

***Medical Retina Fellowship  
Manual  
OPHTHALMOLOGY  
American University of  
Beirut Medical Center  
2017-2018***

**Rola Hamam, MD -Program Director**

**Farah Masri, MBA -Program Coordinator**

## Introduction:

The department of Ophthalmology has expanded over the last few years to include the following subspecialty disciplines: Medical Retina, Vitreoretinal surgery, Uveitis and ocular immunology, retinal electrophysiology, cornea and anterior segment diseases, refractive surgery, pediatric ophthalmology, and glaucoma. Of these disciplines, Retina is the most represented with four fellowship-trained full time and busy faculty members and one American board certified part time faculty member. Being a tertiary referral center with multiple retina faculty and diverse interests, gives the medical retina fellow the unique experience of tapping into a large patient base with diverse pathology. The fellow is also exposed to a variety of treatment philosophies. The fellowship program is a continuation of the educational mission of the department of Ophthalmology to train future medical retina specialists for Lebanon and the region.

## Description of the Training Program:

The goal of the medical retina fellowship is to provide comprehensive training in vitreoretinal and uveal diseases for physicians that have completed their training in Ophthalmology. The program conforms with the general guidelines approved by the Macula Society and Retina Society in the United States of America, June, 1989. A period of one year of clinical experience will be required to provide subspecialty fellows with a good knowledge base enabling them to provide optimal assessment and management to patients with vitreoretinal diseases.

The fellow's primary responsibilities during the day will be in the vitreoretinal clinics at the Ophthalmology department at AUBMC where he/she will participate in the care of patients under the direct supervision of the retina specialist in order to receive direct feedback on the clinical evaluation of patients so as to enhance and clarify findings on the examination, and to assist in formulation of the proper diagnosis and management. New patients will be thoroughly examined by the fellow; patients who have been previously seen will be given an in-depth evaluation that will help direct ongoing management. The fellow will be responsible for the preoperative evaluation of patients that are to be admitted to the operating room. He/She will also be responsible for assisting in the postoperative management and care of these patients, as well as any other patients hospitalized on the vitreoretinal service. The fellow will also assist

in retina surgery keeping in mind that this is a medical retina fellowship and surgical training is not an objective.

The fellowship will offer comprehensive training in the medical assessment and management of a wide variety of vitreoretinal diseases, including retinal vascular disease, macular disease, intraocular tumors, uveitis, proliferative vitreoretinopathy, trauma, retinal detachment, and pediatric retinal disorders. Through progressively increasing participation, the fellow will gain autonomy in clinical decision-making and treatment.

Faculty:

Currently, there are five vitreoretinal diseases specialists in the department; A board certified Professor (AM), three associate professors (ZB, HS and RNH) and one clinical instructor (SA). In addition, there is one pediatric ophthalmologist (CH) at the rank of associate professor who handles pediatric retinal diseases and tumors.

Daily schedule and expected work load:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Uveitis (RNH)	Retina (ZB) 6 months <u>(July 17- January 14, 2018)</u>  Retinoblastoma/ROP (CH) 6 months <u>(January 15- July 15, 2018)</u>	OR (ZB)  St. Jude Conference ***	Retina (ZB)	Retina (HS)  OR (SA)
PM	Retina (ZB)	Uveitis (RNH)	Research	OPD Retina Clinic Retina conference* Grand Rounds**	ROP (HS)  OR (SA)

\*Retina conference include two general retina lectures a month given by staff and residents, one fluorescien conference and one retina journal club prepared by the retina fellow.

\*\*Ophthalmology grand rounds include general and specialized ophthalmology topics.

\*\*\*St. Jude Conference discussing retinoblastoma cases once every 4 to 6 weeks from January 15- July 15, 2018 at 1:00 PM

Work load:

Uveitis: 30 patients per week

Vitreoretinal diseases: 120 patients per week

ROP: 6 per month

Retinoblastoma: 10 per year

Surgery assist: up to 3 per week

Service call:

Home call on week days for consult on retina cases by ophthalmology residents on emergency call.

Phone call on weekend

### Curriculum Competencies:

#### Medical Retinal Diseases

The fellow will be exposed to as broad a variety of retinal and vitreous conditions as possible. This experience will include ocular oncology and uveitis as well as macular disease, retinal vascular disease, retino-choroidal degeneration and hereditary diseases, and infectious retinal disease.

#### Fluorescein Angiography

The fellow will understand the principles of fluorescein angiography, and carry on supervised independent interpretation of a large number (at least 250) of fluorescein angiograms, which is basic to the care of patients with retinal and choroidal disease. The fellow needs to understand the process of fluorescein angiography, learn to perform it and be ready to manage allergic reactions.

#### Ocular Coherence Tomography:

The Fellow will understand the indications and the interpretation of retinal OCT studies, including OCT-Angiography which is essential in the care of patients with retinal and macular diseases.

