UBC GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM IN DENTISTRY

The University of British Columbia Faculty of Dentistry, in conjunction with Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and BC Cancer (BCC), offers positions in a one-year hospital-based General Practice Residency (GPR) Program beginning in June of each year.

The emphasis of the residency is on the acquisition of advanced surgical, medical, and dental knowledge and skills in preparation for:

1. Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology, Periodontics, Endodontics, or other dental specialty graduate training programs
2. Those planning to work in general practice who want an enhanced skillset for managing odontogenic infections, dental trauma, oral pathology, surgery, and complex medical situations
3. Practitioners interested in providing dental services in hospital settings, Long-Term Care facilities, or other settings where medically compromised patients with dental needs exist
4. Practitioners interested in University teaching or hospital positions

The goals of the UBC GPR program include:

1. Provision of an environment where new dental graduates can enhance their dental and medical skills and knowledge and improve their practice capabilities
2. Enhancement of knowledge and skills required in the management of medically compromised patients by treating these patients under the supervision of experienced mentors
3. Provision of opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge in the management of more complex dental treatment than typically provided in an undergraduate dental curriculum by treating these patients under supervision by dental specialist mentors
4. Provision of the opportunity for residents to acquire a greater understanding of the relationship of medicine and dentistry through off-service rotations in various medical and surgical specialties
5. Provision of the opportunity for residents to enhance their knowledge base in General Dentistry through formal seminars and hands-on clinical sessions hosted by faculty members from the UBC Faculty of Dentistry, Vancouver Coastal Health, and BC Cancer
6. Provision of the opportunity for residents to garner insight into ethical and social concerns regarding the provision of medical and dental care
7. Provision of the opportunity to develop skills that will enhance application into a graduate dental specialty training program

TRAINING ROTATIONS

Residents in the UBC GPR program rotate through a variety of clinical experiences, broadly grouped into the following:

I) VGH Dental Service

The UBC GPR program, in partnership with the VGH Dental Service and the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS), provides essential services in the VGH outpatient ambulatory care dental unit, the emergency room (ER), the operating rooms (OR), and in the various wards and critical care units in VGH.

The emphasis is on the assessment, diagnosis, and provision of care to patients who are medically or clinically complex, adults with special needs, or those who require the expertise of the hospital dentists or OMF surgeons for the safe provision of their care.

During the rotation, the resident will do consults, manage the care of admitted patients on the wards, cover the emergency room, provide basic dental and oral surgical services, and assist the OMF surgeons in the OR for emergency cases.

Residents can expect to spend approximately 4 months of their time (spaced out throughout the year in one-month blocks) in this rotation, comprised of one day per week in Oral Surgery, one day in Oral Medicine, and three days in consults/treatments in the GP clinic or wards.
II) Emergency Call

Each resident provides call coverage for the dental service at VGH and will attend to dental emergencies in the ER or wards with the mentoring of an experienced GP or OMF surgeon. Typical emergencies include dental trauma, oral-fascial space infections, and bleeding.

III) OMF and GP Operating Room Rotation

Residents will spend approximately four months in the OR rotation in UBC Hospital Operating Rooms (OR) assisting OMF surgeons in orthognathic surgery, bone grafts, TMJ scoping, emergency procedures including incision and drainage of major head and neck infections, reduction of fractures, excision of cysts and tumours, and, when working with GPs, routine dental procedures on medically complex patients. Residents are also expected to perform rounds and handle other associated in-patient duties.

IV) Off-Service Medical Rotations

Residents in the UBC GPR program participate in a variety of off-service medical rotations which may include Plastic Surgery, Otolaryngology, and Anaesthesia. Residents take on the role of junior medical residents in those services, and are expected to see and treat patients, assist on call, and assist in surgery.

V) Oncology Rotation

Residents in the UBC GPR program will be provided the opportunity to work in the BC Cancer Dental Clinic where their knowledge and skills in the dental management of oncology patients will be enhanced. Focus is placed whereby the malignancy itself or its treatment may have profound impact on oral health. Residents will work under the supervision of dental specialists in the BC Cancer dental clinics, including oral maxillofacial surgeons, prosthodontists, and oral medicine/pathology specialists.

Residents will develop knowledge in:

1. Preparing patients to undergo cancer therapy, from a dental perspective
2. Dental management of patients actively undergoing cancer therapy
3. Diagnosis and management of oral sequelae following cancer therapy
Objectives of this rotation include:

1. Developing knowledge in:
   a. Various cancers of the Head and Neck complex, including treatment for Head and Neck cancer
   b. Oncologic conditions commonly treated with allogeneic or autologous stem cell transplants
   c. Systemic anti-resorptive and anti-angiogenic therapies related to Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaws
   d. Assessment and diagnosis of oral disease in dental oncology patients
   e. Safe and ethical provision of emergency dental services in immunocompromised patients
   f. Diagnosis and management of oral sequelae of cancer therapy
   g. Rationale and evidence for providing dental care prior to cancer therapy and how cancer therapy itself impacts dental care

