



The Retina Group of Florida

Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship

Train with 15 experienced retina surgeons in a two-year program offering comprehensive training in surgical and medical retina across Florida's beautiful East Coast.

AUPO FCC compliant.



Welcome from the Program Directors

Welcome to the Retina Group of Florida Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship. This program has been carefully designed to provide a rigorous, rewarding, and deeply personalized training experience. Our goal is to train a fellow who will be ready to join a high-volume practice and contribute day one.

You'll be guided by 15 experienced retina surgeons, including nationally and internationally recognized leaders in the field, and supported by a collaborative academic network through Retina Consultants of America (RCA), a national network of over 300 retina specialists practicing in 250+ locations across 23 states.

We will train one fellow every two years to ensure close supervision and a truly individualized experience. We're proud to launch our inaugural fellowship in July 2026 – and we hope you'll consider joining us.



Eduardo Uchiyama, MD
Program Director



Mandeep Singh Dhalla, MD
Associate Program Director



Mario del Cid, MD
Associate Program Director



Ryan Shields, MD
Assistant Program Director



Larry S. Halperin, MD
Senior Faculty Advisor

Program Overview



Close Mentorship

Train with 15 experienced retina surgeons, including nationally and internationally recognized leaders in the field.



High-Volume Surgical Experience

Operate 4-5 days per week with progressive autonomy and expert guidance.



Rich Clinical Exposure

Receive comprehensive training in medical retina and uveitis with diverse patient populations.



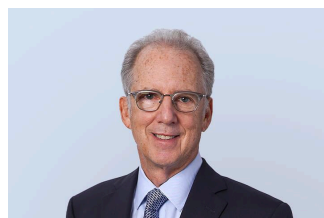
Research Opportunities

Participate in dozens of clinical trials with mentorship in study design and implementation.

Our fellowship provides training across state-of-the-art facilities along Florida's east coast, spanning Broward (Fort Lauderdale area) and Palm Beach Counties. Rotations are strategically scheduled to minimize daily travel time between locations.

Meet Our Faculty

Our fellowship is guided by 15 experienced retina surgeons who trained at the world's leading ophthalmic institutions. Each brings unique expertise to your training experience.



Barry S. Taney, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Mayo Clinic



Lawrence S. Halperin, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Barnes Retina Institute



W. Scott Thompson, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute



Scott R. Anagnoste, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute



Mandeep Singh Dhalla, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Barnes Retina Institute



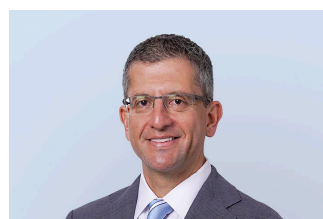
Kevin T. Kelly, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Baylor University



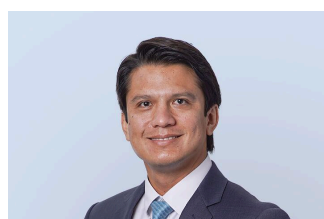
Mario del Cid, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Cincinnati Eye Institute



Darin R. Goldman, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston



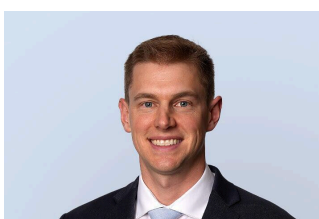
Eduardo Uchiyama, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
University of Texas Southwestern
Uveitis & Ocular Immunology:
Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary



Robert A. Lalane III, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
UCLA Stein Eye Institute



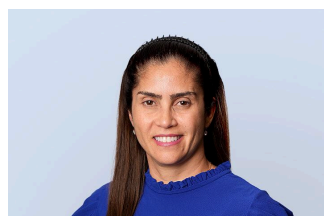
Ryan Shields, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Associated Retinal Consultants, Royal Oak



