

## The Retina Group of Washington Combined Vitreoretinal Fellowship with Georgetown University Hospital/Washington Hospital Center

**Overview:** Our Retina Program is a two-year, hands on, surgically intensive Fellowship administered by The Retina Group of Washington, a private practice in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area, in conjunction with the Georgetown University/Washington Hospital Center combined Ophthalmology Residency program. The Fellowship is under the direction of Dr. William B. Phillips, II and Dr. Mohammed K Barazi.

**Structure of Program:** First year Fellows spend their time divided between the Washington Hospital Center and the private offices of The Retina Group of Washington (RGW). They also participate in RGW surgical cases via surgical blocks with rotating attending staff. The Washington Hospital Center (WHC) is the largest and busiest hospital in Washington D.C. The Eye Clinic at WHC serves a largely indigent patient population and is a primarily resident-run clinic. Currently the First Year Fellow spends Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings running the Retina Service at the Washington Hospital Center along with the GU/WHC resident on the Retina Service. Wednesday and Thursday mornings are spent evaluating clinic patients. Friday mornings are spent running the WHC laser clinic with the residents. Every Friday afternoon is designated research time for the first year Fellow. All WHC clinic surgical cases are performed by the Retina Fellows from day one. There are two operative rooms at WHC dedicated to Ophthalmology at all times. First year Fellows can expect to perform approximately 100 Class I surgical Clinic cases throughout the course of their first year. They can also expect to participate in approximately 300 Class III cases during their first year. All procedures are performed under direct Staff supervision which is provided on a voluntary basis by Retina Faculty from among the community, who donate one half day a month to staff the Retina Clinic at WHC. This includes the 18 Retina Group of Washington Attending Physicians as well as approximately 10 other community Retinal Surgeons, thus providing the Fellows with clinicians who have varied training backgrounds and a wide variety of techniques to assimilate. This structure provides the Fellows with the opportunity to acquire independent skills and a broad base of knowledge while under direct supportive supervision, as well as the opportunity to acquire teaching and supervisory skills at a major Ophthalmology Residency Program.

The Retina Group of Washington private practice is currently a 18 member, 8 office private practice dedicated to providing referral care for diseases of the Retina and Vitreous as well as Uveitis, Intraocular Tumors, and Pediatric Retinal Disease. The First Year Fellow, on a rotational basis, spends two days a week in one of the RGW offices assisting RGW Attending Physicians in patient care. This provides Fellows with the opportunity to learn important aspects of the private practice environment and provides a large patient base and extensive pathology. While at RGW Fellows learn and perform PDT, TTT, and Feeder Vessel Treatment, among other treatments as well as all aspects of current vitreoretinal technique. Advanced equipment such as OCT and High Speed ICG Digital Angiography, are available for Fellow use as well.

First year Fellows may also rotate through Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) seeing pediatric retinal disease with RGW Attendings should they desire. ROP screening is performed by the CNMC Pediatric Ophthalmology Staff. Fellows see and treat threshold ROP as requested by the CNMC Staff, but Fellow exposure to ROP is Fellow-dependent and based on their interests. Fellows also assist senior RGW Staff with the repair of Stage IV and V ROP.

Fellows acquire skills in the management of various intraocular malignancies including plaque, TTT, external beam radiation, as well as other modalities while working with our Ocular Oncologist, Dr William Deegan, III.

The Second year of the Fellowship is a flexible year designed to maximize time spent in the Operating Room. The Fellow is requested to perform 7 half days of clinic per month. He/she sees Retina Patients at the Lion's Eye Clinic at INOVA Fairfax Hospital three half days a month. He/She is also asked to run a Retina Clinic at the WHC on Monday mornings as well. The GU/WHC residents work-up patients for the Fellows, who attend for them at both these clinics. All clinic surgery generated is either performed by the second year Fellow, or passed on to the first year Fellow or the Senior resident as the second year Fellow deems appropriate. The Fellow chooses among the 18 RGW Retina Attendings and scrubs in with one daily. This allows the Fellow to concentrate on acquiring specific techniques as per his or her interests from a wide variety of clinicians. The Second year Fellow is also afforded flexibility in the schedule to allow office time or specific rotations as per his or her wishes. Second year Fellows graduate having performed between 450 to 500 Class I complex surgical cases.

Our Fellows are on second call with an RGW attending (who takes first call) every other week. Fellows only take call for RGW. If the Fellow is on call, Saturday morning is spent seeing the surgical patients from Friday with one of the RGW Attendings. Saturday afternoon is sometimes spent in the operative suite with the on-call RGW attending doing emergency surgeries

**Research Opportunities:** The Retina Group of Washington maintains a full-time study coordinator and engages in multiple academic and commercial national multi-center trials. We regularly involve our Fellows as official Sub-Investigators on these trials. This provides our Fellows ample research opportunities and the chance to learn how to apply for, receive, administer, and participate in National level research. Our Fellows are provided with blocked research time and fully supported financially to attend any meeting where they may be presenting their results. We allow our Fellows to either participate in ongoing projects or originate their own *de novo* as they wish with the necessary support provided. RGW Fellows are expected to be active and very productive in this area.

**Academics:** Having such a large group trained by other world-class Retinal Specialists allows us to attract some of the most famous names in the world to Washington D.C. to participate in our academic schedule. We profile our Fellows at our National Retinal Symposium each fall and give them ample opportunity to meet and interact with our academic guests. The Fellows participate in our city-wide IVFA conferences offered each month where we present to Residents from all four programs in the Washington D.C area with usually over 20 residents at each meeting. Our Fellows also participate in the lecture schedules for the Georgetown/WHC Residents as well as Retina Specialists only Journal Clubs and meetings. Our Fellows are expected to read extensively and have an appropriate and broad self-study program.

