

**General Practice Residency Program
VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS)**



The General Practice Residency Program at the Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System, Medical Center is a one year advanced training program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The curriculum is designed to broaden the expertise of the general dentist in the dental specialties, manage medically compromised patients, and gain familiarity with hospital protocol and procedures including the treatment of inpatient and same day surgery patients.

The resident program begins July 1 and continues for 52 weeks with 20 days of paid annual leave. The program emphasizes clinical training in endodontics, oral medicine, oral surgery, periodontics, prosthodontics, and restorative dentistry. In addition, there are off-service assignments in dentoalveolar trauma, anesthesia, and emergency medicine.

Within the scope of the program, the dental residents advance their knowledge in the understanding and care of the medically compromised patient. This is achieved through review of each patient's medical history with a staff mentor, medical risk reviews on specific medical conditions, grand rounds, and formal case presentations.

The didactic program comprises about 10% of the resident's time. The didactic program includes lectures, seminars, weekly literature reviews, medical risk assessment, and case presentations; also, there is the opportunity to attend various local professional meetings.

A professionally staffed medical library is located on the fourth floor of the Medical Center. Dental residents have access to a network of 160 VA Medical Center libraries. Residents can also utilize the Biomedical Library on the UCSD School of Medicine campus.

Please direct inquiries to the Program Director:

Dr. Kenneth M. Fedor, DDS, FAGD

VA Medical Center
Dental Service (160)
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161
(858)552-7525
fax: (858) 552-7507
<mailto:VASDHSGPR@med.va.gov>

DENTAL SERVICE AT VASDHS

VA Dentistry in San Diego is an integral, supportive member of the VA San Diego Healthcare System. As part of the corporate structure mandated to serve a selected part of the veteran population, alignment of the Service's Mission, Vision, and Values with its parent organization is essential. Also important is its similar programmatic alignment with the Mission, Vision and Values of the national Office of Patient Care Services, Dental Healthcare Group.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Dental Service of the VASDHS delivers comprehensive, cost-effective, quality dental care to eligible veterans, and provides appropriate oral health care to those beneficiaries with medical conditions compromised by sub-optimal oral health. We enhance and expand our ability to provide dental care through education, research and innovative partnerships.

VA Dentistry in San Diego focuses on quality patient care and quality health care; Care that is defined as needed; Care that is delivered by competent professionals in a timely manner; Care that minimizes risk and results in real benefits to our patients.

DENTAL CLINIC

The Dental Service occupies a 4,700 square foot clinic in the west wing of the first floor of the medical center. The clinic consists of 11 operatories, administrative offices, an oral surgery suite, radiology, and a fully equipped dental laboratory. All necessary instruments and supplies are provided. The clinic features state of the art equipment, such as endodontic surgical microscopes and digital radiography.

SCOPE OF DENTAL SERVICES

Dental treatment is accomplished within the Dental Clinic as well as the main operating suites of the Medical Center. Oral health screening examinations and consultative services are provided in all inpatient settings within the Medical Center.

General and specialty dental services are provided as outlined below.

Those procedures marked with an asterisk (*) are usually performed by practitioners board eligible or board certified in that particular dental specialty. Other procedures as listed may be performed by general practitioners having demonstrated competence for the procedure and are appropriately privileged.

General Dentistry

Oral diagnosis and treatment planning
Oral/Maxillofacial radiographic interpretation
Operative dentistry

Periodontics

Periodontal assessment and treatment planning
Periodontal debridement, scaling, and polishing
Surgical periodontal therapy
Periodontal surgical regenerative therapy

Endodontics

Simple and complex endodontics
Endodontic retreatment
Surgical endodontic therapy

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Simplex and complex exodontia
Dental implant placement
Treatment of orofacial odontogenic infection
Intraoral/perioral excision of neoplasms
Pre-prosthetic surgical preparation
Repair of intraoral and extraoral lacerations
Salivary gland and duct surgery*
Repair of oroantral or oronasal fistula*
Antrostomy*
Open and closed reduction of facial/jaw fractures*
Hard/soft tissue reconstruction*
Procurement hard/soft tissue grafts*
Selected orthognathic surgery*

Prosthodontics

Fixed and removable prosthodontics
Prosthodontic implant restoration
Limited maxillofacial prosthetic reconstruction*
Complex occlusal reconstruction*