Gary Shienbaum, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute



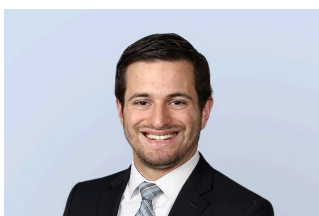
Renata Picciani, MD

Medical Retina:
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Vitreoretinal Surgery:
University of Texas Medical Branch



Linnet Rodriguez, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
Wills Eye Institute



Blake Fortes, MD

Vitreoretinal Surgery:
UCLA Stein Eye Institute

Sample Fellow Schedule

Our fellow will rotate through a structured weekly schedule with a strong surgical focus, complemented by office-based clinical training and dedicated educational conferences.

Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Faculty Clinic	Operating Room
Tuesday	Operating Room	Faculty Clinic
Wednesday	Operating Room	Fellow/Resident Retina Clinic
Thursday	Faculty Clinic	Operating Room
Friday	Operating Room	Faculty Clinic/Surgical Conference
Saturday	Post-op Clinic (not weekly)	

This balanced schedule ensures comprehensive training while maintaining work-life balance. A fellow progresses from observation to increasing autonomy throughout their fellowship year.

Surgical Autonomy & Mentorship

Hands-On Training

Develop surgical expertise through direct experience with complex cases and diverse techniques. Our structured approach builds confidence systematically under expert guidance.

Faculty Expertise

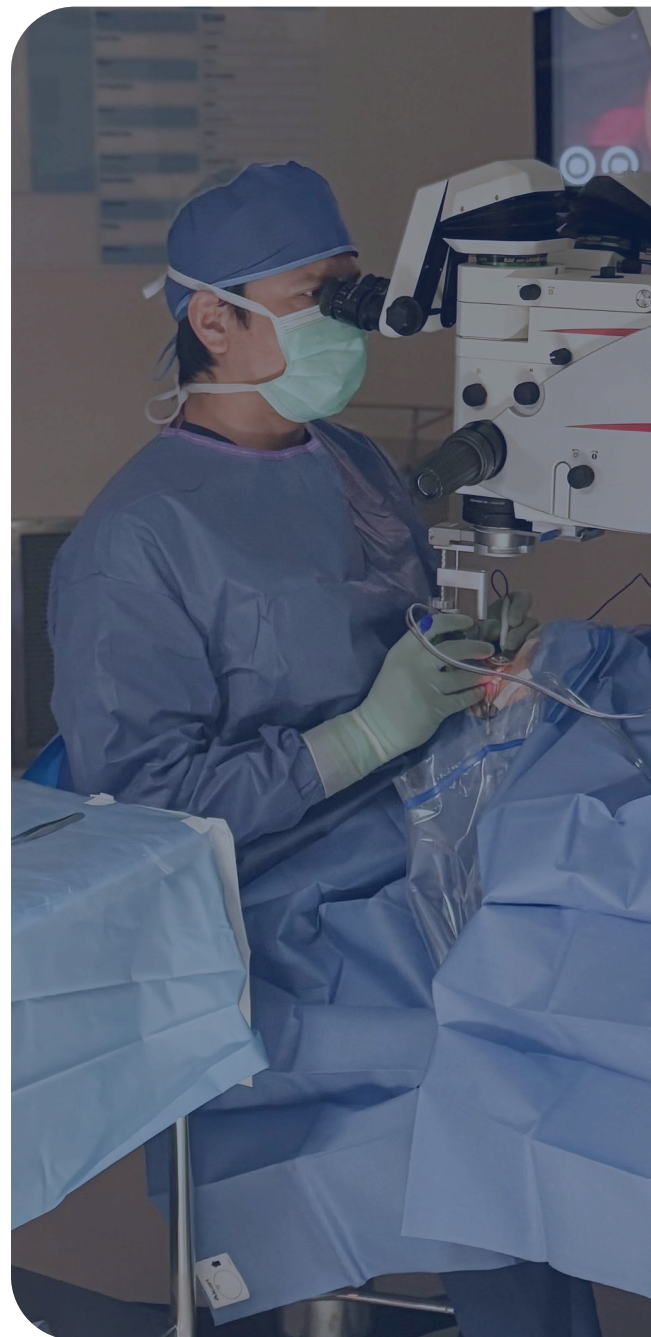
Learn from our specialists with decades of clinical experience in academic and private practice settings. Benefit from their collective wisdom in Florida's premier retina practice.

