

Dental General Practice

Residency Program

**Minneapolis VA
Health Care System
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

*This brochure contains information pertaining to the
Dental General Practice Residency Program offered at the*

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Thank you for your interest in the Minneapolis VA Health Care System's

Dental Residency Program. If further information is necessary,

please contact the Dental Service Program Support Assistant at 612-467-1946.

General Practice Dental Residency Program
Department of Veterans Affairs Minneapolis Health Care System
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Introduction

The Minneapolis Health Care System is one of 33 area medical centers/hospitals in the VA health care system. Our hospital has 257 acute care, diagnostic and treatment beds, as well as 104 extended care unit beds. The facility was constructed in 1988. It is a modern medical center designed to integrate patient care, education, and research activities to provide state of the art medical care. The medical center provides primary, secondary, and tertiary care in medical, surgical, and short-term psychiatric modalities. The extended care center provides services based on the patient's need for rehabilitation, medical, cognitive and psychiatric care. In addition, the extended care center provides hospice and respite care.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Minneapolis Health Care System is located on One Veterans Drive, at the intersection of Highway 55 (Hiawatha Avenue) and Highway 62 (Crosstown). The medical center, accessible by several freeways, is a ten-minute drive from the Twin Cities International Airport, The Mall of America and Historic Fort Snelling. There is light rail as well as bus service to the Minneapolis VA Health Care System.

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System has one of the largest education and training programs in the VA system. Annually, approximately 1,200 students and residents are involved in education and training programs at this facility for medical, surgical, psychiatric, oral surgery, general dentistry, and diagnostic specialties. The Medical Center is closely affiliated with the Medical and Dental Schools of the University of Minnesota. Consultants from the dental school and community, representing multiple dental specialties, are available to supplement instruction of the dental resident in the treatment of patients.

Education Goals

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND MISSION:

Our purpose is to provide the opportunity and environment for the graduate dentist to enhance and perfect the skills and knowledge gained in dental school. This residency will emphasize general dentistry and will provide education and patient care experiences involving the management of patients with a wide range of medical conditions in both the ambulatory and inpatient setting. This hospital-based training program will broaden the residents' knowledge of oral and systemic diseases. It will offer an opportunity to work with other health professionals in the hospital setting and broaden clinical exposure to medically-compromised patients. The residency will enable the graduate of this program to serve his or her community by providing them with the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of special patients. Upon completion of the residency, the dentist will be qualified to obtain hospital privileges.

CONCISE STATEMENT OF GOALS:

- A. Develop competent practitioners who will act as effective primary care provider
- B. Develop the resident to function effectively in the provision of comprehensive oral health care.
- C. Prepare residents to serve their communities
- D. Apply scientific principles to learning and oral health care.
- E. Prepare resident for their future dental careers

Comprehensive description of the Goals and Objectives with reference to CODA standards:

- A. **Develop competent practitioners who will act as effective primary care provider. This includes:**

Provide emergency and multidisciplinary comprehensive oral health care.

Provide patient focused care that is coordinated by the general practitioner.

Directing health promotion and disease prevention activities.

1. Develop and expand on knowledge and skills learned in dental school, including the areas of operative dentistry, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics (fixed/removable/implants), oral surgery (exodontia, biopsy, pre-prosthetic surgery, TMJ management, implant placement) and dental sleep medicine.
2. To develop skills in responding to and directing medical/dental emergency care and pain/anxiety management in the clinical and emergency room setting.
3. To develop skills in physical assessment and the understanding of the interaction between the systemic and oral environments.
4. To develop skills in health promotion and disease prevention.
5. To develop skills and knowledge in pain and anxiety control utilizing behavioral and pharmacological means.
6. Develop skills working as part of a multidisciplinary dental health care team in meeting the complex dental needs of a wide variety of patients, including patients with special needs.

B. Develop the resident to function effectively in the provision of comprehensive oral health care in the ambulatory, inpatient, and other hospital settings, such as the operating room.

