



# **General Practice Residency in Dentistry**

**Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

**Ann Arbor · Michigan**

# 1: Program Overview

## Goals

The overall goal of the General Practice Residency at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (VA) is to prepare the dentist to be better able to manage the oral health needs of a wide variety of ambulatory and hospitalized patients. More specifically, the dentist who completes the program will be able to:

1. display advanced knowledge and skills in all disciplines of general dentistry and put them to use in diagnosing and planning treatment for both routine and complex cases;
2. function in a hospital environment and communicate effectively with other health care professionals;
3. accurately assess the health of a patient and make an informed judgement on the risk of dental procedures;
4. achieve a more meaningful formulation of career goals, and broaden or focus his/her interests in the field of dentistry;
5. gain advanced knowledge and broaden interest in community service, teaching, and continuing education
6. demonstrate enhanced skills in continual self-assessment and professional improvement.

## Description of the Program

The Ann Arbor VA General Practice Residency in Dentistry is designed to provide education and experience at the postdoctoral level to the recent dental school graduate. Patient care experience encompasses a wide range of patients. These include non-medically compromised as well as medically compromised patients, both ambulatory and non-ambulatory. The General Practice Residents provide comprehensive dental care to patients with emphasis on the diagnosis of oral and maxillofacial disease and the thorough assessment of patients' general health and functional ability. While the majority of patients are ambulatory outpatients, this hospital-based program also provides training in hospital protocol with experience in the administrative and clinical management of the hospitalized patient.

The dental resident will enhance his/her knowledge and skills in all phases of dentistry through clinical and didactic training. Advanced experience and knowledge is gained in all of the disciplines of dentistry such as endodontics, geriatrics, implants, oral surgery, periodontics, prosthodontics, restorative and pediatric dentistry. The clinical activities take place at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the University of Michigan Medical Center, and University of Michigan School of Dentistry. The majority of the resident's time is spent at the VA dental clinic performing comprehensive dentistry on ambulatory outpatients with supervision from full and part-time faculty. The patients treated by the general practice residents often present with complex dental treatment needs that require expertise in many dental disciplines to appropriately diagnose and treat. These patients also have a wide range of medical conditions that need to be considered prior to treatment.

Training and experience in medicine and dental specialties is gained during off-service rotations such as Anesthesiology, Oral Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, ENT, and Pediatric Dentistry. The interaction during these rotations with physicians and other health care professionals in the hospital setting is a valuable experience.

The didactic portion of the program includes weekly and monthly seminars by University of Michigan Faculty and VA faculty, approximately ten post-graduate continuing dental education courses, webinars, and courses in advanced cardiac life support, physical diagnosis and conscious sedation.

## 2: Affiliation

The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System General Practice Residency is affiliated with the University of Michigan, a major teaching and research institution with a more than 50-year history of affiliation with the VA Medical Center. Residents attend formal courses at both the University of Michigan School of Dentistry (one mile away) and the University Medical Center (one half mile away).

Medical and dental staff in the departments of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Pediatric Dentistry, and Emergency Medicine are responsible for supervision and training at the University of Michigan Hospital. A variety of faculty provide didactic and clinical teaching at the U of M School of Dentistry.

The University of Michigan School of Dentistry and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry provide residents with 10 postgraduate continuing education courses that are individually selected by the resident and supplement the program at the VA Medical Center by providing a greater variety of didactic experiences.

The oral surgery, general dentistry in the operating room, pediatric and emergency room rotations at University of Michigan Hospital provide experience and training in hospital protocol, inpatient management, operating room procedures, risk assessment and both dental and medical emergency treatment. A pediatric dentistry rotation is also provided through the School of Dentistry affiliation.

## 3: Resources

### **An Overview of the VA System**

The Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) manages the largest medical education and health professions training program in the United States. DVA facilities are affiliated with 107 medical schools, 55 dental schools and more than 1,200 other schools across the country. Each year, about 83,000 health professionals are trained in VA medical centers. More than half of the physicians practicing in the United States had some of their professional education in the VA health care system.

While providing high quality health care to the nation's veterans, the VA also conducts an array of research on some of the most difficult challenges facing medical science today. The VA has become a world leader in such research areas as aging, women's health, AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues.

### **The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System**

The Ann Arbor VA serves veterans in southeastern Michigan and northwestern Ohio, excluding the Detroit area. Community-Based Outpatient Clinics in Toledo, Flint and Jackson are satellite clinics of the Ann Arbor VA, providing ambulatory care to veterans in those areas. The Ann Arbor VA serves as a major tertiary care referral center for all of Michigan and northern Ohio, providing specialized services such as open heart surgery, cardiac catheterization, alcohol treatment, neurosurgery, CT and MRI scanning, spinal cord injury outpatient treatment, cochlear implants and interventional radiography.

### **Dental Service**

Clinical dental activities are performed in the Ann Arbor VA Dental Clinic, which includes an Oral Surgery Suite and a fully equipped and staffed dental laboratory. The VA dental staff includes four full-time dentists, 6 part-time dentists, two hygienists, nine dental assistants, two dental laboratory technicians, one program assistant, one receptionist, four general practice residents, and graduate students in periodontics.

Additional expertise in patient care and resident supervision comes from part-time staff in general dentistry, periodontics, maxillofacial prosthodontics, and from a number of consultants (mostly University of Michigan faculty) representing the full range of the dental specialties.

## **University of Michigan School of Dentistry**

The University of Michigan School of Dentistry is one of the nation's leading dental schools engaged in oral health care education, research, patient care and community service. A wide variety of resources are available to the GPR including access to faculty and research opportunities.