Real-World Preparation

Graduate with skills that translate immediately to clinical success. Our training emphasizes practical competencies valued by employers nationwide.

Career Guidance

Receive personalized mentorship from surgeons who understand what makes specialists thrive. Navigate your career path with insights from experienced advisors.



Surgical & Procedural Training

The program offers high-volume surgical experience, with graduating fellows expected to participate in over 1,500 cases - typically serving as primary surgeon in 600 to 1,000 of them, depending on progression and readiness.

Pars Plana Vitrectomy

Master vitrectomy techniques from basic to complex cases.

Scleral Buckle

Develop proficiency in primary scleral buckle using traditional and modern approaches.

Macular Surgery

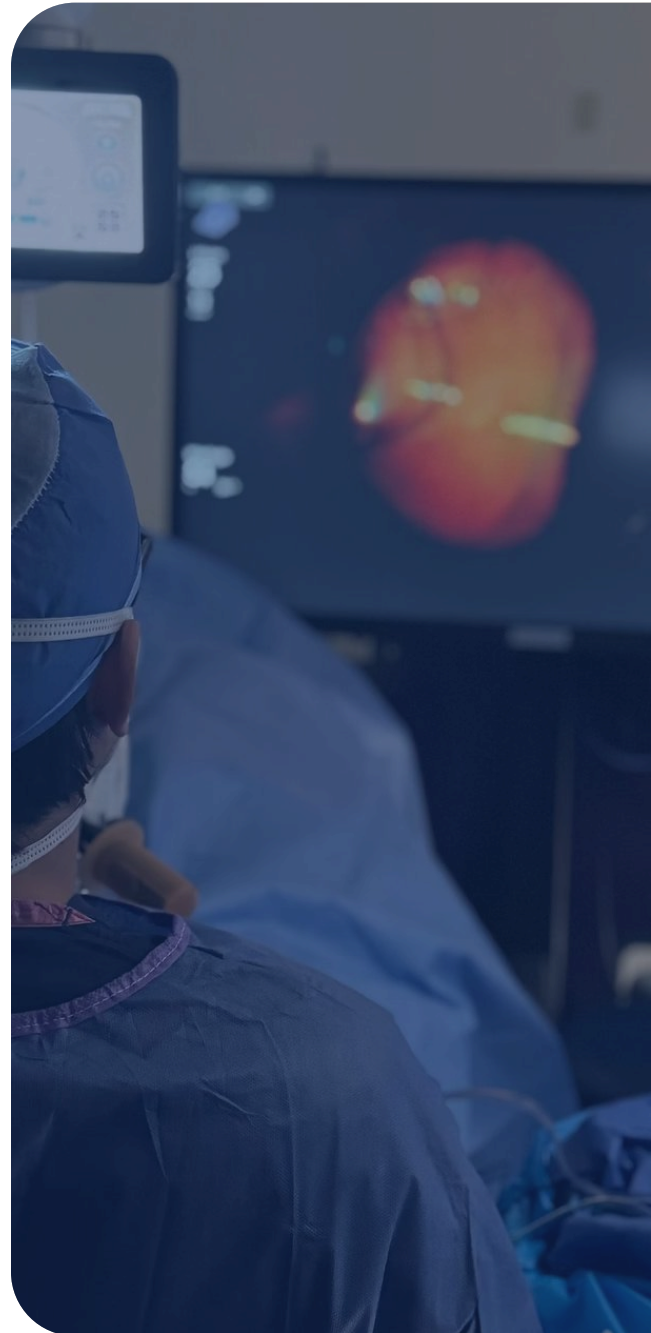
Gain expertise in ILM peeling, epiretinal membrane removal, and macular hole repair.

