



SUMMARY

RESIDENCY PROGRAM FUNDING & PROMOTION SURVEY **2008-2009 Academic Year – Survey Conducted in October, 2008**

Seventeen of 19 ASCO member schools and colleges of optometry participated in the survey. (The two newest members, Western University of the Health Sciences, and Arizona College of Optometry, did not participate.) A total of 285 residency slots were reported, an increase of 36 slots from the last survey conducted two years ago.

Of these 285 slots, 49% are VA residencies funded by the VA. Twenty-seven percent are residencies in the clinics of the schools/colleges that are funded by the school/college. Nineteen percent are residencies in external (non VA) institutions and are funded by the external institution. The remaining slots, reflecting about 5% of the total, are residencies in non-VA external institutions funded by the US military, residencies in the school/college clinics funded by both the school/college and an external institution, VA residencies funded by the school/college and the VA, residencies in external (non VA) institutions funded by both the school/college and by the external institution, and school/college clinics funded by the US military.

Twenty-nine percent of all residency slots are reported in the school/college clinic environment, 21% in external non-VA institutions and 50% in VA institutions.

The average stipend, funded by the institutions, paid to residents who began their residency programs in 2008 is \$31,545. The average stipend, funded by the VA, paid to residents who began their residency programs in 2008 is \$30,998. Residents carry faculty status in nine (53%) of the schools/colleges.

All seventeen institutions (100%) reported that fringe benefits are given to residents. Fringe benefits include but are not limited to malpractice/liability insurance (100%), health insurance (100%), life insurance (35%), retirement benefits (29%) and paid vacation leave (18%). Sixteen out of seventeen institutions (94%) provide some type of educational benefits. These include but are not limited to a travel stipend/allowance (94%) and free or reduced fee institutional CE courses (24%).

Institutions reported that they promote and/or provide descriptive information on residency opportunities using, but not limited to, the following means:

- Institutional website (100%)
- Catalogue (65%)
- AAO functions (65%)
- Lectures/Presentations (59%)
- AOA functions (47%)
- Information/Brochures sent to all schools/colleges (29%)
- *AOA News* publication (24%)
- *AOSA Foresight* publication (18%)