## **Our Faculty:**

### **Mohammed K. Barazi, M.D.**

Residency: The George Washington University

Fellowship: The Retina Group of Washington and The Georgetown University  
Hospital/Washington Hospital Center

### **Daniel M. Berinstein, M.D.**

Residency: New York Eye and Ear Infirmary

Fellowship: Associated Retinal Consultants, Royal Oak, MI

### **Gordon A. Byrnes, M.D.**

Residency: National Naval Medical Center

Fellowship: Wills Eye Hospital

### **William F. Deegan, III, M.D.**

Residency: New England Eye Center, Tufts University

Fellowships: Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C, Vitreoretinal Disease  
Doheny Eye Institute, Pediatric Retinal Disease and Ocular Oncology

### **Vinay N. Desai, M.D.**

Residency: Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Fellowship: New England Eye Center, Tufts University

### **Richard A. Garfinkel, M.D.**

Residency: Kellogg Eye Center

Fellowship: Wayne State University

### **William S. Gilbert, M.D.**

Residency: Washington University, St Louis, MO

Fellowship: Wills Eye Hospital

### **Geoffrey R. Kaplan, M.D.**

Residency: Sinai Hospital of Baltimore

Fellowship: Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary, Vitreoretinal Disease  
New England Eye Center, Tufts University, Glaucoma Research

### **Reshma C. Katira, M.D.**

Residency: Rush University

Fellowship: The Retina Group of Washington and The Georgetown University  
Hospital/Washington Hospital Center

### **Michael M. Lai, M.D., Ph.D.**

Residency: Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital

Fellowship: Associated Retinal Consultants, William Beaumont Hospital

**Alexander Melamud, M.D., M.A.**

Residency: Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute

Fellowship: Duke University, Vitreo-Retinal Surgical and Medical Fellowship

**Robert P. Murphy, M.D.**

Residency: Stanford University

Fellowship: Wilmer Eye Institute

**William B. Phillips, II M.D.**

Residency: Wills Eye Hospital

Fellowship: Wills Eye Hospital

**Michael H. Osman, M.D.**

Residency: Wilmer Eye Institute

Fellowship: Cleveland Clinic Foundation

**A. Raymond Pilkerton, M.D.**

Residency: Georgetown University

Fellowship: Wills Eye Hospital

**Michael B. Rivers, M.D.**

Residency: Cornell University

Fellowship: University of Iowa

**Reginald J. Sanders, M.D.**

Residency: Wills Eye Hospital

Fellowship: Retina Associates, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

**Manfred A. von Fricken, M.D.**

Residency: Georgetown University

Fellowship: University of Iowa

We feel that one of the most valuable aspects of our program is the opportunity to train with a large number of surgeons with varied academic backgrounds. This provides the Fellow with a large armamentarium of techniques and approaches to Vitreoretinal disease.

**Benefits:** The Fellows Salary is based on the Current PGY Scale as set by the Washington Hospital Center Department of Graduate Medical Education. This is currently \$46,000 for first year Fellows, \$48,500 for second year Fellows. Our Fellows are afforded 3 weeks of vacation their first year, 4 weeks their second. Parking is free. Health Insurance is provided for the Fellow. White Coats are provided free of charge by both RGW and The WHC. There is a \$500 book allowance provided by WHC. We provide our Fellows with cell phones and paid service in lieu of pagers. All fees for Licensing and Privileges are provided by RGW. Malpractice Coverage is provided as well. There is no examination equipment that you are expected to provide. All offices are in the Washington, D.C. area, there are no regional sites or long distance

commutes to far-flung clinics. Each Fellow is expected to maintain and insure an automobile at his/her expense.

**RESTRICTIVE COVENANT:** The applicant must be aware that there is a restrictive covenant concerning post-Fellowship employment that he/she *must* sign prior to beginning training as part of his/her employment contract and that this issue is absolutely *not* negotiable. Applicants concerned about this should not apply.

**Licensure:** All applicants must be able to demonstrate proof of U.S. Citizenship or permanent resident status as proof of his/her ability to obtain an unrestrictive medical license in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the State of Maryland. Unfortunately, we cannot consider applicants who cannot meet this requirement at this time.

**Application Process:** The Application Deadline will be the second Friday in September of each application year. The following materials should be forwarded to us for consideration prior to that date. We will be unable to consider applications received after the second Friday in September for the position to begin in July of the following year. We request the following items for consideration. We do not require any sort of formal typed application.

- 1) Current Curriculum Vitae.
- 2) Copies of PGY II & III OKAP Scores.
- 3) Three letters of reference.
- 4) Personal Statement.
- 5) Four 2 x 2 Photographs of yourself with your name on the back of photo.
- 6) Proof of U.S. Citizenship or permanent Resident status such as a copy of a US passport, US Birth Certificate, or Permanent Resident (“Green”) Card. Applicants *must* be eligible to obtain an unrestricted medical license in VA, MD, and DC for consideration.
- 7) A copy of your Rank Number Form from SFMatch.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to confirm that all materials have been received by our selection committee. Confirmation of receipt postcards will be returned if you include them in your application packet. All references need to be sent directly to our office by the person writing them. We will accept copies of scores and proof of citizenship. Invitations to interview at a to-be-determined date will be extended in early October.

Please send completed applications to:

Mohammed K. Barazi, M.D.  
10530 Linden Lake Plaza  
Suite 305  
Manassas, VA 20109  
(703) 257-9270

And thank you again for your interest in our program.