The Cornea Fellowship Program at UT Southwestern By R. Wayne Bowman, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology Director, Cornea Fellowship

The UT Southwestern Department of Ophthalmology has offered a comprehensive fellowship in Cornea, External Eye Diseases, and Refractive Surgery since 1982. We have trained over 124 fellows.

Cornea fellowship graduates practice all over the country in a variety of positions from academic faculty, to industry thought leaders, to heads of multi-specialty groups. The goal of the fellowship is to ensure our trainees are well rounded in all areas of cornea and external disease. Faculty will mentor fellows by directly observing trainees, and encouraging trainees to observe them.

Two county hospitals, a large University private hospital, a massive Children's hospital and a large VA hospital provide a wealth of pathology. The cornea service has a number of active infections of all etiologies and a wide range of immunologic ocular disease and uveitis. There is an active refractive practice with the latest laser offerings from Johnson & Johnson and Alcon, allowing fellows to finish the fellowship certified on both lasers and the Intralase, which saves the cost and inconvenience of arranging proctors in practice.

Dallas has one the top eye banks in the world in the <u>UT Southwestern</u> <u>Transplant Services Center</u> and has been at the forefront of eye banking advances since screening began for Hepatits C and HIV. It was the second eye bank to provide patient-ready DMEK tissue.

As part of one of the largest ophthalmology training programs in the country, our cornea fellows are exposed to daily lectures, weekly grand rounds and regular CME conferences. There are rotating monthly journal clubs in various subspecialities, as well as phaco wet labs at the

Alcon campus in Fort Worth. There are four bimonthly conferences with nationally known speakers and case presentations, annual CME conferences in glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, and advances in eyecare. The department also sponsors a half-day AAO course in correct coding. Understanding how to properly code diagnostics and procedures is vital to getting reimbursed for your work. The coding course is free and ophthalmology specific.

We offer a daylong refractive course for beginning the laser certification process and a wet lab on the lasers. There is a tips and tools session on transplantation. V. Vinod Mootha, M.D., leads a lecture and wet lab on endothelial transplantation. We also have an AMT course geared toward treatment of acute Stevens Johnson syndrome and a suturing course covering everything from basic suturing and knots to sutured IOLs.

We believe it would difficult to find a more well balanced and comprehensive program and hope that you will strongly consider applying.