



GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY
IN
DENTISTRY

Department of Veterans Affairs
North Texas Health Care System

Dental Service
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
4500 S. Lancaster Road
Dallas, Texas 75216
(214) 847-1082

The General Practice Residency in Dentistry (GPR) Program within the Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Dallas, Texas selects two one-year residents annually. This is a fully accredited program, certified by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation.

All residency programs within VANTHCS in medicine and dentistry are under the Dean's Committee either at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School or Baylor College of Dentistry-Texas A&M University System.

Program Competencies and Proficiencies

1. To plan and provide both routine and complex dental care for a wide variety of patients by applying advanced knowledge and developing clinical skills.
 - a) Provide emergency and multidisciplinary comprehensive oral health care.
 - b) Provide patient-focused care.
 - c) Direct health promotion and disease prevention activities using advanced dental treatment modalities.
2. To diagnose oral disease and provide care in the context of each veteran patient's health care needs, servicing the VA community of Dallas, Texas.
 - a) Plan and provide multidisciplinary or health care for a wide variety of patients including patients with special needs.
 - b) Understand the oral health needs of communities and engage in community service.
3. To communicate more effectively with other health care professionals in a variety of health care settings and understand the role of these professionals.
 - a) To function effectively within interdisciplinary health care teams.
4. To train residents for both the clinical and hospital-based practice of general dentistry (and to function effectively within the hospital and other health care environments).
5. To train residents in practice management and behavioral skills for the practice of general dentistry.
 - a) Apply scientific principles to learning and oral health care.
 - b) Use of critical thinking.
 - c) Use of outcome-based clinical decision-making.
 - d) Use of technology-based information retrieval systems.
 - e) Utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, adaptability, and acceptance of cultural diversity in professional practice.
6. To train residents to competency in conscious sedation with intravenous drug therapy.

7. To understand and practice medical risk assessment and quality assurance in relationship to hospital administration standards.
 - a) To deliver oral health care by applying concepts of patient and practice management.
 - b) To apply quality improvement methods that is responsive to a dynamic health care environment.

Program Goals and Objectives

1. Training towards clinical competency in general Dentistry.
2. Training towards diagnostic competency.
3. Provide residents with the opportunity to develop critical thinking in dentistry.
4. Provide residents with a learning environment where they function as part of a health care team.
5. Involve residents in continuous quality care assessments of patient care.
6. Involve residents in community service efforts in dental care through the vet outreach program.

The VA Medical Center is part of the VANTHCS. The other sites are located at Bonham and Fort Worth, Texas. Bonham is primarily a long-term care facility, and the Fort Worth location is an outpatient clinic. All residency training is at the Dallas site, an 853 bed general medical and surgical center with a 40-bed domiciliary. University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas both have affiliation agreements with VANTHCS for didactic and clinical training of VA residents.

The group specialist practice atmosphere allows residents to have a close relationship with faculty and consultants, as well as other dental and medical residents. Our center has many ancillary facilities including a medical library, computer information systems service, medical media production service, and a research division.

Requirements for Application

1. All applicants must be U.S. citizens
2. All applicants must be in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program and match numbers must be submitted on or before the interview date.

All applicants must submit VA Form IO-2850d, "Application for Health Professions Trainees"

3. , directly to the agency, not the match.
4. A letter of recommendation from the dean of the dental school is required.
5. Foreign dental school graduates must have successfully completed parts I and II of the National Board Examination.
6. Applicants must be proficient in the English language.
7. Applicants must be selected by the GPR Director and the Dental Residency Review Board for an interview, which the applicant must attend.
8. State licensure is not required for one-year residents.

Resident Benefits

The GPR begins on July 1 and is completed on June 30. One-year residents are paid a stipend per annum, paid every two weeks. Dental uniforms are furnished. Normal working hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. All federal holidays are observed and 10 days of annual leave are granted. Sick leave for medical treatment or illness is granted. Administrative leave may be granted for attending state and regional dental meetings and for taking a state board examination. Resident training includes on-call duty which is limited to this facility. Upon satisfactory completion of the year of training, residents receive an official certificate from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Participation in government group life and health/dental insurance is available. Residents are covered by the Federal Tort Claim Act and malpractice insurance is not required. Practice privileges outside the GPR Program and for professional activity not associated with the Veterans Administration are not covered by the Federal Tort Claim Act. Such activities are not permitted during the GPR.

