

UBC GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

The University of British Columbia Faculty of Dentistry, in conjunction with Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), British Columbia Cancer Agency, and British Columbia Children's Hospital 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 with medically complex patients
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 three to four months of their program 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 three 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) Medical Off-Service Rotations

Residents in the UBC GPR program participate in a variety of off-service medical rotations which may include 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) BC Cancer Agency Oral Oncology Rotation

Residents in the UBC GPR program spend approximately three months of their program at the BC Cancer Agency's Department of Oral Oncology 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

VI) BC Children's Hospital

Residents in the UBC GPR program rotate to the BC Children's Hospital Department of Dentistry as part of their training program. This clinical rotation provides broad exposure to hospital pediatric dentistry, including comprehensive, preventative, and therapeutic oral health diagnosis, treatment and consultative expertise for infants, and medically compromised children and adolescents. GPR residents work alongside hospital attending staff and graduate specialty trainees from the UBC Faculty of Dentistry's Combined MSc and Diploma Program in Pediatric Dentistry. Clinical activities include care in the ambulatory clinic, virtual health clinics, emergency rooms, ward consults, and operating rooms. GPR residents participate in emergency call for the BC Children's Hospital Department of Dentistry while on rotation.

VII) UBC Geriatric Dentistry Program

Residents in the UBC GPR program rotate with the UBC Geriatric Dentistry Program, providing dental services to frail and functionally dependent geriatric patients in Long-Term Care. The Geriatric Dentistry rotation's objectives are to expose residents to the unique patient management skills and clinical needs of the aging Canadian population, particularly dental modifications for patients with functional and cognitive decline. Residents are expected to participate in case assessments, treatment planning and execution of treatment under supervision.

Clinical experiences include a range of geriatric dentistry procedures, including restorative dentistry, oral surgery, oral medicine/pathology, periodontology, and removable/fixed prosthodontics. An emphasis on medical risk assessment and treatment planning modification for frail older adults residing in long-term care is emphasized.

VIII) Community Rotations

Dental residents may have the opportunity to rotate to partner public health dental clinics located throughout British Columbia. These clinics provide dental services to those on social assistance, persons with disabilities, those on fixed or low income, refugee status, working poor, among others. This series of rotations is also intended to expand resident's knowledge of the socioeconomic and psycho-social barriers to care and enhance skills in optimizing treatment planning and treatment provision for this patient cohort.

ORIENTATION

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 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

EDUCATION

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. Past topics for hands-on clinical seminars include the use of dental operating microscopes, endodontic instrumentation workshops, airway management techniques, diode lasers, digital dentistry, the use of platelet rich fibrin in oral surgery, and advanced restorative techniques such as injection over molding.

The GPR Resident 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, faculty members from the UBC Faculty of Dentistry, and attending staff from VGH/BC Cancer Agency/BC Children's Hospital. Collaboration with other Canadian GPR programs is encouraged, and guest speakers from across Canada are periodically invited.

Residents also have the opportunity to participate in a bi-weekly Interdisciplinary Seminar Series and Research Series at the UBC Faculty of Dentistry, where complex cases are presented by graduate clinical specialty students and current research activities are showcased.

Residents conduct a variety of didactic activities, including clinical case reports, quality improvement projects, and literature reviews relevant to hospital 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-intensive 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. One official copy of university transcripts from all colleges and universities attended sent from source in sealed and endorsed envelopes (except UBC transcripts).
One official copy of the degree certificate if the official transcript does not indicate the degree received and degree conferral date.
If university transcripts and degree certificates are issued in a language other than English, a literal English translation of one set of official transcripts (and degree certificates if necessary) must be obtained from the issuing University's translation service. Send both the original language and literal English translation transcripts in sealed envelopes endorsed by the issuing university.
2. Personal Achievements and Future Goals
3. Class Standing
4. Letter of Intent- A one-page letter describing why you wish to pursue a residency in Vancouver

5. Letter of Standing from the Dean (or their designate) of the applicant's dental school
6. Reference Letters: Three letters from faculty members the applicant has trained under
7. Interview
8. A TOEFL or IELTS score sheet, if the qualifying degree was received from a country in which English is not the primary language. Tests must be written no more than 24 months prior to the application deadline date.

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:

Tests must be written no more than 24 months prior to the application deadline date.

TOEFL

The minimum TOEFL score required is 580 paper-based or 93 internet-based. TOEFL score sheets must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Centre in sealed and official envelopes or submitted through the TOEFL website. The institution code for UBC Faculty of Dentistry is B135. Photocopies of test scores are not acceptable.

IELTS

A minimum overall band score of 7.0 is required with a minimum score of 6.5 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.

General enquiries can be directed to:

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