Complex IOL Cases

Learn Yamane fixation, Gore-Tex suturing, and management of complex lens scenarios.

In-Clinic Procedures

Master intravitreal and suprachoroidal injections, implants, laser, cryotherapy, pneumatic retinopexy, and photodynamic therapy.



Medical Retina & Uveitis Training

Our program delivers exceptional depth in medical retina training. Fellows develop advanced diagnostic and treatment skills that complement their surgical expertise for success in any setting.

Comprehensive Exposure

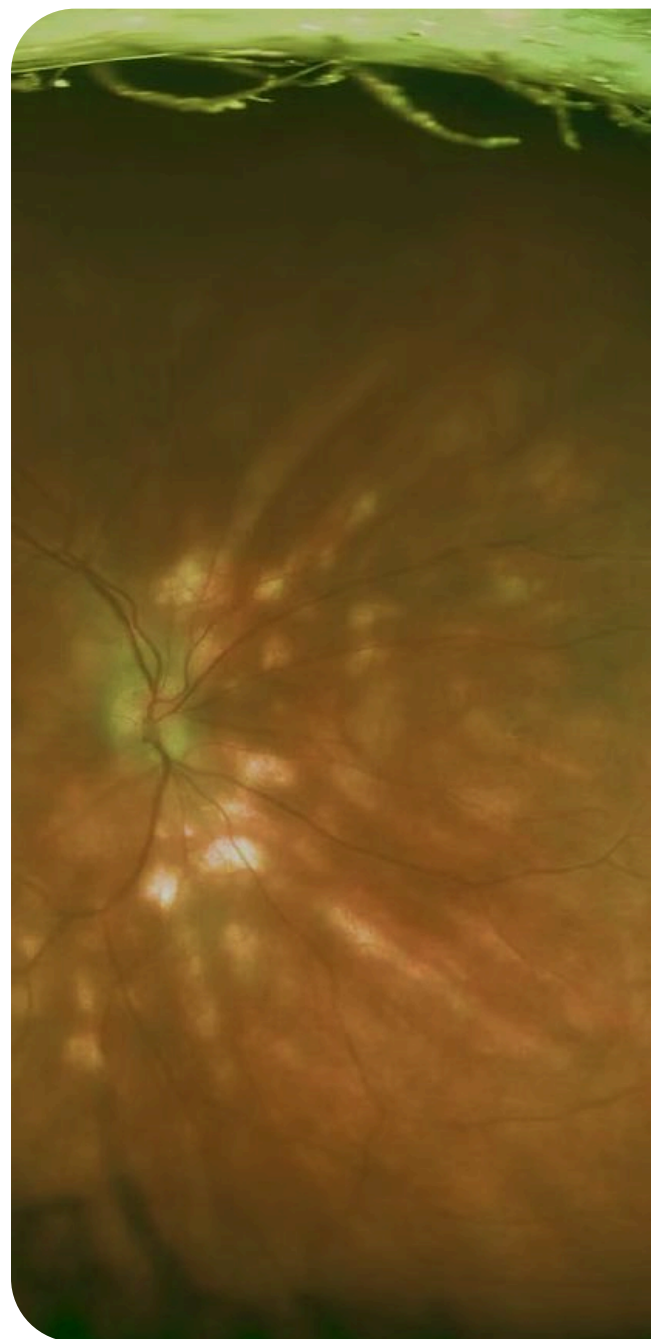
Expand beyond surgical skills with focused medical retina training. Balance routine and complex cases to enhance clinical judgment and diagnostic abilities.

Uveitis Experience

Learn from a fellowship-trained uveitis specialist. Tailor your uveitis education to align with your specific career objectives.

