

VA Greater Los Angeles Advanced Dental Education Periodontics Program

Program Description

This training program is a three-year, formal postgraduate program in a hospital environment. The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Post-secondary Accreditation and the United States Department of Education. It is designed to provide a broad knowledge of both didactic and clinical periodontics as well as medical sciences. This goal is achieved by clinical experiences, observation, didactic lecture courses, seminars, reading assignments, laboratory exercises, research exposure and teaching experience.

The purpose of this program is to educate an individual who is not only academically, but clinically competent to perform the entire spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures as part of periodontal practice and implantology. A high degree of maturity and dedication is sought in residents accepted for training. Teaching provided through basic didactic lectures, seminars and supervised clinical experience is enhanced by introspective and creative endeavors in an effort to broaden the resident's professional judgment. The resident is encouraged to assume an open-minded, evidence-based approach to his/her clinical cases. Patient care in a hospital clinic environment is utilized to expand the residents understanding of interrelationships of medical and dental disciplines and focus attention to the patient's total well being. Constant contact with other dental specialties and practitioners encourage the interdisciplinary approach to dental care. Each resident is encouraged to experience and develop teaching skills to underline his/her own strengths and weaknesses as well as to demonstrate an ability to communicate with his/her fellow practitioners.

Staff

The faculty is headed by an experienced board certified periodontist who is responsible for the overall direction of the residency. Part-time periodontists provide clinical and didactic instruction. Consultants from periodontal practices in the Southern California community also support the faculty. In addition, specialists in most dental disciplines are available in the dental department. The mutual support of the residents and staff of other graduate training programs provide unusual depth and variety.

Patient Population

The patient population consists of general medicine and surgical hospital patients, convalescent care patients and many healthy outpatients. The majority of patients consist of outpatients. The total available patient population is approximately 80,000 unique veteran patients. The periodontal statuses of these patients provide for a wide variety of treatment situations. Exposure to hospital patients allows experience and familiarity with the medically compromised patient and advanced moderate sedation-stress management techniques.

Training Outline

One or two residents are accepted each year into the residency training program. Each resident divides his/her total time between clinical activities and academic course work. The VA and the UCLA School of Dentistry provide the academic course work while all clinical activity occurs at the VA.

The content of the curriculum for the Periodontics program undergoes annual review and revision. Approximately 24% of the residents' total program time is devoted to the Biomedical Sciences, 66% to Clinical Sciences, 5% to Research and 5% to Teaching. All residents must devote additional time for reading, study and lab work. Evenings and weekends are required to present any oral and written reports. Residents are required to purchase an intra-oral camera and personal laptop computer to aid in these endeavors. The mutual intellectual stimulation by the residents is a strength of this program.

The coexistence of a resident training program in prosthodontics affords another opportunity for interdisciplinary learning and provides a needed understanding of the interrelationship of these two specialties. The applicant is encouraged to strengthen his/her basic knowledge in restorative dentistry prior to entering the periodontal residency.

Before completion of training, the resident is required to demonstrate the skills and understanding necessary to offer a variety of treatment approaches for patients requiring complex periodontal care. Research training and its application are essential for complete understanding of the periodontal literature. Each resident is required to develop an original research project and carry it through to completion, suitable for publication.

Teaching experience is also provided. Each resident is scheduled with a teaching and lecture schedule at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System West Los Angeles.

Certification

The curriculum is designed to meet the standards set forth by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Upon completion of the necessary courses, research and other requirements the resident will receive a Certificate in Periodontics.

Fees and Stipend

The application can be located at [About VA Form 10-2850D | Veterans Affairs](#). There is no fee to apply to the Greater Los Angeles VA Periodontics Program. The Periodontics Residency Program is hospital-based and currently has no required tuition for clinical and didactic instruction. Residents are required to purchase some personal study materials to include an intraoral camera. Stipends range from \$85,000 to 90,000 (PGY1-3). The postgraduate academic core courses and classic literature review course are given at the UCLA School of Dentistry.

Application:

An acceptable application must include the following and the program is affiliated with the ADEA PASS application process and will participate with MATCH:

ADEA PASS Application: [ADEA PASS](#) Contact the MATCH to register.

1. The applicant must be a graduate from an institution in the U.S. accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or
2. The applicant must be a graduate from an institution in Canada accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.
3. Your personal statement stating why you wish this training and what you hold as aims and goals, uploaded into ADEA PASS.
4. Transcripts of professional and pre-professional credits, uploaded into ADEA PASS.
5. Three or more letters of professional recommendations, uploaded into ADEA PASS.
6. Current curriculum vitae uploaded into ADEA PASS.
7. Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT): The program will accept results of the ADAT but does not require applicants to take the test. If the applicant has taken the ADAT the results should be uploaded into ADEA PASS.
8. VA form 10-2850d
9. National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) scores.
Applicants must pass Part 1 and 2 of the NBDE or INBDE and have earned a D.M.D./ D.D.S. degree prior to entry into the program
10. Applications are due by September 1, 2023.
11. United States citizens are given first consideration.
A state dental license must be obtained prior to the start of PGY 3.

Residents are selected based on their qualifications, references and interview.

Equal Employment Opportunity: We are an equal opportunity employer. Actions to fill the residency positions will not be based on discriminating factors, which are prohibited by law. Applicants are assured of equal consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual preference, national origin, politics, physical or mental disability, marital status, age, membership in an employee organization, or any other non-merit reason.

12. All males born after 1960 must be registered with the US Selective Service.
13. A personal interview will be arranged for selected applicants as determined by the program by early October 2023.
14. Applicants must comply with Federal, State and/or VA vaccination policies including but not limited to COVID-19 vaccination policy.

VA form 10-2850d and a photo should be mailed or emailed directly to the director of the program:

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