



CASEY EYE
Institute

Casey Eye Institute Residency Program Frequently Asked Questions 2025

Why Casey?

Culture and mentorship

- Excellent resident-faculty relationships and genuine camaraderie
- Resident-Faculty Mentorship Program, Resident Little Sib-Big Sib Program, and Residency Leadership Mentorship Pairing for each PGY class
- Dedicated Wellness sessions throughout the year during didactics, bi-annual resident teambuilding events, annual residency program retreats, and funded wellness dinners for each residency class
- A culture with commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion that fosters belonging and community and respects resident voices
- Located in beautiful Portland, Oregon, offering great quality of life, easy commutes, great food, and lots of nature activities – skiing, hiking, biking through forests and mountains, and beach time all on the same day!
- Outstanding research, local and international service opportunities
- Exceptional support from Casey Eye Institute Leadership. Our Department Chair and Institute Director, Dr. Andy Lauer, is dedicated to the advancement of our program and recently awarded our Program Director, Dr. Dan Tu, with the Laura J. Spear Endowed Professorship in Ophthalmic Education – a tremendous and lasting gift to the residency program that will enable continued innovation and support for our educational mission!

Education

- Nationally recognized program with faculty dedicated to resident teaching
- Integrated internship focused on preparation for ophthalmology (4 months ophthalmology experience spaced longitudinally throughout PGY-1 year, and first year residents attend department didactics and journal clubs during most rotations)
- Exceptional representation and learning experiences in all ophthalmic subspecialties, including ophthalmic genetics, pediatric retina and glaucoma, ocular oncology, and ocular pathology
- Established track record of strong fellowship matches in diverse subspecialties as well as training comprehensive-ready graduates
- Very supportive call structure with an impressive diversity of pathology
- State-of-the-art facilities including dedicated ophthalmic surgical suites and OR staff
- Microsurgery wet lab that accommodates a complete class of residents
- Weekly Grand Rounds and protected didactic time (Friday mornings)
- Thoughtful and holistic curriculum featuring interactive didactics, including ophthalmic imaging conference, surgery & case management conference, patient safety analysis, practice of ophthalmology series, and interactive lectures reviewing the BCSC
- Very supportive primary call experience during PGY-2 year (see call section below)



What about surgical training?

- Robust microsurgical curriculum directed by Dr. John Clements and Dr. Dan Tu that utilizes wet lab and EyeSi surgical simulation. We emphasize dedicated time with one-on-one faculty instruction beginning PGY-1 year.
- 224 primary cataracts per resident on average (2023 to 2025 graduating classes)
 - Structured one-on-one cataract microsurgical training in PGY-1 and 2 years
 - 25-30 primary cataracts during PGY-3 year
- Excellent exposure to subspecialty surgeries: all ACGME surgical minima easily met
- Surgical wet labs including cataract, glaucoma, cornea, strabismus, and retina
- Case conferences to discuss difficult surgical cases and common complications in a safe environment that fosters learning in a non-judgmental setting

What is the research experience like?

- Formal research curriculum with longitudinal mentorship led by Residency Research Director Dr. Ben Young
- One of the top recipients of NIH funding in the country (#16 in 2024 of all eye institutes and departments nationally)
- Major research areas include all areas of ophthalmic imaging, AI, telemedicine, clinical genetics, gene therapy, vitreoretinal surgery and disease, basic science, informatics, and clinical research with dedicated statisticians
- Manuscript writing workshops led by Dr. David Huang (co-inventor of OCT)
- Residents present original work at annual Research Day
- Presentations at national meetings are supported, well-funded, and encouraged
- Dedicated research time available (but not required) in PGY-1, 2, and 4 years
- List of residents' first-author papers and presentations available on the residency program website

Where are the clinical sites?

- Casey Eye Institute/Elks Childrens' Eye Clinic (CEI/ECEC, main OHSU campus), Portland VA, Center for Health and Healing (CHH1 on South Waterfront with easy access to Casey via the aerial tram—free for employees), Legacy Devers Eye Institute
- Eight of the 22 rotations are based at the **Portland VA Medical Center**, which is connected to the OHSU hospital by a beautiful pedestrian skybridge
- OHSU comprehensive clinic at CHH1, most subspecialty clinics at CEI/ECEC
- One comprehensive PGY-4 rotation (10 weeks) is at **Devers Eye Institute** (Good Samaritan location in NW Portland, 3 miles away), part of Legacy Health. The Legacy hospitals are smaller community safety-net hospitals serving the diverse Portland population, including large immigrant and Spanish-speaking populations
- One afternoon per week in one of the PGY-2 rotations (a 10-week block) is at **Devers Eye Institute**
- Sites offer demographically distinct patient populations and dedicated teaching faculty

What are some recent and expected changes?