1. To provide foundation knowledge regarding hospital operations, functions and credentialing.
2. Functions effectively within the hospital and as a member of the interdisciplinary health care team.
3. To develop skills in both sending and responding to consultations.
4. To develop skills in physical assessment and the understanding the interactions of systemic and oral environments.
5. Develop the skills to manage inpatient and same-day surgery patients.

C. Prepare residents to serve their communities by providing community service opportunities and developing the skills and knowledge to treat special patients

1. Understand the health care needs of communities and provide community service opportunities during their residency program
2. Develop the skills and knowledge to provide care for a wide variety of patients including patients with special needs, such as medically, mentally and physically compromised patients.

D. Apply scientific principles to learning and oral health care. This includes using critical thinking, evidence or outcomes-based clinical decision-making, and technology-based information retrieval systems.

1. To develop skills in critical review of the literature
2. Develop the skills to make scientific presentations.

E. Prepare resident for their future dental careers by providing instructions in the principles of practice management, including: ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, and acceptance of cultural diversity.

1. To foster an understanding of basic principles of business and practice management.
2. Understand principles of cultural diversity
3. Apply concepts of patient centered care and practice management.
4. Understand the principle of continuous quality improvement.
5. Understand the principles of peer review and participate in the peer review process
6. Understand the principles of professional ethics, jurisprudence and risk management.
7. Review alternative care delivery systems and models. Participate and understand the role of the dentist as an advocate for the dependent patient.
8. Provide a model of lifelong learning.
9. Understand the elements and principles of Informed consent.

Admission Criteria

The admission criteria for the General Practice Dental Residency conform to Department of Veterans Affairs regulations and federal law regarding discrimination.

Applicants for the General Practice Dental Residency Program must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States.
2. Must be a graduate of an ADA accredited Dental School.
3. Must be eligible for a state dental license in any state of the United States of America.

Application Process

Completed applications must be received by November 1. Upon review of the application package, the applicant may be invited for a personal interview.

Materials submitted directly to this Medical Center include:

- Copy of VA form 10-2850D “Application for Health Professions Trainees”. This is available at http://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=2850d or by contacting by contacting Dr. Chia-Yin Lo by email: chiayin.lo@va.gov
- Personal photograph

Materials submitted to the Post-Doctoral Application Support Service (PASS) include:

- Official Transcripts from degree granting dental school
- Letter of recommendation from the Dean with a statement of class standing.

- Two letters of recommendation from faculty members.
- National Board scores.
- Personal statement of plans for your professional career.

Question about the application process for the General Practice Dental Residency Program may be obtained from:

Chia-Yin Lo, DDS & John C. Ofstehage, D.D.S.

Director and Co-Director,

General Practice Residency Program

Dental Service (618/160)

VA Health Care System

Minneapolis, MN 55417-2300

Telephone: 612-725-1946 FAX: 612-727-5669

E-mail: Chiayin.Lo@va.gov

John.Ofstehage@va.gov

National Postdoctoral Matching Program

We participate in the NPMP.

Remuneration

The salary is based on the local Center/Hospital index; the current resident salary is \$58,000 (benefits included). A variety of health and life insurance plans are available to the resident and their family. The same packages offered to all hospital staff at the same cost.

Accreditation

This Dental General Practice Residency is accredited by the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the council of Postsecondary Accreditation and the United States Department of Education. Our program is fully accredited without any recommendation or restrictions.

