

General Practice Residency in Dentistry Program



Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center
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VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
Portland, Oregon
GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY IN DENTISTRY

The Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center offers a general practice residency in dentistry program approved by the American Dental Association and affiliated with the Oregon Health Sciences University.

The Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center (www.va.gov/portland) is located on a hillside within Sam Jackson Park and overlooks the city of Portland and the Cascade Range, including Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens. This area is known as the medical and dental center for the entire state of Oregon and southwestern Washington. In addition to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Oregon Health Sciences University Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, and Nursing, and the University Hospitals, are located nearby.

The Medical Center includes a tertiary-care hospital, nursing home care unit, several rehab units, an outpatient clinic and a nursing home. Over 400 residents rotate through the Medical Center each year in the various specialties of medicine, surgery and allied health fields. The Medical Center and its satellite outpatient clinics provide over 218,000 outpatient visits annually. There is an active research program, excellent medical library, and a full-service medical media department.

Residents must meet the following requirements:

1. Be citizens of the United States
2. Be graduates of an accredited North American Dental School by the ADA.
3. Have passed the National Board Examination - Part 1.
4. Acquire a Postdoctoral Dental Match Program Code.

All qualified candidates will receive equal consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, politics, marital status, non-disqualifying or mental handicap, age or membership or non-membership in a labor organization.

Our Dental Service is also participating in the Postdoctoral Application Support Service, (PASS). This is an optional method of applying to our residency program. You can either apply through PASS or apply direct to us as explained under "Instructions to Applicants."

DUTY AND LEAVE

Appointment as a resident is for one year starting July 1st. The program is designed to give the graduate dentist one-year of training in the various phases of general dentistry.

All members of the Department of Medicine and Surgery must be available and responsible for the care of their patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Rotating duty rosters covers off-duty hours. All residents are required to serve for a period of one week at a time alternating as Dental Officer of the Day, during which time residents must

be available for on-call duty, outside of normal clinic hours. Pagers are assigned to residents. The resident normally works in the dental clinic or is on duty elsewhere from 8:00AM to 4:30PM each weekday and for such other periods as may be necessary for the care of their patients. When assigned to OHSU or elsewhere they will conform to the requirements of that particular institution. Twenty-one days of annual leave (vacation) is granted per year at the convenience of the Dental Service.

The current stipend for residents is \$48,000.00 plus.

CLINICAL FACILITIES

The main clinic is located in the Medical Center's hospital building which opened in 1988. This 21-operator clinic includes a fully equipped dental laboratory, as well as special operatories for endodontics, periodontics, implants, oral surgery, maxillofacial prosthodontics, and dental hygiene. Additional facilities include a large classroom, and separate X-ray rooms for digital radiography or intraoral and panoramic images. A dental operator is assigned to each resident, so that they can practice dentistry most efficiently. This arrangement provides valuable experience to facilitate the residents' eventual transition to a private practice upon completion of their training.

We also have a dental clinic located at our Vancouver, Washington division of the Portland VAMC. This is a 5-chair clinic where each resident works for approximately 2 months out of the year in a block rotation. This site is located 13 miles north of the main hospital - residents are expected to report to the Vancouver site; no transportation is available for the resident between the two sites.

Additional training and experience is provided at the OHSU Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, where the resident will have courses, seminars and rotations.

The Medical Center has a comprehensive library containing over 7600 books and 660 journal titles, including a collection of dental journals. The libraries of the medical and dental schools are also available to the GP resident. Residents have access to online resources. The VA has an institutional license w/ Lexi-Comp.

ORIENTATION

Orientation to the program begins the first week; the resident is introduced to dental clinic procedures and protocols, record keeping, medical risk assessment, clinical privileges, and the many other operational details of a hospital dental practice. From time to time as the program advances, additional orientation will be provided.

HISTORY TAKING, EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSIS

Throughout the year the resident is taught the value of obtaining an accurate history from the patient, keeping in mind the use of past medical and dental records. Residents spend significant time examining, diagnosing and treatment planning patients.

A staff dentist reviews the resident's findings before treatment is initiated. Residents are expected to promptly record all necessary documentation of treatment in the appropriate records and to keep records filed in the central filing system.

CLINICAL DENTISTRY DISCIPLINES

1. **Restorative Dentistry:**

Clinical work in this specialty provides the resident with varied experiences to improve his/her proficiency in operative procedures. Lectures and demonstrations by the staff members on special techniques are presented throughout the year.

2. **Oral Surgery:**

The resident will spend considerable time in oral surgery under the supervision of our oral surgeon and/or full-time attending staff. Residents will perform extractions and be trained in surgical procedures in the dental clinic and the hospital operating rooms. Oral surgery performed will include removal of impacted teeth, (often with IV sedation), osseous and soft tissue surgery and biopsies.

3. **Prosthodontics:**

The resident has the opportunity to spend optimal time in this specialty. The program is particularly strong in this field, as there are a great number of prosthodontic cases available. Many joint seminars will be held with the Graduate Prosthodontic Department. The resident experiences all phases in the fabrication of full dentures, partial dentures, crowns, bridges, immediate dentures, and special prostheses for patients who have undergone surgical removal of tumors of the oral cavity and face. Implant experience will be provided for treatment planning and work-up of cases.

4. **Periodontics:**

Diagnosis, etiology and rationale of periodontal treatment are presented. The importance of follow-up home care and professional maintenance is stressed. Specific periodontal treatment is presented by lecture, demonstration and supervised treatment administered by the resident. Residents will be trained in periodontal surgical techniques by our staff periodontist. Experience in both emergency cases and management of chronic periodontal disease is available.