- The Elks Children's Eye Clinic building opened on December 8, 2020, adding 60,000 square feet of clinical, educational, and research space to Casey

- Integrated internship launched in 2021 with rotations in ophthalmology (with 4 months of ophthalmology experience spread throughout the year!), inpatient medicine, neuroradiology, dermatology, emergency medicine, and perioperative medicine
- Recent improvements to microsurgical lab and simulation spaces
- Several new faculty have joined recently, including:
 - Natalie Hoesly, MD (Oculoplastics)
 - Zachary Kroeger, MD (Surgical Retina)
 - Roma Pegany, MD (Cornea)
 - Ashlin Joye, MD (Cornea and Comprehensive, Devers Eye Institute)
 - Marcus Altman, MD (Surgical Retina/Uveitis)
 - A complete list of our faculty can be found here: <https://www.ohsu.edu/casey-eye-institute/ophthalmology-faculty>

What service opportunities are there?

- As part of the Casey Community Outreach Program, we have a robust Casey Eye Mobile Eye Clinic with **two** fully equipped Casey Vision Vans (actually RVs) that travel throughout Oregon in urban and rural settings to provide vision screenings, full eye exams, and referrals to underserved and uninsured populations. Residents are a critical part of this service. Verian Wedeking, the Casey Community Outreach Program Coordinator, is exceptionally organized and enthusiastic about the program and a wonderful resource.
- A 1-2 week “service rotation” allows residents to step away from their regular rotations and engage in a service experience in a rural Oregon or international site, including American Samoa, Angola, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, and Nepal. Other approved sites may be approved in conjunction with Casey Eye faculty members

What are the call responsibilities like?

- **PGY-1:** 5 weeks of inpatient medicine with **no** overnight call, ICU, or night float
 - Limited inpatient jeopardy call (only cover fellow ophthalmology PGY-1s)
 - During the second half of the year, ophthalmology “buddy call” sessions with PGY-2 residents. This provides PGY-1 residents with high-yield one-on-one learning and preparation for primary call
- **PGY-2:** Home Call covering OHSU, VA, and Doernbecher (Children’s), on average every 5th night and weekend day. All sites are walkable with no driving between locations.
 - 2 months of buddy call at the beginning of PGY-2 year where every consult is seen and discussed with a PGY-4 resident
- **PGY-3:** Home supervisory call + primary call as consultant for Legacy Emanuel Trauma Service for globe trauma (not emergency room or general hospital consults), on average every 10th night and weekend day September-June.
 - Consult rotation resident handles weekday daytime call at OHSU
- **PGY-4:** Home supervisory call + primary call as consultant for Legacy Emanuel Trauma Service for globe trauma (not emergency room or general hospital consults), on average every 5th night and weekend day July-August (during PGY-2 buddy call) and every 10th night and weekend day September-June.
- Meal stipend can be used at numerous OHSU cafeterias, coffee shops, and food stores



- On call attending takes primary call regarding transfers and consults from outside hospitals and offices, which limits resident liability
- Supportive fellows are available for challenging cases

Salaries, vacation, sick leave, and other benefits

- 2026-2027 salaries: \$76,812 PGY-1, \$80,484 PGY-2, \$84,286 PGY-3, \$88,480 PGY-4
- PGY-1: one-time \$1000 re-location stipend, full Step 3 fee reimbursement, set of personalized Volk ophthalmology lenses, full BCSC set
- All residents: additional \$3,812/year housing stipend (increases 5% yearly through 2026), \$1000 yearly education stipend
- Optional 457(b) retirement account with automatic 3% match
- Heavily subsidized (typically fully reimbursed) health, dental, and vision insurance with opportunity to cover family
- 4 weeks of vacation per year (non-accrued)
- 3 weeks of parental leave (if the trainee is approved for FMLA)
- 15 business days of sick leave per year (accrued)
- 5 business days of educational leave per year (e.g., attending conferences)
- 4 half-days for preventive care per year
- FMLA leaves are granted in full compliance with the federal law
- OHSU House Officers Union negotiate on behalf of all GME programs and in 2024 successfully negotiated significant salary and benefit increases

Parking and Transportation

- Parking in the garage attached to the Casey Eye/ECEC is available
- Bicycle and walking commute is incentivized at OHSU: get paid up to \$3.00 per day
 - Free secure bike valet is available at the base of the tram. Secure indoor bike parking with locker rooms are available for small monthly fee. There are free locker rooms and showers at Casey.
- Other options include subsidized Scoop carpooling and a free after-hours Lyft home.
- Reduced rate bus pass (unlimited access to TriMet buses, MAX, and streetcar)

Where do residents live?

