

2019-2020 Fellow



Dr. Micaela Gobeille

I write to you as my time as the Lions Low Vision Fellow at the Wilmer Eye Institute comes to a close. I can hardly believe this year is over. It feels like just yesterday I was meeting the low vision and rehabilitation team, feeling excited to start the final step in my education to become a low vision specialist. I'll be honest...I never imagined the last few months of my fellowship would be in the midst of a global pandemic. To say I am proud to be a part of Johns Hopkins, especially during this time, would be an understatement. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and train under the most talented clinicians and researchers, guiding me and reminding me just why I chose to focus on the treatment and rehabilitation of low vision patients. Though that care looks a bit different now, I am constantly reminded what makes this program and its patients special.

Before joining Wilmer, I completed my low vision residency at a VA hospital on Long Island. I have always known I wanted low vision to be the focus of my career. I continue to be humbled by the support of your organization for making this fellowship, and my ability to become a low vision specialist, possible. This is still the only low vision fellowship in the country and that makes what you are offering unique and special. This fellowship is a unique learning experience. We need more low vision specialists to see the aging population. This fellowship absolutely helps to meet that need. I am grateful for this time and look forward to spreading the knowledge I've gained as I continue on in my career. I've spent the last few weeks participating in telemedicine visits and focusing on my research and data collection.

For me, it is the interactions I have with the patients – in person or through video – that will be what I carry with me long after my time at Wilmer comes to a close. When I am first meeting with a patient, there is a lot of stress and anxiety on their part. The question almost always comes up; “can my vision be fixed?” I cherish being part of the journey to help the patient find the best device, the most useful services and to watch them come to terms with their vision and eventually, when they are ready to accept help, understand how much those services help them grow. I want to thank every single Lion who has made this fellowship possible. You can never understand the impact you are having on me and the patients who will be guided by the care we provide. The impact is immeasurable. I know how much work goes into raising every dollar and I hope you will share my thanks with every person who has had a part in supporting this position. I am grateful for my time at the Lions Low Vision Clinic. It has been my pleasure to serve the patients and to honor the service of the Lions. Thank you for your support.

Most Sincerely,

Micaela Gobeille, OD