Program Goals
1. To enable residents to provide dental and oral care in a Medical Center setting. The residents will learn how to interact with other healthcare providers, including dental specialists.
2. To teach residents how to appropriately care for adult patients with multiple systemic/mental health disorders.
3. To develop the residents’ ability to diagnose oral pathology; sequence, and deliver treatment for a wide spectrum of clinical presentations, from emergency/palliative to comprehensive care. Emphasis is on current concepts of general dentistry.
4. To provide residents with an evidence-based foundation for treatment decisions.
5. To develop the residents’ interest in community service, including teaching.

Clinical Program
Approximately 70% of residents’ time is in the Dental Service. The majority of patients are male outpatients. There is no pediatric dentistry and limited orthodontics is done. Most patients receive comprehensive care. Each resident is responsible for the complete treatment of his or her own patients. Digital radiographs, as well as cone beam CT and Simplant© are used in the clinic. Rotary endodontics is standard procedure for the residents. Residents have both an in-house dental lab and private labs for fixed and removable prosthetics. Residents receive experience in treating patients both in the operating room and ambulatory surgery settings.

Didactic Program
1. Mondays, 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM: lectures are given on a variety of topics. These are generally presented by members of the Medical staff, or from dental company representatives.
2. Fridays, 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM: lectures are given by the Dental staff and residents. Each resident gives one patient presentation and one subject presentation during the year.
3. Literature review: one afternoon each month, with Drs. Patt and Sink.
4. Treatment planning seminar: with Dr. Dennis Tarnow, generally monthly from 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM.
5. Chart reviews: done periodically with Drs. Melillo, Patt, Sink.
6. Medicine and Physical Diagnosis; Pain and Anxiety Control; Medical Emergencies.

Clinic Hours
Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

Rotations
Anesthesiology: 80 hours; Primary Care Medicine: 40 hours; Primary Care – Emergency Room: 40 hours; St. Albans Community Living Center (Queens): this is a variable off-site rotation.
On call assignments
1) General Practice residents treat after-hours and week-end VA emergency patients. The General Practice resident carries the VA pager during this assignment.
2) General Practice residents treat walk-in emergency patients daily throughout the week.

Each GPR also has an assignment to cover for the specialty residents, who are in class from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM each day.

Salary  Approximately $62,000 per year.

Leave policy
Residents receive 26 days of paid annual leave. Fourteen days may be used during the year, the remainder being paid to the resident at the completion of the program. Residents receive 13 days of sick leave for the year. Annual leave must be requested in advance and approved by the Chief of Service or Assistant Chief of Service. Leave is charged only for weekdays. Residents receive 10 paid federal holiday leave days.

Attending staff
General dentists: Dr. James Melillo, (full-time), Dr. Jill Sink (3 days per week); Prosthodontists: Dr. Marissa Patt (2 days per week), Dr. Zachary Sonkin (1 day per week); Oral Surgeons: Dr. Gayle Miranda (full-time), Dr. Ed Miller (half-time); Periodontist: Dr. Trevor Simmonds (full-time); Endodontist: Dr. Denise Foran (full-time). In addition, the specialty residents are available to assist and advise the general practice residents when needed.

Accreditation  This residency is fully accredited by the American Dental Association.

Application procedure
This program participates in the PASS Program (www.ADEA.org/pass), and the Dental Matching Program (www.natmatch.com/dentres). Applicants must be U.S. citizens and will graduate from either a U.S. or Canadian dental school. Male applicants must be registered with the Selective Service System. Complete application requirements are listed on the PASS website. The last day the program accepts applications (from PASS) is October 1. In addition to the PASS application, a Department of Veterans Affairs application (VA form 10-2850b) is required. This application may be obtained by contacting Dr. James Melillo at: james.melillo@va.gov

Return the completed VA application to: Dr. James V. Melillo, Dental Service, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, NY Harbor Healthcare System, Manhattan Campus, 423 East 23rd S