

Cornea Fellowship

The Proctor Foundation and UCSF have a long tradition of training clinicians in the art of medical and surgical cornea. With the combination of outstanding clinical and surgical training, exposure to diverse faculty, unique research opportunities and a complex patient population, we are confident that our fellows are well equipped to successfully obtain their first job, as well as manage complex medical and surgical cornea and uveitis. We particularly enjoy mentoring fellows interested in academic careers.

What is unique about UCSF/Proctor?

- Balanced exposure to refractive surgery, complex corneal surgery and medical cornea - on average fellows are expected to perform approximately 65 corneal transplants, 10 sutured IOLs, and 35 ocular surface procedures and 65 refractive cases as primary surgeon throughout the year.
- Dedicated didactic sessions - Wednesday noon conference and cornea clinic, Kodachrome and Grand Rounds every week.
- Research - Opportunity to work on a mentored research project, with exposure to innovative clinical trials. Fellows are required to complete a mentored research project during the fellowship year. They choose a topic early in the year, and receive guidance in study design, implementation, and analysis from their chosen faculty member. The research is presented at the fellowship graduation ceremony at the end of the year.
- Mentorship – from faculty with diverse interests such as corneal transplantation, refractive surgery, dry eye, ocular inflammatory disorders, and complex intraocular lens management.
- International ophthalmology opportunities - fellows are encouraged to participate in research being conducted by faculty in the International Programs group, who conduct research in countries throughout the world, including Nepal, India, Thailand, Ethiopia, and Niger.
- National meetings – there is support to attend professional meetings such as ARVO and AAO. Fellows are expected to present at ARVO and to submit a publication by the end of the year.
- Sightlife Eyebank – our fellows spend one long weekend per year in Seattle learning about eyebanking.
- One of only two PROSE sites on the West Coast.

Throughout the year our fellows learn in 3 distinct practice settings, this time is roughly split into 3rds:

Proctor Medical Group: Proctor faculty teach fellows about the diagnosis and management of infectious and inflammatory eye diseases, including complex external disease and uveitis. Each Wednesday afternoon throughout the year is devoted to a teaching clinic attended by numerous Proctor faculty. During this clinic, faculty, fellows, and residents examine a relatively small number of patients with complex diseases, and

the entire afternoon is spent discussing the diagnosis and management. Few fellowship programs offer such in-depth, one on one teaching.

Beckmann Vision Center: This is a very busy clinical and surgical service where fellows are exposed to the entire breadth of complex corneal surgery including DSAEK, DMEK, DALK, PKP, Boston Keratoprosthesis, limbal stem cell transplantation, sutured lenses, pterygium surgery and ocular surface tumors/lesions. Each attending on the cornea service has a different approach to corneal surgery which is an ideal learning environment. On average fellows are expected to perform approximately >>> corneal transplants, >>> sutured IOLs >>> ocular surface procedures >>> cataracts.

Kaiser Permanente: Fellows rotate with a cornea specialist at Kaiser Redwood City. Fellows perform approximately 2 corneal transplants per week at Kaiser including DSAEK, DALK and PKP. This is an opportunity to practice outside of the academic setting and to see more routine cornea patients.

Refractive experience: While there will be an opportunity to perform refractive surgery on the Beckmann rotation, the majority of refractive surgery experience is gained during a 2-week intensive refractive course at the US Air Force base in San Antonio, Texas. Fellows receive intensive instruction in the use of various corneal imaging devices for refractive surgery screening, including the Orbscan and Pentacam, and typically perform 50-70 cases in the laser suite.