

**UBC GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM**  
**GERIATRIC DENTISTRY RESIDENCY TRACK**

The University of British Columbia Faculty of Dentistry, in conjunction with Providence Healthcare, Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), British Columbia Cancer Agency, and the UBC Geriatric Dentistry Program, offers one (1) position in a one-year General Practice Residency (GPR) Program (Geriatric Dentistry Residency Track) beginning in June of each year. This residency track is affiliated with the UBC GPR program but has an enhanced clinical and didactic curriculum focused on addressing the oral health needs of the aging population with a focus on underserved populations.

The UBC GPR (Geriatric Dentistry Residency Track) program prepares dentists to be leaders and teachers in the emerging field of Geriatric Dentistry. This residency track provides the opportunity for dentists who wish to learn more on the wide range of geriatric dentistry issues within the context of the medical, psycho-social, and physical conditions common amongst older adults. The multidisciplinary program incorporates three main components: didactic courses, clinical training, and teaching/administrative training. The clinical experiences take place in varied settings, including acute, rehabilitative, palliative, and long-term care. The educational goal is to provide dental professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to provide patient-centered, sound, and realistic treatment plans for their geriatric patients in institutional, community and private settings. Furthermore, the program provides the opportunity for dentists to contribute to the academic and professional development of geriatrics. Research opportunities are also available.

Residents will gain an in-depth knowledge about older adults from a variety of perspectives that will include learning about the aging process and how it affects and how it is affected by social, behavioural, and health factors commonly seen with aging. The focus of clinical rotations will be the dental management of frail and functionally dependent older adults residing in the community, acute care, and in long-term care facilities. Residents will learn about the most common medical and oral health conditions seen in older adults, including oral lesions and orofacial pain conditions and their treatments, as well as cognitive changes, mental disorders, and social factors that will impact and thus require modification to oral health care delivery. Advanced techniques in patient risk assessment, sedation, oral surgery, behaviour guidance, dementia-friendly dentistry, palliative/end of life care, and teledentistry will be explored throughout the program in both didactic and clinical settings.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The UBC GPR (Geriatric Dentistry Residency Track) has the following educational objectives:

1. To acquire a comprehensive view of the special needs and conditions that arise in the aging population
2. To assess and provide appropriate dental care for geriatric patients, including those with physical, cognitive, and/or functional decline.
3. To understand the administrative structure of Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities and the role that dentistry plays within this structure as well as understanding other geriatric-related services available in Canada
4. To interpret LTC hospital medical records and perform appropriate pre-operative risk assessment for frail and functionally dependent older adult patients
5. To appropriately interact with family members, caregivers, public guardians, allied health personnel, and medical teams in in-patient and outpatient settings to gain informed consent and improve the oral health of older adults
6. To enhance dental and medical skills and knowledge and improve practice capabilities
7. To enhance knowledge and skills required in the management of medically complex patients by treating these patients under the supervision of experienced mentors
8. To acquire a greater understanding of the relationship of medicine and dentistry through off-service rotations in various medical and surgical specialties
9. 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 Agency
10. To garner insight into ethical and social concerns regarding the provision of medical and dental care in the geriatric population

## CURRICULUM AND TRAINING ROTATIONS

The UBC GPR (Geriatric Dentistry Residency Track) includes didactic and clinical rotations preparing students to effectively treat older adult patients living with complex medical conditions and/or special needs. Didactic courses include:

- DENT 743- Seminars on Hospital Dentistry
- DENT 561D- Directed Studies in Geriatric Dentistry (Graduate Prosthodontics)
- DENT 777- Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminars: Interdisciplinary Treatment Planning and Research Seminars
- DENT 741- Specialty Rotations

Residents will serve as teaching assistants in the undergraduate UBC dental curriculum, including the following courses:

- DENT 430- Dental Geriatrics I
- DENT 440- Dental Geriatrics II

Residents in the UBC GPR (Geriatric Dentistry Residency Track) program rotate through a variety of clinical experiences, broadly grouped into the following:

1. 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 facilities and in the UBC Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre. Residents will be exposed 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, consultations with patients and their family caregivers including teledentistry, 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 functionally dependent older adults residing in long-term care is emphasized. Rotations will take place at several LTC facilities in Vancouver as well as the UBC Nobel Biocare Oral Health Centre.