Direction of the Program

The Dean's committee, appointed from the faculty of the Medical and Dental Schools, is responsible for guiding all professional education activities of the Medical Center. The Dean's committee exercises supervision of the Dental Residency Program through the Resident Review Board for Dentistry that periodically reviews this program and is comprised of the following:

Kent B. Crossley, MD Member
Chief of Staff

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Dr. R. Bruce Templeton Member
Chief, Dental Service

Chief, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Dr. Chia-Yin Lo Member
Director, General Practice Residency Program

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Dr. John C. Ofstehage Member
Assistant Director, General Practice Residency

Program Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Dental Clinic Staff

The dental clinic staff consists of five full time general dentists, two full time Maxillofacial Oral Surgeons, one full time Maxillofacial Prosthodontist, one full time Prosthodontist and two part-time dentists. There are consultants and attending staff representing the specialties of Endodontics, Periodontics, Oral Surgery, Prosthodontics, Orthodontics and TMJ/Facial Pain. Support personnel consist of three dental hygienist, seventeen dental assistants, three medical support assistants, and a program support assistant.

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System participates in several specialty training programs such as an Oral Surgery residency training experience as an extension of the University of Minnesota Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Graduate Program. This rotation is under the direction of Dr. Bruce Templeton, Chief, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, VA Medical Center. Two oral surgery residents from the University of Minnesota are on service at the VA Medical Center on a rotational basis throughout the year.

Minneapolis Health Care System Dental Staff

Bruce Templeton, D.M.D., M.S.

Chief, Dental Service, [Full Time Staff](#)

Chief, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Minneapolis Health Care System

Clinical Professor, University of Minnesota

Diplomat, American Board of Oral and

Maxillofacial Surgery

Aram Mazhary, D.D.S.

Associate Chief, Dental Service, [Full Time Staff](#)

Chia-Yin Lo, D.D.S.

Director, General Practice Residency Program

[Full Time Staff](#)

Adjunct Faculty Dentist in Department of Operative
Dentistry, University of Minnesota School of
Dentistry.

John C. Ofstehage, D.D.S.

Assistant Director, General Practice Residency
Program; [Full Time Staff](#)

Associate Clinical Professor Department of
Community Dentistry, University of Minnesota
School of Dentistry

[Fellow American Hospital Dental Association](#)

Diplomat [Special Care Dentistry](#)

Mitchell J. Dirnberger, D.D.S.

Staff General Dentist, [Full Time Staff](#)

Steven Janczak, D.D.S.

Staff Prosthodontist, [Full Time Staff](#)

Mary E. Brosky, D.D.S.

Staff Maxillofacial Prosthodontist, [Full Time Staff](#)

Rachael Uppgaard-Penaz, D.D.S.

Board Eligible Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon,

[Full Time Staff](#)

Ronald C. Pratt, D.D.S.

Staff General Dentist, [Full Time Staff](#)

(Northwest Metro Community Based Outpatient
Clinic)

Alania M. Hull, D.D.S.

Staff General Dentist, [Full Time Staff](#)

(Northwest Metro Community Based Outpatient
Clinic)

Jane Puntillo, D.D. S.

Staff General Dentist- [Part Time Staff](#)

Michael W. Lehnert, D.D.S [Part time Staff](#)

Board Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Christopher J. French, D.D.S [Part time Staff](#)

Board Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Larry A. Palmersheim, D.D.S [Part time Staff](#)

Board Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

John Schulte, D.D.S., MS

Prosthodontist, [Part time Staff](#)

Prosthodontist

*Former Director of Graduate Prosthodontics,
University of Minnesota School of Dentistry*

Mark Herzberg, D.D.S, PHD.

Periodontist/Dental Researcher [Part Time faculty](#)

*Professor, University of Minnesota School of
Dentistry*

Department of Diagnostic and Biologic Sciences

Carolina Rodriguez-Figueora, D.D.S

Board-Eligible Endodontist [Part Time faculty](#)

Clinical Adjunct Faculty, University of Minnesota

School of Dentistry

Tom Hoover, DDS M.S.

Board Certified Periodontist- [Part Time faculty](#)

Allison L. Komarek, D.D.S.