Multicultural Population

Serve South Florida's diverse patient population. Experience varied conditions across demographics, preparing you for global practice.



Educational & Professional Development

Advanced Surgical Training

Enhance surgical skills through national programs including Duke Advanced Vitreous Surgery, Mass Eye and Ear Vitrectomy Course, and Retina Fellows Forum.

Practice Management

Master essential billing, coding, documentation, and workflow optimization skills critical for clinical and operational success.

Financial Planning

Develop financial literacy through mentorship in retirement planning, investments, and practice economics for ophthalmologists.

Our comprehensive curriculum combines specialized fellowship courses with participation in national retina conferences. You will gain clinical excellence alongside business acumen and management skills needed for leadership in established practices or independent ventures.

Research & Academic Involvement



Clinical Trials

Serve as sub-investigator in industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated studies, mastering clinical research in a high-volume private practice.



Teaching

Mentor local ophthalmology residents and medical students.



Conferences

Present research at major ophthalmology meetings including ASRS, AAO, VBS, ARVO, and AUS to enhance your academic profile.



Global Outreach

Gain additional experience through optional international mission work, providing eye care to underserved populations.

National Network Advantage with Retina Consultants of America (RCA)

The Retina Group of Florida is a proud founding member of [Retina Consultants of America \(RCA\)](#), providing fellows with unparalleled access to a national community of retina leaders, educational resources, and potential career pathways.

1

National Community

Connect with 300+ retina specialists across 23 states.

2

Enhanced Education

Access RCA symposia and surgical courses.

3

Collaborative Research

Participate in multi-center studies and shared best practices.

4

Career Development

Explore future opportunities within the RCA network.



Post-Fellowship Career Paths

Most retina fellowship graduates pursue careers in private practice settings, with a smaller percentage choosing academic institutions or hybrid practice models.



Private Practice

The most common career path, offering clinical autonomy and competitive compensation.



Academic Centers

University positions focused on research and teaching.



Hybrid Models

A mix of both, balancing clinical practice with academic responsibilities.

Our faculty members have experience across all these career paths, offering fellows diverse perspectives and practical insights.

With experience interviewing and evaluating hundreds of graduating fellows, our program leadership understands what makes successful retina specialists. Our mission is to ensure you graduate ready to excel in any practice environment from day one.

Benefits & Resources

\$90K

First Year Compensation

Compensation includes \$3K relocation allowance and \$2K annual educational stipend.

\$100K

Second Year Compensation

Increased compensation reflecting growing expertise and expanded responsibilities.

\$3K

Conference Support

Funding for travel, registration, and accommodations when at retina meetings.

Full

Health & Liability

Comprehensive health insurance and complete malpractice protection throughout fellowship.

3 weeks

Vacation per year

15 business days off per year.
Additional time off available when presenting at major conferences.

Call

**Q2 weeks (1st year)
Q3 weeks (2nd year)**

Call is **limited to practice patients — no hospital or trauma call**. Faculty backup always available.

We provide assistance with housing, community resources, and educational recommendations for fellows and their families. Our support for both professional and personal wellbeing creates an environment where you can focus on developing the clinical and surgical expertise that will define your career.



Application Timeline

1

Register with SF Match

Registration opens **June 30, 2025** for the 2026-2028 fellowship cycle.

2

Submit Application

Submit your **SF Match/CAS application by September 8, 2025**, along with a **CV** and a recent **photo**.

3

Interview

Selected candidates will be invited to interviews conducted in **November 2025**.

4

Rank List Deadline

All rank lists must be finalized and submitted by **December 9, 2025** at 12:00 PM (Noon) Pacific Time.

5

Match Day

Match results will be announced on **December 16, 2025**, with the fellowship beginning on **July 7, 2026**.

