

**VA Inter-Professional Polytrauma and TBI Rehabilitation  
Clinical Advanced Fellowship in Optometry  
James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital  
Tampa, Florida**

A one year post-residency mentorship program designed to enhance clinical skills of optometrists unique to the care of veterans with traumatic brain injury and visual deficits of acquired neurological disease.

This clinical fellowship is intended for optometrists, who have successfully completed an ACOE accredited optometric residency training program and who wish to further their education and training in the care of individuals with polytrauma, traumatic brain injury (TBI), blast injury and other relevant neurological conditions. This program allows the Optometric Clinical Advanced Fellow to participate with and train as part of an interdisciplinary team. It provides a comprehensive clinical experience in the care of inpatients from emerging consciousness, through transition into independent living and vocation, as well as Polytrauma/TBI outpatients at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (JAHVH) Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center (Level I), Polytrauma Network Site (Level II) and Eye Clinic.

The goals of this Clinical Advanced Fellowship program include advanced training in diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of post-traumatic visual disturbances, as well as adjustment and re-integration into community and family life specific to veterans with Polytrauma/TBI. The JAHVH, designated as a Level 1 Polytrauma facility, provides the appropriate venue for the development of clinical optometric expertise within this veteran-centric specialty. Optometrists trained in Polytrauma/TBI gain the experience to staff other VA facilities or other rehabilitation centers/clinics with the growing demand for such practitioners. Additional information about this unique one-year Clinical Fellowship program offered by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations may be viewed at:

[https://www.va.gov/oaa/specialfellows/programs/SF\\_polytrauma.asp?p=13](https://www.va.gov/oaa/specialfellows/programs/SF_polytrauma.asp?p=13)

<https://www.va.gov/oaa/Archive/POLYTRAUMA-TBI-CLINICAL-ANNOUNCEMENT.pdf>

The 2021-2022 salary for the one-year post-residency VA Optometric Clinical Advanced Fellowship in Tampa will be **\$46,960.00** plus FICA, health and life insurance benefits.

Residents interested in this unique fellowship opportunity should contact:

Chrystyna Rakoczy, O.D., Program Director, by e-mail at [Chrystyna.Rakoczy@va.gov](mailto:Chrystyna.Rakoczy@va.gov) or by phone 813.972.2000 ext. 6174

**APPLICATION DETAILS:** Fellowship applicants will submit a letter of intent/professional career plan, CV, proof of US citizenship, and three letters of recommendation to be received by **APRIL 30, 2021** for a late summer 2021 start date. **Email all documents in PDF format** to: [Chrystyna.Rakoczy@va.gov](mailto:Chrystyna.Rakoczy@va.gov). Interviews for selected applicants will be scheduled.