2. Developing skills in:
   a. Providing comprehensive dental care, including restorative care, prosthodontics, and minor oral surgery, for oncology patients, including but not limited to patients at risk of ORN/MRONJ (osteoradionecrosis/medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaws), severe xerostomia and/or trismus
   b. Diagnosis and management of ORN/MRONJ
   c. Indications and contraindications for minor or major oral surgery in patients at risk for developing ORN, including obtaining and interpreting radiation dosimetry records
   d. Providing comprehensive dental care for oncology patients treated with allogeneic or autologous bone marrow transplants
   e. Diagnosis and management of xerostomia and its sequelae
   f. Diagnosis and management of oral graft versus host disease

ORIENTATION AND EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS

The initial orientation period is designed to bridge the gap between dental school and being a hospital resident with the skill level required to function within our program. Residents can expect to start the residency with an 80+ hour “boot camp” orientation over two weeks in June consisting, in part, of:

   a) Total history and physical examination training (including heart, lung and abdomen)
   b) Ordering and interpretation of blood and other lab tests
   c) Ordering and interpretation of CT scans
   d) Managing orofacial infections
e) Appropriate antibiotic use (oral and IV)
f) Oncological care
g) Emergency care
h) Management of dental alveolar trauma
i) Management of maxillofacial trauma;
j) Hospital protocol
k) Proper procedure for hospital ward, Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Room consult
l) ECG Interpretation
m) BLS update
n) Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
o) Airway management
p) IV and IO administration
q) Use of Nitrous Oxide

The ongoing educational opportunities throughout the year focus on practical and clinically relevant hospital-based skills and activities. This includes resident or staff seminars, rounds and academic days on off-service medical rotations, hands-on clinical seminars, and dental conferences. A lecture series is hosted on alternating weeks throughout the year, which addresses contemporary topics in hospital dentistry and general dentistry. Lectures are provided by residents and faculty members from the UBC Faculty of Dentistry.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

It is important that applicants clarify in their minds what type of experience they are seeking. Residents should appreciate that this is not, for example, an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program.

Additionally, at VGH, the hospital mandate is to treat medically compromised patients who can more safely receive care in a hospital setting than in a community-based practice. That means a significant amount of time is spent performing consults or simple procedures on medically compromised patients. This reduces the resident’s exposure to advanced restorative procedures, as they are less frequently performed on medically complex patients.

However, our program takes advantage of the unique opportunities available only in a hospital environment to build a resident’s core surgical/medical, OMS, and hospital dentistry skills. Explosive growth in complex medical care, new pharmaceuticals, advanced imaging and laboratory studies, advanced monitoring in the OR and wards, immunotherapy, and general technological
advances have changed the way we need to prepare residents for working in this new knowledge-intense and dynamic environment.

In British Columbia, dental and medical residents are treated equally, are funded by the BC Ministry of Health, receive identical salaries and benefits, and belong to the “Resident Doctors of BC”. Similarly, at VGH, all residents are treated equally, are bound by the same rules, and have the same responsibilities, subject to their assignments and skill levels. Residents receive four weeks paid vacation during the program.

We are looking for exceptional candidates who are highly motivated to expand their knowledge and skill sets.

Residents successfully completing this program will be better prepared to enter an Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology, Periodontics, or other dental specialty graduate training program. Alternatively, residents successfully completing the program will be better prepared to enter private practice, hospital-based practice, rural practice, or academic positions.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following criteria are used in selection:

1. Personal Achievements and Future Goals
2. Class Standing
3. Letter of Intent- A one-page letter describing why you wish to pursue a residency in Vancouver
4. Letter of Standing from the Dean (or their designate) of the applicant’s dental school
5. Reference Letters: Three letters from faculty members the applicant has trained under
6. Interview

Candidates must satisfy the requirements of the College of Dental Surgeons of B.C. for registration. Graduates of all Canadian and American dental schools are eligible to apply.

Foreign dentists, other than U.S. trained graduates, must possess a certificate issued by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada and must meet immigration requirements.
Applications may be obtained at www.dentistry.ubc.ca, under education/postgraduate programs.

**ACCOMMODATION**

There are no resident housing facilities at the hospital, but a network of rental housing is available within walking distance.

**REMUNERATION**

The stipend for a resident is $54,848.73 per annum. When applicable, additional payments are added for being "on-call". Additional benefits include the provision of uniforms, and 20 days of vacation (four weeks), medical, dental, extended health, long-term disability, and life and malpractice insurance plans. All vacation requests must be submitted in writing for approval.

**FEES**

The residents selected are registered as graduate students in the Faculty of Dentistry and with the College of Dental Surgeons of B.C. for which separate fees are paid. Membership in the Professional Association of Residents is required. There is a small GPR program fee.

**APPLICATION AND INFORMATION**

**ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants who received their dental degree from a school where English was not the primary language of study must present evidence of proficiency in English. One of the following tests of English proficiency is acceptable:

**TOEFL**

The minimum TOEFL score required is 580 paper-based or 93 internet-based, taken within twenty-four (24) months prior to the time of submission of the application. TOEFL score sheets must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Centre in sealed and official envelopes. Photocopies of test scores are not acceptable.
IELTS

A minimum overall band score of 6.5 is required with a minimum score of 6.0 in each component of the academic (not general) IELTS test. IELTS score sheets must be sent directly from source in sealed and official envelopes. Photocopies of test score are not acceptable.

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