

VA San Diego Healthcare System Medical Center



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 all the dental disciplines, 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 15 days of paid annual leave and 10 paid federal holidays. The program emphasizes clinical training in endodontics, oral medicine, oral surgery, periodontics, prosthodontics, and restorative dentistry. In addition, there are off-service assignments in anesthesia, emergency medicine, and head & neck surgery.

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, literature reviews, medical risk assessment, and case presentations; also, there is the opportunity to attend various local professional meetings.

Dental residents have access to the VA electronic library network. The network has a large collection of both e-journals and reference books as well as access to the 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:

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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 new 11,200 square foot clinic on the main medical center grounds. The clinic consists of 16 operatories, 3 oral surgery suites, radiology, a **fully equipped dental laboratory, doctor's and** administrative offices. All necessary instruments and supplies are provided. The clinic features state of the art equipment, such as endodontic surgical microscopes, digital radiograph and computed tomography.

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. Diagnose oral and maxillofacial diseases and provide dental care in the context of each **patient's total health care needs.**
2. Communicate and function effectively with other health care professionals in a variety of health care settings and understand the role of these professionals and the organization and function of the settings.
3. Plan and provide routine and complex dental care for a wide variety of patients by applying advance knowledge and clinical skills.
4. Select those agents and/or techniques appropriate to control pain and anxiety, including local anesthesia, behavioral management, and monitored sedation.
5. Manage dental surgery patients.
6. Manage emergencies that may arise during treatment.
7. Provide public oral health information through participation in VA sponsored community service programs.
8. Demonstrate the application of the principles of ethical reasoning, ethical decision making and professional responsibility as they pertain to the academic environment, research, patient care, and practice management.

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 ambulatory surgery and 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

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 on call, the resident must be available 24/7. Although overnight stays at the medical center are not necessary, the resident is expected to be within thirty minutes driving time/distance to the medical center.

OFF-SERVICE ROTATIONS

Each resident is scheduled to the following out of clinic rotations:

Anesthesia
ED
Head & Neck Surgery

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

1. U.S. Citizenship
2. Graduate of an ADA accredited dental school
3. A PASS result in Part I National Board to apply
4. A PASS result in Part II National Board to begin the program
5. Dental school GPA of at least 3.00
6. Class standing in the 1st or 2nd quintile
7. 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.

FACULTY

The faculty consists of 13 full-time staff dentists.

There is a board certified oral surgeon, board certified endodontist, 2 board eligible prosthodontists, and 7 general dentists. Medical Center staff from other services participates 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 is 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.

On-line PASS applications are available at www.adea.org

The VA San Diego Healthcare System Non-discrimination 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 post-doctoral education.

The choice of a post-doctoral 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 email in advance to schedule a visit at Andre.Solumekh@va.gov

