MEDICAL RETINA FELLOWSHIP

1. General description

The Department of Ophthalmology at the University Hospital Zurich is a major referral center that provides comprehensive clinical care for patients with complex ophthalmic diseases and has access to various clinical trials. Its vitreoretinal unit delivers over 5,000 treatments each year for patients from the Zurich area as well as from abroad.

The goal of the fellowship is to provide an advanced level of training in the diagnosis and management of disorders of the retina and vitreous including uveitic conditions. Fellows will acquire the necessary clinical skills for the treatment of patients with vitreoretinal diseases by initial evaluation and long term follow-up of outpatients as well as by in-depth reading of subspecialty journals and texts as well as discussions and lectures. The program also offers participation in screening infants for ROP if desired.

Fellows are trained to interpret various diagnostic imaging techniques including fluorescein angiography, ICG angiography, optical coherence tomography, ultrasonography, and electrophysiology. During the fellowship, the fellows are trained to perform various office procedures including panretinal photocoagulation, focal/grid laser treatment of the macula, laser retinopexy or cryopexy for retinal tears, photodynamic therapy, intravitreal and subtenon injection of pharmaceutical agents. The fellow is required to participate in clinical trials and is encouraged to get involved in on-going research. A training in intraocular surgical procedures such as cataract or vitreoretinal surgery is not within the scope of the program.
2. Fellowship Objectives

The Retina Fellow provides clinical and research support and conducts translational research into causes, diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune, inflammatory, vascular and degenerative diseases of the retina and choroid.

2.1. Clinical Duties

The Retina Fellow will work with the program supervisors and assist in general medical retina clinics, specialised medical retina clinics where intravitreal injections are performed, recruit clinical trials patients, perform retinal assessments and treatments (medical / laser / cryocoagulation) and record clinical data for research purposes.

- Evaluation of patients including taking medical history and physical examination
- Formulation of differential diagnosis and organisation of further investigations, including other diagnostic tests
- Referral of patients to and communication with medical specialists as indicated
- Ensuring communication with junior and other senior medical staff and with other members of the team providing patient care
- Assisting with medical procedures or surgical interventions, as required, specific to the presenting ophthalmic condition
- Performing intravitreal injections and laser procedures as required, specific to the presenting ophthalmic condition under supervision
- Preparing case presentations for teaching rounds and departmental meetings

2.2. Research duties

Clinical research activities are encouraged and required of the Retina Fellow. It is expected that such research will lead to a presentation at a scientific meeting and a publication in a peer-reviewed journal in which the Retina Fellow is expected to be first author. The fellowship will provide resources to equip the Retina Fellow to assume this responsibility by participating in the development of new knowledge and evaluating research findings. The Retina Fellow has access to software and literature/library. Key responsibilities will include literature reviews, manuscript preparation, study designs, grant and ethics applications, coordination of participant recruitment and scheduling. This position interacts with clinical and research collaborators in Switzerland and overseas to facilitate the conduct of multi-centre research projects.
• Assisting in the design of research projects including preparation of funding applications and appropriate ethical clearances in conjunction with research support staff, other investigators and collaborators
• Conducting research, recruitment of and interaction with participants in research studies in accordance with research ethics protocols
• Recruiting participants and collecting research data and/or overseeing the contribution of junior research staff to these activities
• Contact and schedule research participants and coordinate bookings for assessments
• Examining and performing investigations on research study participants
• Data collection and collation of research data for registry studies
• Contribution to the analysis of data, preparation and submission of manuscripts and reports
• Effective liaison with staff, students, research participants and external organisations on research matters
• Assist with preparation and follow up of research related correspondence and documents
• Communicate effectively with all team members
• Ensure confidentiality at all times
• Actively support USZ Policies and Procedures

2.3. Teaching

There are many opportunities for teaching during the fellowship, in the clinic as well as in the operating room. The fellow is expected to be available to ophthalmology residents for patients with retinal problems.

2.4. Conferences

2.4.1. Morning Meetings / Journal Club
Morning meetings are currently held every day (Monday & Friday 8AM, Tuesday – Thursday 7.30AM) in the auditorium C804 and attendance is required of the fellow. The only excused absence would be a retina related emergency.

2.4.2. Outside CME Courses and Meetings
The fellow will be permitted to attend one conference or meeting during the fellowship. An additional conference/meeting will be permitted only if the fellow is presenting a peer reviewed poster or paper.
3. Evaluation

Every three months the fellow will meet with the Supervisors to evaluate the Fellow’s progress and review the following:

- Duty hours
- Research projects
- Evaluations from faculty
- Self-evaluation
- Nurses’ evaluation of your performance
- Technician’s evaluation of your performance
- Patient’s evaluation of your performance (if applicable)
- Concerns or grievances

The fellow will also be asked to complete evaluations on the retina faculty, the fellowship program, and the fellowship supervisors. All evaluations are handled confidentially. Please answer all questions on evaluations honestly so the program and its participants can improve and grow.