Candidates for our fellowship must meet the following qualifications:

- Possess an MD, DO, or equivalent degree.
- Have completed an accredited U.S. ophthalmology residency program.
- Be eligible for board certification and full Florida medical licensure prior to the fellowship start date.
- *Please note: We are currently unable to sponsor vis as for international applicants.*

For more information, contact us at fellowship@rgfla.com.



Life Beyond Fellowship:

Where Vitreoretinal Excellence Meets Paradise

Elevate your ophthalmology career with our Vitreoretinal Fellowship in South Florida - combining exceptional medical training with coastal paradise living.



A Fellowship That Supports Your Whole Life

We know fellowship is a time of intense training - but it should also be a time to enjoy life and set roots if you choose. South Florida gives you the chance to grow as a surgeon while also enjoying meaningful experiences outside of work - whether you're on your own or with family.

A Place to Feel at Home

South Florida offers safe, welcoming neighborhoods with great restaurants, beaches, and things to do - perfect for building a happy daily life.

Time to Recharge

Our program respects your personal time. While you'll work hard, you'll also have the freedom to enjoy evenings, weekends, and everything this area has to offer.

Family-Ready Living

If you have a partner or kids - or are planning to - you'll find excellent schools, parks, and year-round outdoor fun that make life easier and better.

Career Growth Beyond Training

We're building a program with a long-term vision. For the right candidate, there may be future opportunities to stay on and grow with us.

Year-Round Sunshine: Beach Life Beyond the Operating Room

Imagine weekends at pristine beaches just minutes from your home. Our physicians and their families enjoy outdoor activities throughout the year.

75°F

Average Temp

Perfect year-round climate

248

Sunny Days

More than California

35+

Beaches

Within a short drive



Outdoor Adventures: From Everglades to Ocean Reefs



Everglades National Park

Explore America's largest subtropical wilderness on exciting airboat tours.



Diving & Snorkeling

Discover colorful coral reefs and shipwrecks near the Florida Keys.



Fishing & Boating

Enjoy deep-sea fishing, mangrove kayaking, or sailing.

Cultural Melting Pot: Diverse Communities and Cuisine

Experience a global cultural hub without leaving the country. Discover authentic cuisine from Latin America, the Caribbean, and beyond.



Clinical Experience

Our diverse patient population also enhances your clinical experience with unique cases.

Urban Excitement: South Florida's Vibrant Nightlife and Arts Scene



Live Music

Discover the vibrant energy of major concerts, Latin dance hotspots, and more.



Art Galleries

World-famous Art Basel and the iconic Wynwood Walls.



Dining

From celebrity chef restaurants to authentic local eateries.



Performing Arts

Performing Arts Broadway shows, ballet, and opera at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

Championship Sports at Your Doorstep



Miami Heat

NBA action at waterfront Kaseya Center. Three-time NBA champions.



Miami Dolphins

Enjoy NFL games in perfect weather at Hard Rock Stadium's world-class venue.



Miami Marlins

MLB baseball at LoanDepot Park with climate-controlled comfort.



Florida Panthers

NHL excitement at Amerant Bank Arena. Recent Stanley Cup Champions.



Inter Miami CF

Experience MLS soccer with global superstars at DRV PNK Stadium.

Great Golf: A Haven for Golf Lovers

South Florida has over 150 top golf courses you can play all year.



PGA Event Locations

Play on the same courses as pros at Doral and PGA National.



Great Weather

Enjoy good golfing weather almost every day of the year.



Beautiful Courses

Play on scenic courses with palm trees and water views.



World-Class Education: Top Schools for Fellows with Families

1

Public Excellence:

Access top-tier public districts with magnet and IB programs throughout South Florida.

2

Private Options:

Select from elite college preparatory academies ranked among the nation's best.

3

Family-Friendly:

Quality education in safe communities provides peace of mind for fellows with children.

4

Bilingual Advantage:

Spanish immersion programs reflect our region's multicultural environment.