- South Waterfront: High-density condos and apartments adjacent to the tram, so a very convenient walkable commute to the hospital
- Southwest Portland: Includes Hillsdale and Multnomah Village with a convenient commute (2-5 miles). Family-friendly. There are also homes and apartments within walking distance to the main campus (Marquam Hill neighborhood)
- Southeast Portland: Many unique neighborhoods. This is Portlandia central, rich with excellent restaurants and fun urban culture (~3-6+ miles)
- Northwest Portland: older homes and newer apartments with great shops, restaurants and grocery stores nearby (~3 miles, 12-15 min drive)
- Pearl District: north of downtown with high-density condos and apartments. Known for restaurants, galleries, cafes, and nightlife (~3 miles, 10 min drive)
- Northeast and North Portland: beautiful older homes and adjacent quiet neighborhoods known for funky Portland vibe (~4-5+ miles)



- Suburbs (Lake Oswego, Beaverton, Tigard): Up to ~10 miles away. More space and family-friendly. Traffic isn't great during rush hour and farther-out communities like Vancouver, WA or Happy Valley, OR are probably too far for most residents.

What have our residents done after graduation (past ~15 years)?

- 17 Cornea (UCLA, UCSF/Proctor, UC Irvine, Duke, U Missouri, Iowa, Tufts, U Michigan, Casey Eye)
- 12 Glaucoma Fellowship (Duke, Utah, UCLA, Michigan, Devers, Iowa, UC Davis, U Toronto, UW Madison)
- 9 Surgical Retina (Utah, Iowa, Cole Eye Institute/Cleveland Clinic, Duke, Wash U, Casey Eye)
- 5 Pediatric Fellowship (OHSU, Indiana, Harvard/Boston Children's, Baylor)
- 6 Uveitis (OHSU, Utah, UCSF)
- 3 Oculoplastics (OHSU, Iowa, West Virginia)
- 2 Medical Retina (Duke and Cole Eye Institute/Cleveland Clinic)
- 2 Global Ophthalmology (Michigan, Emory)
- 1 Ophthalmic Pathology (Casey)
- 1 Comprehensive year in American Samoa
- 30 Comprehensive (Academic, Private, Kaiser, US Military and VA Systems)
- At least 20 in academic positions across the United States

"What brought you to this program, and what's kept you here?"

- He loved this question
- Chair of mentor got him to Casey west coast came
- What's important to u
- Was only going for 1 yr then turned 15 yr
- Helps ppl reach what they do lots of ppl all kinds of stuff
- Audio check, had to fix it went to wrong microphone

What are some qualities that you see of residents that excel here?

- Looking for leaders, skills necessary communicate and treat ppl well
- Lots of ways to be successful
- Kind treating people well
- Autonomous just do it but still actual teaching

4th year of ophtho now integrated is better, PD is ophtho big difference. At Casey, 4 mo 2 are spread out of the whole year. 2-3 d f week. 4-5 mo. In clinic in lecture. Still doing ophthalmology. Smart. Very unique.

- Changes: cutting out things. 6 mo of med, focus of ophtho. Consult, IM shuffle.
- Focused on using resources and time. Avoid programs schedule own schedules and surgery, they should hire somebody instead. Think about programs that use your time well.

- **Interviews:**

- Check audio
- Ask good questions
- Ready to answer anything
- Animated way don't look sleepy
- Behavioral questions challenging time what u learned
 - Research less bias

- What kind of person u are, hard don't have an answer
- Don't jump in there. Think about it. Answer the correct question that's. Great question, let me think second to think about it. Take a moment. that's. Great question let me think about. Ask clarifying question to stall more. Don't answer wrong q.
- Don't be really mean or crazy
- They are trying to recruit you so chill out only little bit of eval
- Don't worry too much relax good thought, sincere and true to yourself
- Talk to residents and interact
- **Dedicated mentorship, helpful to learn in a place where people have your back and want to do well**
 - Senior resident paired
 - Pair w faculty
 - Whole class meet few times a year

Preferred way of contacting in case of glitch

- They have our phone #s Webex call in

Can pop in resident rooms, talk to graduates/interns. See programs they like.