Residents will evaluate the fellow at the end of their retina rotation as well as be evaluated by the fellow.

4. General

4.1. Supervisors and Location:

Location: University Hospital Zurich
Department of Ophthalmology
Frauenklinikstrasse 24
8091 Zurich
Switzerland
Phone +41 / 44/ 255 4900
Fax +41 / 44 / 255 4472

Chair: Klara Landau, MD, FEBO, Professor and Chair
Fellowship Supervisors: Sandrine Zweifel, MD, FEBO, Head of Medical Retina
Daniel Barthelmés, MD, PhD, FEBO, Head Vitreoretinal Unit
Christian Böni, MD, FEBO
Roman Eberhard, MD, FEBO

4.2. Duration
1 year (12 months)

4.3. Salary
Approximately 50’000 (fifty thousand) Swiss Francs per 12 months.
4.4. **Hours**
Clinical duty hours must be limited to 20 hours per week. The Retina Fellow does not take any on-call or weekend services. Research duties are limited to 20 hours per week.

4.5. **Housing**
May be provided by the University Hospital. Student organisations at the University of Zurich and the Federal Institute of Technology can be of assistance finding accommodation.

4.6. **Vacation**
Fellows will have a total of 20 days annual leave. While, as a fellow, you are entitled to use, and may request the use of, the entirety of your annual leave, the Retina program requires that its fellows request no more than 10 consecutive days (2 weeks) of annual leave per year to ensure that program requirements are met.

All annual leave must be approved in advance and reported to the Fellowship Supervisors at least 6 weeks in advance (exemptions may be granted, based on the circumstances of the fellow). Program Supervisors have the right to deny annual leave at the requested time. The amount of time that can be missed is limited by the educational goals of the program. A fellow does not have the option of reducing the time required for the fellowship by forgoing annual leave.

5. **Application Process:**

The application should include a letter of motivation, résumé, letter of recommendation, publication list and copies of language course certificates (see below). Applications with incomplete documents will not be considered. Please do not send original documents or certified copies thereof, in case such should be required candidates will be notified. Application documents will not be returned. Potential candidates will be invited for an interview either in person, via phone or internet-based videoconference (e.g. Skype).
Complete application documents are to be posted to:

Daniel Barthelmes, MD, PhD, FEBO
University Hospital Zurich
Department of Ophthalmology
Frauenklinikstrasse 24
8091 Zurich
Switzerland

or by email to:

daniel.barthelmes@usz.ch

5.1. License requirements

The fellow must obtain their license to practice medicine in a country of the EFTA (for a complete country list please see http://www.sfbvg.ch/xml_3/internet/de/application/d2/f12.cfm) and have passed the EBO (European Board of Ophthalmology) exam before beginning the fellowship training. The license must be kept current, if applicable, and be acknowledged and approved by the Swiss Health Authorities (www.bag.admin.ch). If the fellow does not possess this license he/she will not be issued a contract and will not be permitted to the training program. The fellow is responsible for paying for his/her own medical license and fees for accreditation (if applicable).

5.2. Essential fellowship eligibility criteria

- Eligible for license registration in Switzerland / (Diplomanerkennung) by Swiss Health Authorities
- Successfully passed EBO exam
- Currently enrolled in ophthalmology training program in country of origin and have completed exit examination of the College
- Demonstrated high-level interpersonal skills including the ability to consult and negotiate with other stakeholders to ensure fellowship objectives are met
- Demonstrated evidence of written and oral communication skills including the ability to conduct research activities and write reports
- Demonstrated evidence of ability to work effectively both independently and as a member of a team
• Demonstrated evidence of an understanding of data management, data analysis and knowledge of statistical analysis methods
• Demonstrated evidence of experience with completion of all aspects of high quality research from conception of ideas to publication of manuscripts
• Current knowledge of legislative and regulatory requirements in the areas of Equal Opportunity, Disability Services and Occupational Safety & Health, and how these impact on employment, people management and service delivery
• Good language skills in English and German (Goethe Zertifikat C1 for non-native German speaking candidates; see also http://www.goethe.de/lrn/prj/pba/bes/gc1/enindex.htm)

5.3. Desirable
• Shows a personal commitment to continuing professional education and development
• Shows an interest in and commitment to research and teaching
• Demonstrated evidence of good presentation skills
• Demonstrated evidence of high standard of ophthalmic clinical care achieved through quality improvement audit and audit cycle

Questions regarding the application process and the fellowship can be addressed to:

daniel.barthelmes@usz.ch