2. 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 healthcare needs, or those who require the expertise of hospital dentists or OMFS specialists for the safe provision of their care.

During the rotation, the resident will perform dental consultations, manage the care of admitted patients on the wards, cover the emergency room, provide basic dental and oral surgical services, and assist the OMFS specialists in the OR for emergency cases.

### 3. 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 experienced GP or OMFS attending staff. Typical emergencies include dental trauma, oral-fascial space infections, and bleeding. UBC GPR residents are typically on call “one in four” (i.e., 7 days per month).

### 4. GP Operating Room

Residents will have the opportunity to participate in the dental care of medically complex patients in the operating room under general anaesthesia. Residents are expected to perform rounds and handle other assigned in-patient duties.

### 5. Medical Off-Service Rotations

Residents in the UBC GPR program participate in a variety of off-service medical rotations which may include Anaesthesia, Geriatric Medicine, Social Work, and Speech Language Pathology. Residents take on the role of junior medical residents in those services, and are expected to see and treat patients, and assist on call and in the OR.

### 6. BC Cancer Agency Oral Oncology Rotation

Residents in the UBC GPR (Geriatric Dentistry Track) program rotate through 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

## 7. 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.

## CAREER OUTCOMES

Upon program completion, graduates from the GPR (Geriatric Dentistry Residency Track) will be able to find careers in:

1. Academia
  - Faculty positions in university-based programs
2. Advocacy
  - Specialized knowledge to provide the depth needed to promote and address the oral health crises and health care challenges in geriatrics
3. Private Practice
  - Positions in long-term care facilities, assisted living, health authorities, hospital dental departments, dental schools, private practice, non profit organizations, medical centres, community health centres, and government positions
4. Research
  - Research being conducted related to geriatric dentistry and healthy aging
5. Administration
  - Workplace advancement opportunities in government, university, health authority, non profit, and non-governmental organizations
6. Industry
  - Private companies and governmental organizations seek those with knowledge on emerging geriatric oral health issues

## 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 the last 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 consults
- l) ECG Interpretation
- m) BLS update
- n) Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- o) Airway 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. Furthermore, the GPR (Geriatric Residency Track) program provides a clinical and didactic curriculum which differs from our hospital based GPR Residency Track, which accepts four dental residents. Please read the information sheet for the hospital based GPR program on the UBC GPR website for further details. The Geriatric Dentistry GPR Residency Track provides enhanced focus on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to manage the dental needs of frail and functionally dependent older adults.

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.

We are looking for exceptional candidates who are highly motivated to expand their knowledge and skill sets in the field of geriatric dentistry.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the UBC GPR program, applicants must:

- Must be in the final year or a graduate of a recognized dental school (Canadian, US, Australian, Ireland, or New Zealand) with a DDS or DMD or BDS Degree.
- Must have a license from the British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals to practice or must have passed the N.D.E.B. examination of Canada.
- Be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident

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. Class Standing
3. Personal Statement- A one-page letter describing why you wish to pursue a GPR (Geriatric Dentistry Residency Track) program at UBC, why you feel that you are a good fit for our program focused on geriatric dentistry, and your future professional goals
4. Curriculum Vitae
5. Letter of Standing from the Dean (or their designate) of the applicant's dental school
6. Reference Letters: Three letters from faculty members
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

Applications may be obtained at [www.dentistry.ubc.ca](http://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 \$63,429.49 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 by the Program Director.

## FEES

The residents selected are registered as post-graduate students in the UBC Faculty of Dentistry and with the British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals for which separate fees are paid. There is a small GPR program fee.

## APPLICATION 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:

1. TOEFL
  - a. 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.

## 2. IELTS

- a. 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.

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Given that the number of applicants exceeds the number of positions available, a record that satisfies the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Preference for admission to post-graduate clinical programs may be given to applicants who have already graduated from dental school and have some clinical, research, and teaching experience.

General enquiries can be directed to:

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