How to Apply

1. All applicants must complete an official application through the Postdoctoral Application Support Service:
PASS
www.adea.org
2. Complete application form (VA Form 10-28500)

Completed form should be sent to:

VANTHCS, Dental Service (160)
Program Director
Attn: Dr. Francisco Garcia-Penna
General Practice Residency
4500 S. Lancaster Road
Dallas, Texas 75216

Telephone number (214) 857-1082

E-mail

Francisco.garciapenna@va.gov

Clinic Facilities

Our 14 operatory/clinics with hygiene and radiology sections have a complement of 20 ancillary staff including two hygienists. All units and equipment are of modern design. **Two** dental laboratory technicians are located in the clinic laboratory and fabricate many of our prostheses. A regional Central Dental Laboratory (CDL) is located at this station. Complete audiovisual and dental videotape libraries are part of the medical center.

Local Area

The Dallas VA Medical Center is located in southeast Dallas within the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area. It is approximately 15 miles from downtown Dallas and 40 miles from Fort Worth. The DFW International Airport is centrally located for travel. The DART light rail system has a station at the VA Medical Center campus.

Orientation

The first week of the residency is spent in orientation and assignment of an operatory and dental assistant. A review of standard procedures in hospital patient care and general policies and procedures of the medical center and service will be covered. Proper documentation of dental records and medical charts will be reviewed. Residents will be assigned personal access codes and given instructions in the use of software for the VAMC's computerized patient record system (CPRS, DRM Plus and Vista).

The General Practice Residency Director

The GPR Director is responsible for program administration, oversight of resident selection, monitoring the development of curriculum, and coordination of evaluation of the residents and faculty at VAMC.

Teaching Staff

The faculty includes staff dentists, physicians, and consultants. Most specialties of dentistry are equally represented in addition to generalists, all of whom have a significant role in program development and instruction. Specialties not represented include pediatric dentistry and orthodontics.

Curriculum

The residency is almost entirely clinically oriented and assignment to other services will be essentially supportive to this orientation.

This one-year program consists of approximately 2,000 hours of clinical practice and instruction divided into the following areas:

Over 600 clinic hours are blocked rotation assignments as follows:

General Medicine – Individual resident rotation with medical service physicians for one week.

Anesthesiology – Individual resident rotation in anesthesiology for three weeks.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery - Each resident rotation for six weeks including both clinic and operating room.

ENT/Radiology/Pathology – Individual resident rotations for one or two weeks either at the VA Medical Center or Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry.

Over 1,200 clinic hours are spent on VA MC Dental Clinic patient care, both for inpatients and outpatients.

Seven months of comprehensive patient care is performed by the resident in his/her own assigned dental operatory with a full-time dental assistant. Patients in the hospital, domiciliary, and Transitional Care Unit (TCU) are considered inpatients and constitute less than ten percent of resident patient care with treatment similar to private practice, but without cost restrictions.

Educational Experience and Requirements

The program's curriculum is divided into 12 major areas of instruction, each with a series of goals and objectives. The educational experience give residents training and experience in providing comprehensive oral health care to patients at a level of skill beyond that accomplished in the pre-doctoral training.

Diagnosis

A complete examination of the head and neck along with the oral cavity is performed and indicated radiographs and diagnostic mounted casts are made for proper diagnosis. Special emphasis is placed on soft tissue examination of the oral cavity for detection of malignant and premalignant lesions. Occlusion and temporomandibular joint examinations are performed on all patients and proper treatment is employed when indicated. Periodontal examinations and charting are performed on all patients and treatment instituted as indicated. Residents are responsible for obtaining and recording an accurate history and for the correlation of dental treatment planning with the medical status of the patient. Residents will be shown a treatment planning and treatment sequencing technique for all their comprehensive care patients following good practice management principles.

Restorative Dentistry

The residents will develop their skills and proficiency in various procedures of restorative dentistry with proficiency in the utilization of chairside assistants. Modern materials and procedures will be available for patient care. Attending staff is available for consultation during all patient care sessions. Fixed prosthodontics, including Osseo-integrated implants, will be available under proper supervision for residents to use in patient care.

Periodontics

Instructions will be given by full-time and consultant faculty in the diagnosis and treatment of periodontal disease. Weekly seminars are conducted throughout the year to discuss current literature and treatment planning of assigned patients. Emphasis is placed on early diagnosis and treatment. Periodontal disease control will be instituted on all patients prior to periodontal corrective therapy. All restorative dentistry cases will be periodontally stabilized before treatment, including cranio-mandibular therapy.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS)

Assignment to the OMFS clinic affords the resident the opportunity to participate in practically all types of oral surgery under the supervision of the oral surgery staff, and consultants in both the oral surgery operatories of the VAMC and general surgery operating rooms. When assigned to this rotation, residents may alternate on-call duty as an assistant to OMFS residents every other week for emergency/trauma care.

