

**SOAR Fellowship Research Course
The Balkan Center, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

Credits: 0

Course Dates: January 3, 2023 – December 22, 2023

Course Instructors:

Alana Grajewski, MD

Ta Chen Peter Chang, MD

Elena Bitrian, MD

Elizabeth Hodapp, MD

Angela Zhu, MD

Course Director:

Eleonore Savatovsky, MD, PhD

esavatovsky@med.miami.edu

Assistant Director

Luke van Leeuwen

Lnv13@med.miami.edu

SOAR Fellowship

Student Outreach And Research

Established in 2018, the SOAR Fellowship is a donor funded educational program of the Samuel & Ethel Balkan International Pediatric Glaucoma Center at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. This highly competitive program is for international and national students and early career physicians with an interest in clinical research and/or outreach in vision. One position is reserved for a University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. This full-time program is designed to provide a year of focused research experience complementing a world class medical education training.

Program Overview

SOAR Fellows are instructed in the principles of research and manuscript writing by working closely with the physicians of The Balkan Center and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute's career researchers. Our established national and international programs and initiatives (blindness prevention, pediatric eye diseases and ocular genetics) provide a structure from which Fellows can choose an area of focused study. SOAR Fellow research opportunities include telehealth in ophthalmology, developmental and quality of life issues in children with vision loss and their families, and genetic and environmental factors affecting eye disease.

Program Curriculum

SOAR Fellowship Duration and Start date

- One-year, full time research
- Start at the end of year 3 (June of MS3) for students in legacy curriculum, or after Phase 2 (January of MS3) for students in NextGen MD curriculum

SOAR Course Syllabus

SOAR Fellows will retain student status and register for a non-credit SOAR Fellowship at The Balkan Center. SOAR Fellows are given direct access to The Balkan Center leadership and physicians for their mentoring as well as the opportunity to participate in all educational programs at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

SOAR Requirements and Certification

- 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

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

SOAR Course Curriculum

Training

- CITI Program Certification - Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
- Clinical Study Design considerations for Research in Vision & Outreach
- IRB submission & review process
- Clinical Trials.Gov requirements & design
- Biostatistics
- How to critically review an article
- How to prepare a scientific presentation and manuscript
- Professional Meetings:
 - Submission
 - Presentation
- Ethics of Academic Research

Reading Materials

- *Statistics Without Tears – An Introduction for Non-Mathematicians*
Derek Rowntree
- *Designing Clinical Research*
Stephen B. Hulley, Steven R. Cummings, Warren S. Browner, Deborah G. Grady, Thomas B. Newton
- *Research Methodology – Second Edition*
Ranjit Kumar
- *Waking Up Blind: Lawsuits over Eye Surgery*
Tom Harbin
- *Excellent Perimetry: The Field Analyzer Primer, Fifth Edition*
Anders Heijl, Vincent Michael Patella, Boel Bengtsson

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 & 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 & Meeting Attendance** - The Fellow will be funded to attend the AAO Annual Conference as well as other approved professional conferences at which the Fellow has an accepted Abstract or Podium presentation. SOAR Fellows are also invited to attend all BPEI Educational programs without registration cost.

Program Oversight and Coordination

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