Year-Round Learning:

Our climate enables outdoor education and sports throughout all seasons.



Educational Scholarships: Florida's Investment in Your Children's Future



Step Up For Students

Available to ALL Florida K to 12 students, regardless of income. Provides an average of \$8,000 per year to help cover private school tuition and related fees.



Bright Futures Scholarship

This merit-based program covers 75% to 100% of tuition at Florida public universities. It is awarded based on academic achievement, not financial need.



Florida Prepaid College Plan

Lock in future college tuition at today's rates. This plan allows families to prepay tuition and fees for Florida public colleges and universities, protecting against tuition inflation.

Family Adventures: South Florida's Incredible Children's Museums



Discovery & Science Museum

Fort Lauderdale's hands-on science center with IMAX theater.

- Dinosaur, space, and aviation exhibits
- Ideal for young explorers



Frost Science Museum

Miami's facility with planetarium, aquarium, and science labs.

- Three-level aquarium with ocean views
- Exhibits on technology and nature



Miami Children's Museum

56,500-square-foot wonderland of imagination.

- Castle of Dreams and market simulation
- Music, art, and cultural activities

Wildlife Adventures: South Florida's Premier Zoos and Animal Parks



Zoo Miami

750 acres with 3,000+ animals.

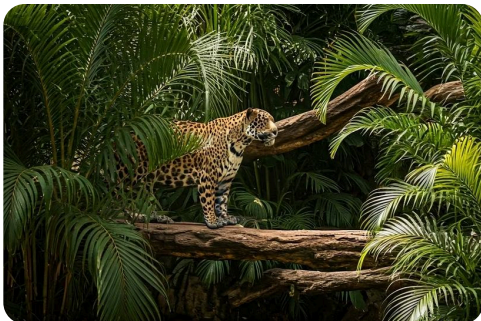
- Feed giraffes and rhinos
- Safari tram through habitats



Lion Country Safari

America's first drive-through safari park.

- View lions, zebras, and rhinos from your car
- Water playground for children



Palm Beach Zoo

23-acre tropical habitat in West Palm Beach.

- Sloth and koala encounters
- Interactive fountain and conservation



Butterfly World

World's largest butterfly facility.

- Thousands of free-flying butterflies
- Hummingbird and botanical gardens

Theme Park Paradise: Orlando's Attractions Just a Drive Away

Famous theme parks are only 3 hours from where you will work.

- Walt Disney World with four main parks and two water parks
- Universal Orlando with exciting rides and Harry Potter areas
- SeaWorld with sea animals and thrilling rides
- LEGOLAND Florida for family fun
- Kennedy Space Center for space exploration adventures

Great for short trips during time off or when family visits.

Easily accessible via I-95 and Florida's Turnpike for weekend getaways.



Strategic Location: Gateway to Global Adventures

Three major airports nearby for effortless travel.

FLL

Fort Lauderdale (FLL)

Minutes away with direct flights to 85+ destinations.

MIA

Miami (MIA)

45 minutes south connecting to 150+ international locations.

PBL

Palm Beach (PBI)

45 minutes north with less crowded travel options.

Ideal for Caribbean getaways or quick visits home.



Cruise Capital: Easy Access to World-Class Ports

Port Everglades, one of the world's busiest cruise ports, is minutes from Fort Lauderdale.

3

Major Cruise Ports

Port Everglades, PortMiami,
and Port of Palm Beach.

40+

Cruise Ships

Various major cruise lines
depart weekly.

8M+

Annual Passengers

Third busiest cruise port
globally.



Competitive Compensation: Salary and Benefits Package

\$90K

First Year

Includes \$3K relocation
and \$2K computer/tablet fund.

\$100K

Second Year

Increased salary as you
advance your skills.

\$3K

Travel Stipend

For presenting at major
conferences.