5. **Endodontics:**

The staff supervise this specialty. Both the theory and techniques of conventional and surgical endodontics are presented. Training in use of rotary system, warm vertical condensation and use of apex locator.

6. **Geriatric Dentistry/Extended Care:**

An integral part of the resident's 2-month Vancouver rotation will be working with an extended care population consisting of a 120-bed nursing home, an adult day care program (about 63 active patients), a Rehabilitation Program (20 in-patient beds), a Chemical Addiction Rehabilitation Service (30 beds), a newly opened Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Program (15 beds) and a facility for patients awaiting liver transplants.

Dental Service also serves as a consultant for the home care program, and the Community Nursing Home program; both based in Vancouver. Upon completion of the extended-care rotation, we expect residents to demonstrate increased competency in patient assessment (medical and dental), interdisciplinary communication skills, patient transfer techniques, and planning and dental treatment of these complex patients.

The clinical program is oriented toward a general practice schedule, in that, fixed periods of time are not spent within each specialty area (with the exception of oral surgery). Rather, treatment is provided as in private practice so that each day is varied and residents are able to control their own appointment schedules. It is a flexible program where residents may pursue individual interests while completing required assignments in various fields of dentistry.

OFF-SERVICE ROTATIONS

1. **Anesthesiology:**
One hundred (100) hours are devoted to an anesthesiology rotation in the VAMC operating rooms. Residents will experience starting IV's, intubation, and monitoring patients during general anesthesia. The resident will also attend seminars given by the Anesthesiology Service at OHSU as part of this rotation. Resident will do preop assessments.
2. **Emergency Medicine Rotation:**
This 40-hour block assignment to the VAMC Emergency Department provides clinical experience to enable the resident to evaluate and manage systemic emergencies, especially those that may occur in the dental office.
3. **Liver Transplant:**
This 40- hour block assignment provides clinical experience in risk assessment, history and physicals, admission, discharge and care of inpatients and outpatients pre and post transplant.
4. **Community Service**
Quarterly rotation providing oral (cancer) screening exams to nursing home residents.

DIDACTIC PROGRAM

1. **Physical Evaluation:**

The resident will receive hands-on training in doing physical exams in The Principles of Clinical Medicine class, taken with the freshmen medical students at OHSU. The resident also gets follow-up practical experience by performing physical examinations on selected inpatients.

2. **Literature Review:**

Residents abstract and report on classic and current literature dealing with assigned topics.

3. **VA Dental Seminars:**

Specialist consultants are scheduled for didactic seminars with residents and to provide assistance with more difficult clinical cases. All disciplines except pedodontics and orthodontics are represented.

4. **Advanced Anesthesia and Pain Control:**

Multidisciplinary intensive didactic course in anesthesia and pain control designed to compliment the resident's clinical experience in intravenous sedation technique.

5. **Continuing Education Courses:**

The resident is allowed and encouraged to enroll in continuing education courses offered by the Continuing Education Department at the OHSU School of Dentistry. Residents may attend on a space available basis at a reduced fee, paid by the resident. The fee will not be paid by the VA. Each resident may use a limited number of regular duty days (Monday through Friday) during the year for this purpose without charge to annual leave, granted at the convenience of the Dental Service. Any days in excess of 6 days of continuing education will be charged to annual leave

6. **Advanced Cardiac Life Support:**

Successful completion of this course will result in certification in ACLS.

7. **Patient Care Conferences:**

Formal patient care conference is held every other week for discussion of diagnostic problems, treatment planning, case presentations, and review and follow-up of complications.

8. **Resident Presentations:**

Each resident will do a presentation on a dental or medical topic of his or her choice. Residents will be trained to use PowerPoint for slides.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Act as a primary care provider for individuals and groups of patients. This includes: providing emergency and multidisciplinary comprehensive oral health care; providing patient focused care that is coordinated by the general practitioner; directing health promotion and disease prevention activities; and using advanced dental treatment modalities.
2. Plan and provide multidisciplinary oral health care for a wide variety of patients including patients with special needs.
3. Manage the delivery of oral health care by applying concepts of patient and practice management and quality improvement that are responsive to a dynamic health care environment.
4. Function effectively within the hospital and other health care environments.
5. Function effectively within interdisciplinary health care teams.
6. Apply scientific principles to learning and oral health care. This includes using critical thinking, evidence or outcomes-based clinical decision-making, and technology-based information retrieval systems.
7. Utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, adaptability , and acceptance of cultural diversity in professional practice.
8. Understand the oral health needs of communities and engage in community service.

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

TO APPLY FOR THIS RESIDENCY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Complete an official application through the Postdoctoral Application Support Service:

PASS

Web site: http://www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/pass/Pages/default.aspx

2. In addition to the PASS process, you will need to complete the following steps.

The following material must be received prior to November 1 of the year prior to a July appointment to be considered.

- A. Complete the attached application form (VA Form 10-2850b).

All materials should be sent to:

VAMC Portland
Dental Service P-3-Dent
3710 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road
Attn: Dr. Ling
Portland, Oregon 97239

Telephone Number (503)220-8262 x 55860
Fax (503)220-3442
E-mail craig.ling@med.va.gov

3. Register in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program.

National Match
Web site: www.natmatch.com/dentres/index.htm

INTERVIEWS

Interviews will be arranged by invitation from the Program Director, once all of your application materials have been received. These interviews are normally scheduled from late November through early January.