

GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM IN DENTISTRY

The University of British Columbia, in conjunction with Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), a tertiary care facility and trauma center, offers positions in a one-year hospital based dental residency program (GPR) beginning in June of each year.

The emphasis of the residency is on the gradual acquisition of advanced surgical/medical/dental skills in preparation for:

- a) an Oral Maxillofacial residency;
- b) a Periodontics graduate program;
- c) an Oral Pathology/Medicine residency;
- d) those planning to work in general practice who want more advanced skill sets for managing infections, injuries, pathology, surgery, and complex medical situations;
- e) those planning to enter Anesthesia residencies, or interested in building the strongest possible base on which to later provide IV sedations in their practice;
- f) practitioners interested in working in hospitals (common in smaller towns where GPs handle trauma, infections and use ORs);
- g) practitioners interested in university or hospital positions; and
- h) those interested in having an expanded scope of training, and being self-sufficient in remote underserved areas, military assignments, or in third world volunteer work environments.

TRAINING ROTATIONS

Similar to US rotating medical internships, the UBC GPRs rotate through a variety of clinical experiences, broadly grouped into the following:

I) Hospital Clinical Dental Services (HCDS)

The UBC GPR program, in partnership with VGH clinical dental services, 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, and who require the expertise of the hospital dentists or OMF surgeons, for the safe provision of their care.

During the HCDS 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 the HCDS 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 Room

Each resident provides 24-hour call coverage approximately one night out of three, and one weekend out of three, and will attend to emergencies in the ER or wards with the mentoring of an experienced GP or OMF surgeon. Typical emergencies include oral trauma, infections and bleeding. The workload can vary between no calls, to being up all night, and residents are encouraged to live near the hospital for convenience.

III) OMF and GP Operating Room Rotation

Residents will spend approximately four months in the OR rotation primarily in the UBC or VGH hospital Operating Rooms (OR) assisting the surgeons in major Le Fort and VSS osteotomies, bone grafts, TMJ scoping, and emergency procedures including incision and drainage of major face and neck infections, reduction of fractures, excision of cysts and tumours, and when working with GPs, routine dental procedures. Residents are also expected to perform rounds and handle other associated in-patient duties.

On days when no OR is running, residents will:

- a) attend the UBC school oral surgery clinic with an experienced OMF surgeon mentoring the residents on their own complex surgical cases that are too difficult for undergrad students;
- b) because of their advanced emergency skills training, residents will help train graduate (endo, perio) and undergraduate students in emergency mock arrest scenarios; and
- c) attend a general clinic day at the BC Cancer Agency to provide treatments to their patients; this is a chance to experience the special challenges associated with this patient group, and at the same time have the opportunity to also perform high quality treatments.

IV) Off Service Medical Rotations

To build the required knowledge, skill sets and confidence, all UBC GPRs participate in a variety of rotations such as Plastic Surgery, ENT, Anesthesiology, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, and Emergency Room Medicine. Residents will spend about one month in ENT/cancer surgery, one month in plastics, one week in anesthesia, and two weeks working in the ER. Residents take on the role of junior residents in those services, and are expected to see and treat patients, and assist on call and in surgery.

The residents will be in medical surgical rotations approximately three months of the year, and the OMF surgical rotation for approximately four months, for a total of about seven months.

ORIENTATION AND EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS

The initial orientation period is designed to bridge the gap between dental school and being a resident with the skill level required to function within our program. Because of the OMS and medical/surgical rotations:

- a) we need residents up to speed quickly and cannot wait to do weekly or monthly educational seminars throughout the year; and
- b) residents will be away in other rotations participating in their respective services seminar series and rounds, and will not be free to attend our own.

On that basis, residents can expect to start the residency with an 80+ hour “boot camp” orientation 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 protocols;
- k) proper procedure for hospital ward, Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Room consults;
- l) ECG Interpretation;
- m) BLS update;
- n) enhanced Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS);
- o) airway management,
- p) IV and IO administration; and
- q) nitrous oxide and general anesthesia lectures and labs.

The ongoing educational opportunities throughout the year focus on practical and clinically relevant hospital based skills and activities. This includes resident or staff seminars, grand rounds, morbidity and mortality rounds, and case presentations.

Please note that due to the complex nature of our patients, and the medical/surgical rotations where you will be expected to function as one their residents, it is necessary that all residents remain current and proficient in ACLS and general emergency management.

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, we do not treat any patient that could be treated in a regular community dental office; our hospital mandate is to treat only patients that, but for our special skills or facilities, would not receive treatment. That means a lot of time is spent doing consults or performing simple procedures on medically compromised patients; this reduces the resident’s exposure to advanced restorative procedures, as they are less frequently performed on transplant, and other 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 BC, 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 also receive four weeks paid vacation, and a generous allowance to travel, with extra time off, subject to scheduling, to an appropriate educational meeting of their choice.

We are looking for exceptional candidates who are highly motivated and excited to expand their knowledge and skill sets. In exchange, residents will have a unique experience that builds clinical assessment and treatment skills they did not know existed, and experience a sense of personal and professional growth that is a once in a lifetime experience.

Residents successfully completing this program will be prepared to enter any Oral Maxillofacial surgery, Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology, or Periodontics program.

Those skills will also prepare a resident to go into private practice and comprehensively and confidently consult, treat, or refer patients with any amount of medical complexity, and with any emergency. They should also have the skills to work in underserved or third world mission environments, or to confidently utilize a hospital, OR and ER, and be able to work collaboratively with other medical and dental specialists to ensure optimal patient care.

APPLICANTS FOR A SECOND-YEAR RESIDENCY

The VGH dental service will also consider applications for a second-year General Practice Residency. The applicant must be enrolled in, or have completed a one-year GPR/Internship. The second-year resident is a leadership position and an opportunity to build exponentially on the first year's training and experiences.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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. The General Practice Residency program is now under the direction of Dr. Larry Goldstein, an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon/ACLS Instructor. Applications may be obtained at www.dentistry.ubc.ca, under education/postgraduate programs.

ACCOMMODATION

There are no resident housing facilities at the hospital but an extensive network of rentals is close by within walking distance.

REMUNERATION

The stipend for a Resident I is \$48,565.20 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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