.5 million residents in Westchester County and the surrounding areas. Since the NYMC School of Medicine campus is adjacent, basic science faculty whose research involves the eye actively participate in the resident training experience. NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan, also part of the rotation for residents, serves and cares for a large number of the underserved population in the New York City boroughs.

The Department sponsors academic activities to which community members are invited. There is a monthly Grand Rounds series in which scientific activity, scholarly research and clinical practices are discussed. The Department hosts journal clubs, invited outside speakers and specialty meetings to spotlight recent advances in the field. Hosting conferences and academic programs serves as a fulcrum for communication and bidirectional education between the Department and our colleagues in the community.



KELLY A. HUTCHESON, M.D., M.B.A.
CHAIR AND PROFESSOR OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY, NYMC;
DIRECTOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY,
WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER
HEALTH NETWORK (WMCHEALTH)

Prior to joining WMCHealth, Dr. Hutcheson was chief of ophthalmology at Sidra Medical Center and Weill Cornell School of Medicine in Qatar. Dr. Hutcheson has worked at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and at University of Maryland Medical Center, and received specialty training in pediatric ophthalmology at Emory University. She holds a master's in business administration from George Washington University. Dr. Hutcheson has published numerous peer-reviewed academic papers and has been a national and international invited guest professor. She founded and directed a charity organization to provide surgical humanitarian eye care to disadvantaged patients. Her specialties include pediatric genetic, retinal and complex ocular conditions; medical and surgical management of adult strabismus (ocular misalignment) and double vision; and pediatric cataracts and cataract surgery.



GERALD ZAIDMAN, M.D.
VICE CHAIR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
AND PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL
OPHTHALMOLOGY, NYMC;
DIRECTOR OF CORNEA AND
REFRACTIVE SURGERY SERVICE, WMC

Dr. Zaidman is a renowned ophthalmic surgeon with special expertise in corneal transplantation, corneal restoration, pediatric corneal and anterior segment surgery. A leader in his field, he has performed more than 400 corneal transplants in children. He was fellowship trained in cornea and external disease at University of Pittsburgh and completed his residency at Lenox Hill Hospital. He has published more than 60 peer-reviewed publications and is a much-sought after speaker at national and international conferences. He has received an honor award and a senior honor award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



JOHN G. BORTZ, M.D.
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, NYMC;
DIRECTOR OF OCULOPLASTICS,
ORBITAL SURGERY AND OCULAR
TRAUMA SERVICE, WMC

Dr. Bortz directs the oculoplastic service, where he performs reconstructive ocular plastic and reconstructive surgery, manages orbital and peri-ocular tumors and the Ocular Trauma service. His specialty surgical procedures include reconstruction of eyelid abnormalities, excision of and reconstruction after removal of orbital tumors, repair of orbital fractures and management of lacrimal system disorders. He is actively involved in teaching residents. He has been a member of the medical staff for more than 30 years. Dr. Bortz received his training in oculoplastics at Albany Medical College and completed his ophthalmology residency at NYMC. He formerly served as the director of oculoplastics at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan.



RAYMOND F. WONG, M.D.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
CLINICAL OPHTHALMOLOGY,
NYMC; CHIEF OF SERVICE AND
DIRECTOR OF RETINA SERVICE,
NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/
METROPOLITAN

Dr. Wong oversees the Department of Ophthalmology at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan. He works closely with the ophthalmology residents when they rotate to Manhattan. He completed fellowship training in vitreo-retinal diseases at the University of Southern California and a residency in ophthalmology at Yale University School of Medicine. He is currently studying the challenges and effectiveness of applying anti-vascular endothelial growth factor treatment for various retinal diseases to an inner city urban patient population with limited access to healthcare. Dr. Wong has been teaching at NYMC School of Medicine for 28 years.

“ *The Department of Ophthalmology strives to be a central hub for academic experience in the community, fostering an environment of inclusiveness and lifelong learning.* ”

— Dr. Kelly Hutcheson
Chair and professor of Ophthalmology, NYMC



TAD WANDEL, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF THE RESIDENCY
PROGRAM IN OPHTHALMOLOGY;
CHIEF OF GLAUCOMA SERVICE,
WMC

Dr. Wandel has been an attending physician at WMC since 1988. Dr. Wandel completed his fellowship training in glaucoma at Baylor College of Medicine and completed a residency in ophthalmology at NYMC. He has held appointments at Montefiore Medical Center and New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. Dr. Wandel's current research is on the trans-cornea shunt, a device that can be implanted quickly and easily to lower intraocular pressure. He holds several patents on glaucoma surgery devices and has served as an industry consultant. Prior to working in ophthalmology, Dr. Wandel worked in an aerospace medicine program.



ROBERT G. JOSEPHBERG, M.D.
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, NYMC;
CHIEF OF RETINA SERVICE, WMC

Dr. Josephberg leads the medical retina service and works closely with the ophthalmology residents. He completed fellowship training in vitreo-retinal disease at Baylor College of Medicine and a residency in ophthalmology at Newark Eye and Ear Infirmary. Dr. Josephberg has held multiple university and hospital appointments. He has published numerous scholarly articles and holds several patents. He is active in the community, serving as a volunteer on organizations for the blind and for humanitarian eye care.



KENNETH B. JUECHTER, M.D.
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, NYMC;
CHIEF OF OCULAR PATHOLOGY,
WMC

Dr. Juechter is a fellowship-trained ocular pathologist and a comprehensive ophthalmologist who works closely with the residents. He completed a fellowship in ocular pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and a residency in ophthalmology at NYMC. He has received numerous awards and honors for his teaching abilities from Montefiore Medical Center, NYMC and Georgetown University. Past affiliations include Montefiore Medical Center and St. Vincent's Hospital. Dr. Juechter has numerous publications in academic ophthalmology journals. Prior to training in ophthalmology, Dr. Juechter served in the Army and qualified as an Army Ranger in Fort Benning, Georgia.



ABHA AMIN, M.D.
CHIEF OF COMPLEX ANTERIOR
SEGMENT SURGERY, WMC

Dr. Amin is double specialty trained in cornea and glaucoma. She completed a fellowship in glaucoma at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and a fellowship in cornea and refractive surgery at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. She completed a residency in ophthalmology at University of Rochester. Dr. Amin has a long history of mentoring residents and teaching them surgical skills. She has been on the teaching staff at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, Manhattan Eye and Ear and NYMC. She has received many honors and awards and has published book chapters and journal articles on her areas of expertise.