#### Electrophysiology

The fellow needs to develop an understanding of the indications for electrography and electro-oculography. He/She will also learn the interpretation of the recordings, which is important in the management of a variety of retinal degenerative and inflammatory diseases.

## Ultrasound

The fellow should be familiar with the basic principles of A scan and B scan and should be able to perform B scan ultrasound examinations.

## X-ray, CT-Scan, MRI

The interpretation of orbital x-rays, CT or MRI scans, especially for penetrating injury, and particularly evaluating eyes with suspected intraocular foreign body, is expected.

## Call Frequency:

During the fellowship, the fellow will not be obligated to take routine eye emergency calls. For those emergencies that involve retina or vitreous pathology or the care of inpatients on the service, the fellow will be expected to be available to the on call ophthalmology resident for consultation.

## Teaching Opportunities:

The fellow will have the opportunity to teach AUB Medical School students, visiting students from other medical schools and other residents in the clinical setting. The fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in multiple ongoing retina research projects.

## Evaluation:

To ensure that the fellow acquires adequate knowledge, his/her performance will be monitored carefully during the course of the fellowship. He/She will have an individual quarterly conference with the program director to assess and discuss training progress. Written evaluations by faculty members will be filled semi-annually on myevaluation. Upon the completion of his/her training, the fellow will be provided by a summative evaluation of his/her performance and competence to practice without supervision. This evaluation will be a part of his/her permanent record maintained by the Department and the GME office. The Fellow will evaluate his/her experience with individual faculty at the completion of the program.

Requirements:

The fellowship is at PGY5 level. An applicant for the medical retina subspecialty training must have achieved initial certification in Ophthalmology.

In addition, applicants from outside AUB must have a passing grade in the clinical part of the International Council of Ophthalmology exam or the Arab Board of Ophthalmology or the equivalent in addition to English language proficiency exam.

Administrative information

<b>Full time Attendings</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Mobile</b>	<b>Beeper</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dr. Rola Hamam (Program Director)	Uveitis and Medical Retina	03-705319	624	Rh46@aub.edu.lb
Dr. Christiane Haddad	Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus	03-982997	610	Ca12@aub.edu.lb
Dr. Ziad Bashour	Vitreoretinal	03-795203	581	Zb00@aub.edu.lb
Dr. Haytham Salti	Vitreoretinal	03-776683	591	Hs06@aub.edu.lb
Dr. Souha Allam	Vitreoretinal	03-257104	580	Sa33@aub.edu.lb

<b>Part Time Attendings &amp; Associates</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Mobile</b>	<b>Beeper</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dr. Ahmad Mansour	Vitreoretinal	03-377633	586	Am146@aub.edu.lb
Dr. Hasan Chahine	Ocular Electrophysiology	03-808937	-	drhchahine@gmail.com

<b>Technicians</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Mobile</b>	<b>Email</b>
Samira Chouman	Nurse- OPD	70-961310	Ss71@aub.edu.lb
Mohamad Farhat	Clerk- OPD	03-905821	Mf74@aub.edu.lb
Larissa Smeets	Senior Orthoptist	03-941881	ls46@aub.edu.lb
Ali Salloum	Ophthalmic Assistant	70-902477	as175@aub.edu.lb
Mahmoud Ayyash	Ophthalmic Assistant	03556220	ma93@aub.edu.lb
Maya Mhalla	Ophthalmic Assistant	78909438	mm199@aub.edu.lb

Haneen Wehbe	Ophthalmic Assistant	70163233	hw02@aub.edu.lb
Reda Karam	Ophthalmic Assistant	03623616	rk162@aub.edu.lb
Nadia Mohiedeen	Ophthalmic Assistant	70725447	nm109@aub.edu.lb
Huda Mahmoud	Clinic Assistant	03164554	hm21@aub.edu.lb
Ismat Kanaan	Clinic Assistant	03765275	ik28@aub.edu.lb
Joyce Talhouk	Clinic Assistant	79196234	jt25@aub.edu.lb

**Program Director:** Rola Hamam, MD is the program director. She is directly responsible for all administrative issues relating to residents and fellows during their training, and for compliance with departmental and institutional guidelines. Fellows are expected to report to her directly with any issue relating to their training. Her office is on the seventh floor, Room a-706. She can be reached at beeper no 0624, or through her email: rh46@aub.edu.lb

**Program Coordinator:** Farah Masri is the Program Coordinator. She is responsible for the scheduling and coordination of the weekly Core conferences, Monthly Journal Clubs, Morbidity & Mortality Conferences, and Grand Rounds. She is responsible for all administrative aspects of the program, including processing travel and vacation requests, reimbursements,

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purchasing educational materials, collecting and anonymously collating evaluations. Her office is located on the 6th Floor, phase 1, and room W636. She can be reached at her extension 5687 or through her email [fm67@aub.edu.lb](mailto:fm67@aub.edu.lb)