ASSOCIATES IN OPHTHALMOLOGY
Set your sights high.

The Vitreo-Retinal Fellowship Programs at Associates in Ophthalmology (AIO) in Pittsburgh, PA, includes a two-year surgical/clinical and a one-year medical fellowship. These Vitreo-Retinal Fellowship Programs offer comprehensive training in the surgical and medical management of Vitreo-Retinal diseases. AIO is a high volume, multi-specialty private practice (due in part, to the high concentration of patients over the age of 65 in the Western Pennsylvania region).

These fellowships offer comprehensive training in the surgical and medical management of Vitreo-Retinal diseases. The fellows are expected to develop independent judgment skills, as well as excellent technical skills in a patient-focused, fast-paced environment. The fellows will be supervised by retina specialists and will be directly involved in the evaluation of patients, interpretation of fluorescein angiography and ultrasonography, laser photocoagulation, intra-vitreal injection technique and protocol, as well as 20, 23 and 25 gauge vitrectomy surgeries. Surgeries will be performed in our practice-owned outpatient ambulatory surgery center. Several opportunities also exist for research opportunities dealing with the posterior segment. AIO is a site for numerous national and international clinical trials. There will be limited call responsibilities.

Please refer to the SFMatch Website to register for the match and read about the process for applying to Ophthalmology Fellowship Training for the upcoming academic year. Once registered, you can view our program listing on the SFMatch directory website at www.sfmatch.org.

RESEARCH
AIO has a dedicated research department with full-time clinical coordinators to assist with the management of multi-center clinical trials, as well as investigator-initiated trials.

STAFF
AIO has a full staff of RNs, COTs and COAs dedicated to the care of its patients both in the clinic and operating room. A “scribe” system has been in place for decades to maximize efficiency, and the clinic space is equipped with electronic medical records and video monitors for computerized patient education.

MEDICAL
The fellows will have exposure to both diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to all types of medical retinal problems. This may include macular degeneration, intraocular tumors, retinal vascular disorders, hereditary chorio-retinal degenerations and dystrophies, and uveitis. Because of AIO’s high retina volume, there will be extensive experience with fluorescein and ICG angiography, as well as other forms of retinal imaging such as OCT. Ample opportunities will exist for the fellow to interpret and assist in the reporting of all angiograms and OCT’S. The fellows will also help organize and participate in the bi-weekly retinal imaging conference.
AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER
Associates Surgery Centers, LLC is a private practice ambulatory surgery center with state-of-the-art equipment. The highest technology of Vitreo-Retinal instruments for 20, 23 and 25 gauge surgeries will be available to the fellow, as well as the latest model of Zeiss operating microscopes with assistant and video attachments.

SURGERY
The fellow will have direct involvement in the pre-operative evaluation, as well as intra-operative decision making, and be responsible for the post-operative management of all surgical patients. The case mix will include all currently employed methods of Vitreo-Retinal surgery including scleral buckling surgery and pars plana vitrectomy. The surgical experience will include exposure to various techniques such as the use of intra-ocular gases, silicone oil and perfluorocarbon liquids. Proficiency in the management of retinal detachments, proliferative diabetic retinopathy, proliferative vitreoretinopathy, retinal tears, intraocular foreign bodies, macular disorders, endophthalmitis, macular holes and epiretinal membranes will be achieved by the fellow.

AFFILIATED HOSPITALS
Associates Surgery Centers
UPMC Presbyterian
Western Pennsylvania Hospital
Wheeling Hospital

APPOINTMENTS
• Fellowship appointments run from July 1 to June 30 over a one to two year period.
• The fellow will take emergency/triage calls with staff surgeon support.
• A cell phone will be provided.
• A library and references including current journals will be available.

FELLOW BENEFITS
Vacation: 2 Weeks per year plus one additional week for conferences.
Salary: $70,000 for the first year; $75,000 for the second year
Insurance: Medical/Dental; Malpractice
Misc: Cell phone/pager
Call: RN’s/Ophthalmic technicians take first line call. Fellows take second line call. Attending available 24/7.

FELLOW RESPONSIBILITIES
Clinical:
• Independent Patient Care/Fellow Clinic
• Acquire Clinical/Medical Retinal Skills in attending clinics

OR/Surgical:
• Assist Attendings in OR
• Block Time, 2nd Year
• Follow all post-op patients
• Fellows will be involved in over 1,500 surgical cases.

Research:
• Help manage multiple national multicenter clinical trials
• Help design and manage IST’s
• One publication in peer reviewed journal
• Two publications in trade journals

CONFERENCES
Bi-weekly Conferences:
• Surgical Morbidity and Mortality
• Imaging Medical Retina
• Journal Club

National Conferences:
• ASRS (Year 1)
• AAO (Year 2)
• Stipend available