

MDR 987: SOAR Fellowship Research Course

The Balkan Center, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Credits: 0

Course Dates: July 5, 2023 – July 5, 2024

Course Instructors:

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Student Outreach and Research (SOAR) Fellowship

Established in 2018, the [SOAR Fellowship](#) is a donor-funded educational program of the Balkan International Pediatric Glaucoma Center at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. This highly competitive program allows medical students and early-career ophthalmologists with interests in pediatric eye disease to gain additional research experience. This full-time program provides a year of focused research experience complementing a world class medical education training.

Program Overview

SOAR focuses on principles of research from exposure to international programs for blindness prevention, ocular genetics, community outreach, and gaining knowledge in biostatistics and manuscript writing. This offers a chance to complete multiple hands-on research projects from start to finish, present at conferences, and submit multiple abstracts under the guidance and supervision of the Balkan Team and our well-established programs and initiatives.

National and international conferences will help develop soft skills in networking and communication. Internal meetings will allow SOAR Fellows to gain project management experience as coordinators of their projects, with guidance every step of the way. A stipend is offered to offset living expenses.

This one-year, full-time research fellowship will begin after Phase 2 of the NextGen MD curriculum. SOAR Fellows who are UM medical students will break for one year and rejoin the medical curriculum for Phase 3.

Program Duration and Start Date

One-year, full-time research beginning July 5, 2023

SOAR Course Design

SOAR Fellows who are UM students will retain student status and register for a non-credit SOAR Fellowship course (MDR 987). They are given direct access to The Balkan Center leadership and physicians for mentoring, as well as the opportunity to participate in all educational programs at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

SOAR Professional Advancement

- **Monthly Balkan Research Meeting** – Fellows are included on monthly team meetings. New projects are presented, roadblocks are identified, and action items are assigned.
- **Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Grand Rounds** – Weekly clinical presentations and review of the literature at BPEI.
- **Glaucoma Journal Club** – Weekly analysis of glaucoma related articles in peer review journal presented by a Clinical Glaucoma Fellow. Discussion includes analysis of the study design, statistical methods applied, and the validity of the author's conclusions.
- **Pediatric Glaucoma Journal Club** – Quarterly presentation of a Pediatric Glaucoma publication in peer review journal by the Clinical Glaucoma Fellow on the Pediatric Glaucoma rotation.
- **Lunch with Liz** – Director of Biostatistics at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Liz Vanner, PhD, hosts a monthly luncheon answering technical questions and exploring statistical applications.
- **SOAR Fellowship Seminar Series** – Invited guests and experts provide one-on-one relevant instruction in clinical research.
- **Professional Conferences and Meeting Attendance** – Fellows will be funded to attend the AAO Annual Conference as well as other conferences at which they have accepted presentations. SOAR Fellows are also invited to attend all BPEI educational programs without registration cost.

SOAR Training

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program Certification
- Clinical Study Design Considerations for Research in Vision & Outreach
- IRB Submission and Review Process
- ClinicalTrials.gov Requirements and Design
- Biostatistics
- Critically Reviewing an Article
- Preparing a Scientific Presentation and Manuscript
- Professional Meetings: Submission and Presentation
- Ethics of Academic Research

Reading Material

- *AAO Basic Principles of Ophthalmic Surgery 4th edition*
- *AAO Basic Techniques of Ophthalmic Surgery 3rd edition*
- *AAO Basic & Clinical Science Complete Residency Course*
- *WGA Childhood Glaucoma Consensus Series*
- *WGA Childhood Glaucoma: A Compendium*
- *Surgical Management of Childhood Glaucoma*
- *Excellent Perimetry 5th edition*
- *Designing Clinical Research 5th edition*
- *Research Methodology 5th edition*
- *Statistics Without Tears: An Introduction for Non-Mathematicians*
- *Waking Up Blind: Lawsuits Over Eye Surgery*

Program Expectations

- Satisfactory completion of the Curriculum as set forth by the Directors of the Balkan Center
- Quarterly evaluations with mentors and program manager
- Regular attendance at specified seminars, professional development, and informational sessions
- Publication of at least one (1) research document

Program Oversight and Coordination

- The Samuel & Ethel Balkan International Pediatric Glaucoma Center provides funding, oversight, and administrative support of the SOAR Fellowship program.

Upon completion of the Fellowship, scholars will receive a Director's Certificate of Distinction.