Prosthodontics

The resident will carry out all phases of prosthetic dentistry. Instructions on actual cases will include diagnosis, mouth preparation, mounted diagnostic casts, and the use of three-dimensional articulation in complete and removable dentures, or fixed partial dentures. All clinical steps from the initial impression through final adjustment of the prostheses will be performed by the resident. The resident will direct the laboratory phases of denture fabrication by technicians on all cases, which include removable (full and partial) dentures and fixed partial dentures. Osseo-integrated implants from surgery through prosthetic replacements, fixed and removable, will be offered as resident cases under direct supervision.

Endodontics

Instruction will be given by full-time faculty in the diagnosis and treatment of pulpal and periapical disease. Didactic sessions and clinical rotations are planned throughout the year. Emphasis is placed on the treatment of single- and multi-rooted teeth using rotary and endodontic instruments. Residents are also exposed to indications and techniques of surgical endodontics.

Anesthesiology

Under continuous one-on-one supervision by the staff of the Anesthesia Section of Surgical Service, the residents will participate in the delivery of general anesthesia and local/conscious sedation anesthesia to American Association of Anesthesiology Physical Status one, two, and three patients. Emphasis will be placed on (1) airway management, intravenous infusions, and basic pharmacological agents; (2) performance of preoperative assessment and evaluation of assigned patients; and (3) post-anesthetic review of patients with whom they have been associated during rotation. Learning activities will include assignment of patient from the next-day operative schedule, preoperative assessment and evaluation under the supervision of a physician, administration of general anesthesia and local/conscious sedation anesthesia under the continuous supervision of a nurse anesthetist or anesthesiologist, and assigned reading by a staff anesthesiologist.

General Surgery Operating Rooms

Assignment of residents to Surgical Service for instructions and training in operating room (OR) procedures, techniques, and draping will be carried out in the General Practice Residency Program. Lectures by the faculty in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) will be given on the subjects of control of shock, hemorrhage, instrumentation, and pre/post-operative care for patients undergoing oral surgical procedures in the operating rooms of the hospital. The resident will assist the OMFS staff on cases requiring a general anesthetic in the surgical suite during the OMFS rotation. This is a one-day per week for six weeks rotation. Each resident will admit two dental patients for surgery in the OR, complete a history and physical examination, do intubations, perform dental surgical procedure, and prepare a discharge summary.

Pathology and Laboratory Service

Instruction will be given in both general and oral pathology and will include use of diagnostic laboratory tests, biopsy techniques, and lectures. Staff pathologists and consultants will cover routine pathology and laboratory procedures. Oral pathology will be studied at Baylor College of Dentistry.

Radiology

A general orientation will be given to the resident during the Radiology Department rotation as to use of radiographic techniques and interpretation of structures of the head and neck. Advanced dental radiography training will be given by Baylor School of Dentistry staff including trans-cranial of the temporomandibular joint and CT/MRI scan interpretation.

General Medicine

This is a one-week rotation. Residents report to the Ambulatory Care Department for assignment to a physician and medical unit. They will be expected to handle medical history and physical diagnosis under the direction of a staff physician.

Conscious Sedation Techniques

Intravenous (IV) conscious sedation will be used in the Dental Clinic. Residents will take and pass an ACLS course at the VAMC as part of their conscious sedation requirements.

Clinical Asepsis and Infection Control

The VANTHCS safety protocol for asepsis, infection control, and hazard control is practiced and monitored by a VAMC OSHA unit.

Resident Assignments and Policies

A written examination (Outcome Assessment Exam) prepared by the American Association of Hospital Dentists and the Special Care Dentistry Association will be given to all residents at the beginning and end of the academic year. This educational and outcome assessment tool permits the teaching staff to gauge the success of the training and identify those areas which may need improvement.

Residents will follow all operating room protocol and aseptic technique according to established JCAHO policies.

Residents are to attend all scheduled lectures, courses, conferences, rotations, and seminars as requested by the GPR director.

Residents must maintain accurate medical/dental records with acceptable documentation of treatment as mandated in ADA Guidelines for general practice residency programs.

At completion of the residency program, each resident will present one of their completed comprehensive cases to the faculty for evaluation and review.

Non-Discriminatory Selection Process

The Veterans Administration is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all applicable employment discrimination laws, including those that prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religious belief, disability, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by Federal Fair Employment Practice Laws.

Candidates are ranked numerically based on their candid responses to questions asked by the GPR Selection Committee. An assignment of a score of zero to **20**, with a highest rating of **20** is given for each candidate's response and a total score tabulated. Additional documentation supplied by the Pass application process is also seriously evaluated, including class rank and faculty recommendations.