General Dentist [Part Time facult](#)

I. ORIENTATION

At the beginning of the residency year, a period of orientation will be provided so that each resident will obtain a working knowledge of the functions and administration of the Medical Center and Dental Service. The following subjects are included in the orientation:

- A. Tour of Medical Center to visit other services and departments for general familiarization.
- B. General policies of the Medical Center related to resident responsibilities.
- C. Standard procedures in the Medical Center related to patient care, including the use of the electronic medical records for recording all clinical and laboratory findings, as well as treatment rendered.
- D. General policies and procedures of the Dental Service, such as patient eligibility and on-call responsibilities.

II. ON-SERVICE ROTATION

General Clinic Rotation

In this rotation, emphasis is placed on clinical instruction and comprehensive dental care.

Experience will be gained in the use of various types of restorative techniques and dental materials, as well as the indications of their use in clinical practice. Formulation of treatment plans and presentation of cases before staff is required. The general clinical rotation includes experiences in the following:

1. Operative Dentistry

Residents gain clinical experience in the utilization of the dental assistant involving four handed dentistry. Experience is gained utilizing a wide

variety of dental materials and equipment in our modern dental facility. Residents will have hands on experience in both impressing and fabricating CAD/CAM Dental restorations.

2. Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry

Periodontal clinical experience involves diagnosis and treatment planning, personal preventive care, scaling and root planning a variety of surgical procedures, and anti-microbial therapy.

3. Endodontics

Clinical experience includes the diagnosis and treatment of pulpal and periapical pathology. Residents are exposed to a spectrum of non-surgical and surgical procedures, including a variety of canal preparation and obturation techniques. The successful use of apex locators, rotary instrumentation, heated gutta percha fill techniques, digital radiograph and clinical microscopy are all part of our clinical goals.

4. Fixed Prosthodontics

Clinical experience focuses heavily on fixed prosthodontics, including diagnosis, evaluation and treatment planning for the partial dentate patient. Experience is gained through the clinical application of materials handling, tooth preparation, shade selection, and the practical application of theories of occlusion.

5. Removable Prosthodontics

Comprehensive patient care utilizes complete and partial dentures. Experience is gained in diagnosis and treatment planning, impression techniques, framework design, mouth modifications, selection and arrangement of teeth, and the treatment of post-insertion prosthetic problems.

6. Dental Implantology

Clinical experience will be gained in both the placement and restoration of dental implants. Experience is gained in diagnosis and treatment planning, surgical splint fabrication, surgery, impression technique. Cases may involve fixed

restorations or implant supported removable appliances.

7. Sleep Medicine

Residents will gain experience in the diagnosis and management of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), fabrication of oral appliances. They will also gain an understanding and be exposure to the surgical management of OSA.

8. Emergency Dental Care

Residents obtain experience in the diagnosis, triage, patient management and treatment of patients with emergent dental conditions.

9. Consultative Dental Services

Residents will gain experience functioning effectively as members of the hospital's health care team by both answering consults and sending consults in the hospital. Clinical experience includes pre-surgical evaluation of orthopedic and cardiology patients, evaluation and treatment of Head and Neck Cancer patients, Evaluation of Patients taking antiresorptive medications, answering inpatient consults and evaluating dental problems at the request of other services.

10. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

During this rotation, residents are under the direct supervision of Oral Surgery Staff.

a. Inpatient Oral Surgery Care

Residents gain experience in the management of hospitalized patients by performing dentoalveolar surgery in the operating room and the oral surgery clinic. Residents are involved in the management of hospitalized and same-day surgery patients.

b. Outpatient Oral Surgery Care

On an outpatient basis, residents treat a variety of medically compromised patients, including those undergoing radiation therapy. Residents will perform dental alveolar surgery and also provide emergent dental care on a routine basis

in the oral surgery clinic to a large outpatient population.

