

Department of Veterans Affairs
New York Harbor Healthcare System
Manhattan Campus
General Practice Residency Program in Dentistry
Program Director: James V. Melillo, DMD

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 the patients are male outpatients. There is no pediatric nor orthodontic dentistry 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 in the operating room, emergency 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.
4. Treatment planning seminar: with Dr. Dennis Tarnow, generally monthly from 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM.
5. Chart reviews: done periodically.
6. Medicine and Physical Diagnosis; Pain and Anxiety Control; Medical Emergencies.
7. Treatment planning seminars each Thursday from 8:00 AM -9:30 AM.
8. Oral Pathology Webinar the second Tuesday of each month from 3:00PM-4:00PM.
9. Dental Webinar the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00 PM-4:00PM.

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 VA Community Living Center (NY Harbor Healthcare System, Queens VA campus).

On call assignments

- 1) General Practice residents treat after-hours and weekend VA emergency patients in the emergency department or hospital floor. The General Practice resident carries the VA pager during this assignment.
- 2) General Practice residents treat walk-in emergency patients daily throughout the week during clinical hours.

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 \$65,677 per year.

Attending staff

General dentists: Dr. James Melillo, (full-time); Dr. Winnie Mok, (full-time);
Prosthodontists: Dr. Laura Davila, (full-time); Dr. Frank Tuminelli, (half-time);
Oral Surgeons: Dr. Gayle Miranda (full-time), Dr. Kim Goldman (part-time);
Periodontist: Dr. Trevor Simmonds (full-time);
Endodontist: Dr. Denise Foran (full-time).

There are additional attending staff dentists who come in on various days.

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 online or by contacting Dr. James Melillo at: james.melillo@va.gov

Return the completed VA application to: Dr. James V. Melillo, Dental Service 160, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, NY Harbor Healthcare System, Manhattan Campus, 423 East 23rd St, New York, N.Y. 10010.