100%

Health Coverage

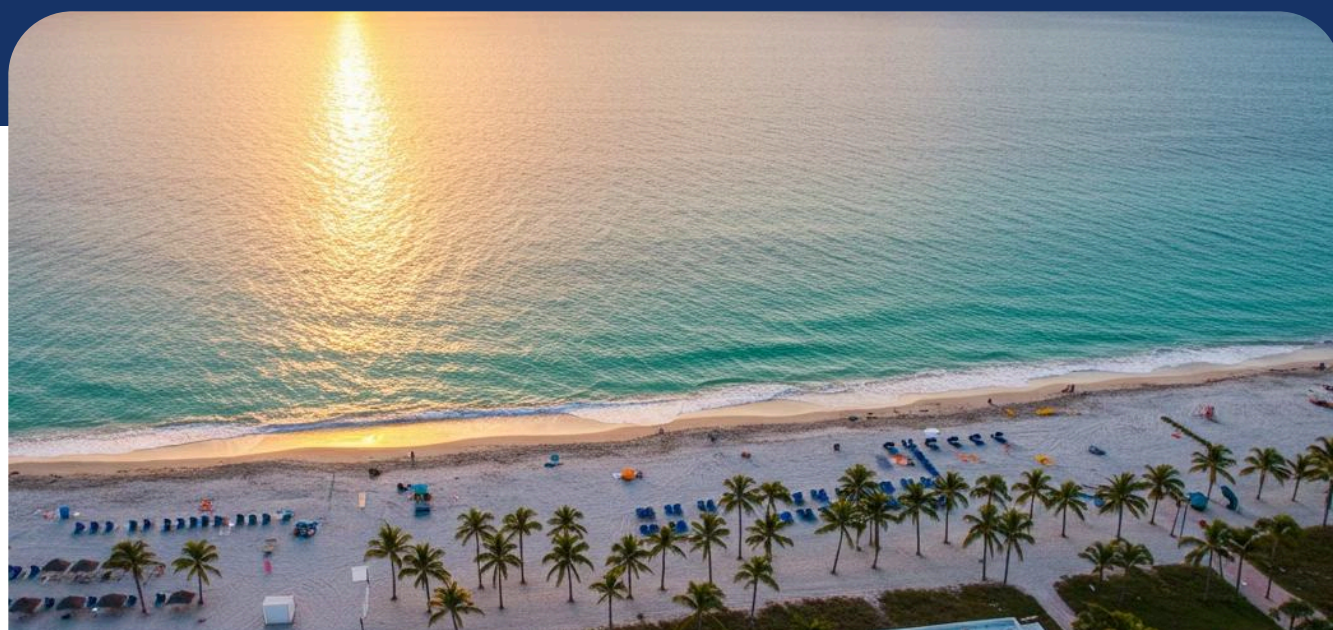
Comprehensive health and dental
insurance for you and your family.

3 weeks

Paid Vacation

Annual paid time off to rest and recharge.

Exceptional fellowship salary
with no state income tax, allowing you
to focus on training - not financial stress.



Work-Life Balance: Prioritizing Well-being

Our program balances rigorous training with personal time, helping you excel professionally while enjoying life outside medicine.

1

Reasonable Hours

Structured rotations and a balanced call schedule - Q2 weeks (1st year), Q3 weeks (2nd year) - help maintain energy, focus, and motivation.

2

Protected Time Off

Regular time off and scheduled vacation periods to recharge and explore Florida.

3

Wellness Program

Team outings, peer support, and mental health resources to support your wellbeing.

4

Comprehensive Mentorship

Guidance from faculty invested in your clinical skills, career decisions, and long-term goals.

Join Us: Building Your Career in Paradise

1

Apply Today

Submit your application through [SF Match](#) by September 8th.

2

Interview

Join us for an on-site interview in November.

3

Begin Your Journey

Start your fellowship in July and embrace the South Florida lifestyle!

For questions or more information, email us at fellowship@rgfla.com



Last updated: June 12, 2025