Look at what programs are doing for didactics, when are ur surgeries, didactic dedicated lectures – protected? Driving? Better if it's blocked off. prioritize resident education.

Thinking about how to use your time well. Figure out which programs have ppl who care. Do people go over the equipment with you? Residents feel they don't have say, advocating for u. People looking out for the residents? Prioritizing you. Advantage / unique - all past chairs have been PDs. Thomas ROC. Huge advantage for us, leadership residency program matters a ton. Andy will be there. Recent \$1 mil gift, Andy said to residency program. Fellow ur job to make service go smooth. Dependent on fellows.

Residents have own clinics. Not relying on you all. But fellow you are busting ass and ppl rely on you.

Learning the best you can, great foundation. Now it matters. ophthalmology everything matters, confident and skilled.

Background: Plant on table. Bamboo.

OHSU Social

- they read every word
 - nearly 700 apps Amber Faridi one year behind Dan Tu, really missed Casey, was able to be herself
 - Dan Tu core memories revolve around food. ppl take the time to actually teach you
 - ice cream is essential on call(fave ice cream shops haha)
 - very chill intern, now only 6-8 weeks of wards. only 6 weeks in ED, chilling, anesthesia, neurorads, dermatology, peri-op, anything they can optimize, they do it. half dermatology/ophtho and half x/ophtho. longitudinal, can do steps of cataract and yags/stl as interns at VA clinic. seniors and staffing with attendings. glaucoma, neuro-ophtho, OHSU dedicated just ophth. No ICU
 - intern you attend didactics so you feel integrated with the class
 - day in the life from PGY4 do lots of surgeries, day starts at 8am 40-50% VA primary cataracts. really good tech support. never missed a lunch bc he had to work. lectures tuesday, not every tues.
 - day in the life from
 - Gelato salt and straw, pamolo, mango sticky rice, cheese and crack
 - PGY2 5 rotation lots of subspecialty exposure and VA. primary call q5 always have senior with you. very supportive call system. when you feel supportive, experience so much better. hard no matter where you go. amazing support, PGY2 does okay. make it with the class, Dan gives you freedom. all residents call him Dan. cover vacation weekends for them. buddy call first 2 mo, understanding PGY4 sees every single patient with you. don't need to ask, and don't feel guilty. seniors will never make you feel bad.
 - cover VA OHSU jordan becker (children hospital), same location and don't need to drive, connected by a sky bridge. Lyft off program 9pm - 5am. Front loaded, then super call. -20 dollar. as long as you're coming or going from OHSU.
 - PGY3 primary cases doing them all at once. cornea glaucoma peds. q10 call, covering debbers or something. Lyft off program or drive, call not bad, transition from medical to surgical ophthalmology. 2 mo no call bc back up call is PGY4. PGY4s take all holidays to give break from PGY2
 - global and local international outreach - casey outreach van. options to do anything you want really. how much time and financial support global ophth dedicated 2 weeks and funds, not taken out of vacation.
 - CADIO diversity group. deion and megan. event dr eric rivera- move back to puerto rico. inspiration and gems. scholarship under rep away students. great DEI for medical students. volunteer
 - mentorship and how found mentorship - have mentor assigned by casey. can find other mentors. every person wants to be academic and into mentorship
 - few great residencies that set you up in anything you want to be. wealth of knowledge. alumni network and fond network. will offer you a job bc you are a casey alum. it's a big family. can have mentors for different things
 - favorite wellness activities on the instagram. rafting trip every year. Air BNB
 - wellness chief. all the ophtho are chiefs. costco trips to stock call room food. wellness retreats. lots of parties and gatherings. integrated well. pickleball too. dan hosting thanksgiving invited to house, farewell party, own money. tons of stuff is covered. love is blind parties. dance parties.
 - each room has specific dedicated question standardized not supposed to smile that much. the interview feels bad lol. felt very intimidating and reduce bias. some nice ones seem serious lol.
- mark of good program, look of diversity of what graduating pgy4s are doing. one fellowship being this or heavily comp etc. graduate a mix of everything. need comp to show they feel confident

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