III. OFF SERVICE ROTATIONS

A. Anesthesia

This off-service rotation involves assignment to the Anesthesia Department. The resident assists the anesthesia team on a daily basis during pre-operative evaluation of patients undergoing anesthesia. The resident, under supervision, initiates intravenous blood lines and performs endotracheal intubations as directed by an anesthesiologist. On a daily bases the resident rotates through the operating rooms gaining exposure to the pharmacological principles of anesthesia and gaining familiarity with anesthesia equipment and monitoring systems. Through daily interaction with various anesthesia team members, the GPR gains experience in the perioperative management of surgical patients.

B. Otolaryngology

This off-service rotation involves clinical experience in performing complete head and neck examination with emphasis on tumor detection. The GPR gains experience in the operating room by assisting with head and neck surgery. The GPR attends Tumor Conference in conjunction with the departments of Oral Surgery, Otolaryngology, Speech Pathology, Audiology, and Radiation Therapy.

C. Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care

This is a two-week ambulatory rotation in emergency medicine and urgent care at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. Case mix includes patients with a broad spectrum of complaints ranging from simple musculoskeletal complaints to gravely ill patients with hemodynamic instability and cardiac pathologies. There is exposure to the management of acute coronary

syndromes, congestive heart failure, coronary vascular accidents, headaches, dermatologic disease, acute abdominal conditions, urologic disease, ophthalmic emergencies, management of fractures and medical evaluation of psychiatric and dementia related disease.

D. Dermatology

Assignment to this service will further develop the residents' capacity for recognition of oral and per-oral pathology. Residents gain experience in treatment principles including identification, biopsy, and therapeutic treatment of dermatologic lesions. By working with residents and staff, the GPR will gain experience by interacting with and observation of patients in the General Dermatology and Dermatology Surgery Clinics.

IV. DIDACTIC ACTIVITIES

A. Outside Consultant Seminars

The consulting staff is comprised of dental and medical professionals from the Minneapolis VA Health Care System, University of Minnesota, and the greater metropolitan private sector.

B. Critical review of literature

Literature reviews are held throughout the residency year. Dr. Mark Herzberg, Former Editor of the Journal of Dentistry Research and an active researcher of the Minneapolis VAHCS supervises a critical review of literature. All residents must make presentations as assigned, reviewing articles which examine the relationship of oral and systemic disease or examine an area of basic research in the field of dentistry.

C. Dental Grand Rounds

Grand rounds are held on a monthly basis. Residents present clinical cases for diagnosis and treatment planning discussions. Residents and

staff review treatment plans, treatment in progress, and treatment outcomes for selected patients.

D. Oral Surgery Seminars

Lectures by staff Oral Surgery residents as well as assigned presentations by Residents covering oral pathology, oral surgery techniques, medicine pharmacology and physiology.

E. Geriatric Dentistry Seminars

Lectures by staff and outside consultants on topics related to aging and the dental management of the Geriatric Patient.

F. Prosthodontic Seminars

Presentations covering topics related to Maxillofacial, Fixed and Removable prosthodontist Residents review treatment plans, treatment in progress, and treatment outcomes for selected patient

G. Dental Trauma

A lecture series presented by Dr. DiAngelis, who is one of our clinical consultants at Hennepin County Medical Center.

H. Sleep Medicine

A Didactic course in Sleep Medicine presented by Dr. Templeton.

I. Emergency Medicine in the Dental Office

A lecture series presented by Dr. Templeton.

J. History and Physical Evaluation Course

Residents attend a lecture and demonstration series in history taking and physical evaluation through the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry.

K. Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Cardiac Life Support Training

This is provided to all of our Residents

L. Simulation Training

This training utilizes a state of the art mannequin that prepares residents to respond to emergency situation.

M. Operating Room Simulation

This is training concerning OR protocol and Techniques.

N. Table Clinic

Residents are required to present individual table clinic at the Minnesota Star of the North Dental Meeting. This state dental convention is held in the spring of each year.

O. Minnesota Academy of Comprehensive Dentistry (MACD)

Residents have the opportunity to attend Four Full day seminars with the MACD. This experience is designed to promote lifelong learning and also expose residents to current topics in dentistry.