



**OPHTHALMOLOGY**

Excellence in education:  
Excellent opportunities,  
Excellent experience,  
Excellent residents

## Overview

Our program's overall goal is to produce excellent ophthalmologists – confident medical surgical experts, and accomplished communicators with the skills and values to be leaders within the medical community and the community as a whole. We are an education-focused department providing innovative, in-depth learning opportunities in a collegial atmosphere. Our extensive and varied educational programs prepare residents for success across the complete spectrum of ophthalmology. From the world of academia to community-based comprehensive practice, Queen's graduates excel.



# Rotations

The Queen's University Ophthalmology Residency Program consists of a five-year curriculum. In the first year, also known as the Transition to Discipline (TD) stage, residents rotate through a series of medical and surgical specialties with direct links to ophthalmology, such as plastic surgery, rheumatology, and neurology.

These rotations are grounded in their relevance to ophthalmology by strategically placing them amidst a year that includes ophthalmology at its beginning, middle and end, concluding with the six-week long Toronto Ophthalmology Resident Introductory Course (TORIC). At this course residents and faculty from across Canada, including eminent teachers from our department, deliver an excellent and intensive introductory course for ophthalmology trainees. The Foundations of Discipline (FD) stage consists of intensive training in emergency eye disease management, as well as some focused subspecialty ophthalmology training.

The Core of Discipline (CD) stage focuses on all of the main subspecialty areas of ophthalmology, providing excellent exposure to their common presentations and relevant procedures. Residency training concludes with the Transition to Practice (TP) stage, allowing residents to consolidate all of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes acquired throughout their residency training by providing opportunities to run clinics as junior attending whilst still providing supervisory guidance. Ample opportunities for electives, research, courses, and conferences exist throughout the curriculum.

|       | BLOCKS   |                       |    |       |                                   |                               |                    |            |          |   |                     |             |       |
|-------|--|-----------------------|----|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------|---|---------------------|-------------|-------|
|       | 1  | 2                     | 3  | 4     | 5                                 | 6                             | 7                  | 8          | 9        | 10  | 10                  | 12          | 13    |
| PGY-1 | Oph  | Plastics              | ER | Rheum | Gen Int Med                       | Neuro                         | Oph                | Neuro Surg | Elective | Peds  | Oph                 | Ophth/TORIC | TORIC |
| PGY-2 | ER Clinic most mornings/<br>Ophthalmology subspecialty clinics most afternoons |                       |    |       |                                   |                               |                    |            |          | Peds Ophthalmology                            |                     |             |       |
| PGY-3 | Oculoplastics  |                       |    |       | Neuro-Ophthalmology and Pathology |                               |                    |            | Flex     | Intraocular Surgery and Uveitis and Community |                     |             |       |
| PGY-4 | Review Course  | Retina and Low Vision |    |       |                                   | Cornea and Refractive Surgery |                    |            |          | Glaucoma                                      |                     |             |       |
| PGY-5 | Flex and Electives   |                       |    |       | ER Clinics/ Subspecialty          |                               | ER Clinics/General |            | Elective | RC Exam Study                                 | Study/Misc. Clinics |             |       |

Please note: The order of rotations may vary

## LEGEND

Transition to Discipline
Foundation of Discipline
Core of Discipline
Transition to Practice



## Surgical Simulation

We have a recently renovated, fully equipped, state-of-the-art surgical skills simulation wetlab on site at Hotel Dieu Hospital. In this lab, there are two double headed microscopes, 1 of which projects to a large colour monitor to allow for teaching of many learners at once. There is brand new equipment for every subspecialty, with instruments and a phacoemulsification machine like the ones used in the actual OR. The wetlab curriculum has been redesigned to allow learners at every stage to utilize this facility, providing opportunity to learn stage appropriate skills to facilitate the transition to surgery on real patients. This space is also equipped with a pathology microscope capable of projecting the examined specimen to the large colour monitor for real-time teaching of pathology. The opportunities in this new space are endless!

## Surgical Education

Surgical education is a priority at Queen's, allowing for a high volume of hands-on surgical training. Thousands of operations, covering all areas of ophthalmology, are performed in our department every year. We are extremely proud that residents are involved in virtually every procedure. Moreover, our residents have the opportunity to work one-on-one with attending surgeons over extended periods, which fosters the close relationships so vital to surgical training. As a result, our residents have tremendous opportunities to perform many procedures, and become confident in the complete range of ophthalmic surgical procedures.





## Elective and Outreach Opportunities

Developing a broad view of the world of ophthalmology is an important component of residency training. To that end, our program has been open to innovative opportunities for learning.

**Electives:** Our residents have the opportunity to organize elective blocks at other institutions. These are an opportunity to expand horizons or to investigate future fellowship locations.

**Local Outreach:** Residents are provided opportunities to travel to Northern Ontario to deliver eye care to underserved communities on the CNIB Mobile Eye Van.

**International Outreach:** There are dedicated funds for each resident to pursue international elective experiences. Past residents have organized international electives with groups like *Orbis* and *Medical Mission International*. Others have created individualized international opportunities of their own. The sky's the limit!

## Courses and Conferences

At Queen's, we believe in providing our residents with the opportunity to learn from a broad range of sources and experiences. All of our residents are provided with generous amounts of time and funding to attend an inspiring array of the world's

best courses and conferences. These courses and conferences have included the Bay Area Course at Stanford, the Lancaster Course in Maine, the Halifax Ethics Course, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, ARVO, the Sally Letson Symposium, and the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) Conference to name a few to name a few.

## Research

At Queen's, we strongly believe that being at the cutting edge of medicine requires a solid grounding in research fundamentals. Each resident participates in important research projects from PGY2 through PGY5. Significant support, including idea generation, methodological and statistical consultation, and funding are provided. Residents are also provided with significant, dedicated time to carry out their research (generally 10% of their time) within the program. A Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) is available at Queen's, and could complement our Program well for those interested in more in-depth research training. Residents showcase their research at our annual departmental research symposium, and many also present at national and international conferences. Many Queen's residents have been honoured with national awards for research excellence.



## Collegial Environment

Our program fosters an inclusive environment in which diverse personalities can flourish. To that end, we strive to provide a collegial atmosphere where residents can work, learn and ask questions with confidence. While we challenge our residents to reach their potential, we maintain the flexibility to allow individual strengths to thrive, and weaknesses to be addressed in a constructive manner. Queen's residents are regarded as colleagues, integral members of our team, and the lifeblood of our academic department.

Finally, Kingston provides a fantastic quality of life for our residents, offering an enviable mix of small city charm, cultural activities, beautiful and historically significant architecture, a vast array of restaurants, and ready access to wonders of nature.

We look forward to your visit, and hope Queen's will factor into your future.





# Medicine

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