Dental Hygiene

Dental debridement, scaling, and polishing
Oral periodontal irrigation
Oral hygiene instruction

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The objective of the residency program is to provide each resident with training and experiences beyond the pre-doctoral level. The goals toward demonstrating competency are:

1. To provide advanced training in the general practice of dentistry at the postdoctoral level.
2. To provide clinical and hospital experiences and community service in comprehensive and emergency oral care to a wide range of patients with regard to complexity, medical, physical, and mental health compromising conditions, including a variety of patient ages.
3. To provide extensive clinical, didactic, and hospital opportunities for interdisciplinary interaction between the resident and other health care providers.
4. To provide didactic information and clinical guidance in communicative, behavior management, and practice management skills; apply them to the practice of dentistry.
5. To provide an appropriate environment for critical review and presentation of literature and the pursuit of individual career goals.

SCOPE OF CLINICAL PROGRAM

Patient selection - The diverse, large patient population offers a variety of dental and medical conditions.

Oral Medicine - Emphasizes the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of soft and hard tissue pathology; diagnosis and treatment prior to tissue transplant and head & neck radiation.

Oral Surgery - Designed to enhance the oral surgery skills of the general dentist. Simple and complex extractions, biopsy, implantology, and hard tissue recontouring. This rotation involves inpatient admissions and operating room procedures under general anesthesia.

Endodontics - Designed to provide the general dentist with expertise in the diagnosis, planning and treatment. The resident is given the opportunity to treat emergencies, retreatment including endo surgery, and combined endo-perio therapy.

Periodontics - Emphasis is placed on the diagnosis and treatment of periodontal disease. Opportunities exist for surgical intervention, mucosal grafts and maintenance. The roles of nutrition and compromised medical conditions in the development of periodontal disease are emphasized.

Restorative - The resident is given the opportunity to treat a variety of dental conditions and work with a variety of dental materials.

Prosthodontics - Emphasizes the diagnosis, planning, design and treatment of edentulous and semi-edentulous conditions utilizing fixed and removable prosthodontics. The choice of apparatus and the prognosis for success of the appliance will be considered.

Maxillofacial prosthetics - The resident will have the opportunity to work with the staff prosthodontist in the construction of obturators, surgical and gnathological splints.

DIDACTIC PROGRAM

The didactic program, which constitutes approximately 10% of resident time, features:

Medical risk assessment
Treatment planning conferences
Journal club
Lectures
Formal case presentations
Table clinic presentation
Various Grand Rounds
A comprehensive review of Oncology

ON-CALL RESPONSIBILITY

Residents have on-call responsibilities.

Residents rotate call with each other; there will always be a faculty member as back up should the resident require their assistance.

When you are on call, you must be available to be reached by pager. You are expected to be within thirty minutes driving time/distance to the medical center.

Historically, on-call rotations do not require staying over night in the medical center. VASDHS is not a trauma center.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

1. U.S. Citizenship
2. Graduate of an ADA accredited dental school
3. Part I National Board score above 80
4. Dental school GPA of at least 3.00
5. Class standing in the 1st or 2nd quintile
4. U.S. citizens who graduate from a non-ADA accredited dental school must complete additional training at an ADA accredited dental school

Historically, applicants accepted to this program graduate in the upper third of their class

STIPEND

There is **no** tuition.

Dental residents are paid a PGY1 stipend that is competitive for the Southern California region. The stipend for 2006 is \$40,500.

FACULTY

The faculty consists of 8 full-time staff dentists.

There is a board certified oral surgeon, board certified endodontist, a board eligible prosthodontists, and 5 general dentists. Medical Center staff from other services participate in the training of our residents.

HOW TO APPLY

This program is a participant in the Postdoctoral Application Support Service (PASS) of the American Dental Education Service. This program has been designed to simplify the application process. There is a fee for this service.

A complete application will include the PASS application plus the VA Resident application form and a photo.

Online PASS applications are available at www.adea.org.

The VA San Diego Healthcare System Nondiscrimination Policy is adhered to in the selection process to the General Practice Residency in the Department of Dentistry.

VISITING VASDHS DENTAL SERVICE

Perhaps you have already decided to pursue postdoctoral education. The choice of which postdoctoral advanced dental education program is another significant step in your career.

You are welcome to visit the dental service at VASDHS, meet the program director or other faculty members.

PLEASE call in advance to schedule a visit.



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