## **University of Michigan Medical Center**

The University of Michigan Medical Center is home to one of the largest health care complexes in the world. Today, the University of Michigan Health System continues to be on the cutting edge of research and patient care. This nearby facility provides the dental resident with the opportunity to function and learn in a private hospital environment.

## **Library**

The residents have access to the outstanding University of Michigan Libraries including the Medical and Dental Schools. A medical library is also located within the VA hospital. Internet access and literature searches are readily available along with many print and electronic services and resources.

## 4: Didactic Curriculum

The didactic program consists of a series of seminars, continuing education courses, conferences and individual instruction presented throughout the year. Additional resources are available through the University of Michigan Hospital GPR Program and the University of Michigan and University of Detroit-Mercy Schools of Dentistry. The didactic program includes:

### **General Medicine**

Participation in conferences and seminars throughout the year include the following topics: heart diseases, pulmonary diseases, renal diseases and dialysis, liver diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, arthritides, neurologic diseases, endocrine diseases, allergy diseases, bleeding disorders and blood dyscrasias, oral cancer, behavioral and psychiatric disorders, organ transplantation and prosthetic implants. Knowledge and experience in general medicine is also gained during off service rotations and consults with physicians related to patient care.

### **Physical Diagnosis**

Residents attend seminars and demonstrations early in the year to learn the techniques necessary to perform a medical history and physical examination. In addition, these skills are developed during hands-on training and experience gained during rotations. The resident will be able to understand and interpret the results of the findings obtained.

### **Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)**

All incoming residents are required to complete an ACLS course either before the program starts or during the first month. This training will enable the resident to better manage medical emergencies and establish accurate risk assessments.

### **Treatment Planning Conferences**

Residents and faculty present cases throughout the year to increase the residents' knowledge and skills in the management of complex patient cases.

## **GPR Seminar Series**

The residents attend a weekly seminar series that is presented at the VA GPR and UMH GPR Programs. This gives the VA resident access to a wider variety of faculty and topics. This seminar series consists of lectures and training sessions to improve the residents' diagnosis and management skills in all phases of dentistry. The topics include: community dentistry, restorative and esthetic dentistry, fixed and removable prosthodontics, periodontics, occlusion, implants, medically compromised patients, hospital dentistry and practice management.

## **Continuing Education Series**

The residents have the opportunity to select and attend 10 continuing education courses being offered at the University of Michigan and University of Detroit-Mercy Schools of Dentistry.

## **Literature Review Seminars**

Residents receive training in the evaluation of dental and medical literature and participate in an ongoing Journal Club. This training will enable the resident to better understand, interpret and judge the accuracy of articles, papers and material presented.

## **Endodontic Seminars**

University of Michigan School of Dentistry faculty present monthly endodontic seminars for the residents. These seminars provide advanced understanding of diagnosis, instrumentation, obturation, trauma and periapical pathosis. The interrelationship of pulpal and periodontal disease and success and failure in endodontic therapy are also discussed.

## **Prosthodontic Conferences**

Monthly literature review and conferences are presented by prosthodontists at the University of Michigan Medical Center. These conferences provide the residents with a better understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of difficult prosthodontic cases. Topics include: fixed, removable, maxillofacial and implant prosthodontics.

## 5: Clinical Experience and Training

The residents' clinical experience includes the following:

### **Ann Arbor VA Dental Clinic**

The residents spend a majority of their clinical time treating outpatients at the VA Dental Clinic. They provide comprehensive care to a wide range of patients, many of whom are medically compromised. There is an opportunity to treat patients with simple to very complex dental needs.

**Restorative Dentistry:** The resident will become proficient in using the latest techniques and equipment. A wide variety of the latest materials are available.

**Prosthodontics:** The resident will become proficient in performing routine to advanced procedures. This will include complete and partial dentures, fixed bridges, full mouth reconstruction and implant restorations.

**Endodontics:** The resident will become proficient using conventional and rotary endodontic techniques. Apico surgery is performed under direct supervision.

**Periodontics:** The resident will become proficient in the treatment of early to advanced periodontal disease. Periodontal surgery is performed under direct supervision.

Dental consultation and service is provided to inpatients and outpatients with a variety of medical conditions and dental needs. The patient population provides a very wide variety of cases to ensure the residents will be able to gain proficiency in all areas of general dentistry. Treatment is planned and provided without having to be concerned with financial limitations.

Attending staff is always available for consultation during all patient care activities.

### **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**

The residents are assigned to a three week rotation at the Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery Department at the University of Michigan Medical Center. They are involved with the treatment of patients in both the operating room and clinic. In addition to participating in all types of oral surgery they also receive training in the management of trauma and the management of inpatients and same-day surgery cases.

### **Oral Surgery at the Ann Arbor VA Dental Clinic**

An ongoing rotation is provided at the Ann Arbor VA Dental Clinic to allow the GPR to work in the oral surgery clinic to gain experience in all phases of oral surgery to include conscious sedation, full mouth extractions, biopsies, impacted teeth and implant procedures, and operating room experience.

## **Emergency Dental Care**

There are numerous opportunities to enhance skills necessary to manage a wide range of dental emergencies. Residents see emergency patients daily at the VA Dental Clinic as well as after hours call and during the OMFS rotation.

## **Dentistry in OR experience**

The residents perform general dentistry in the operating room at the University of Michigan Medical Center, the Mott Children's Hospital and the VA Medical Center. The residents will gain experience in the admission and discharge of patients, obtaining medical histories and conducting appropriate physical examinations, prescribing treatment and medications, providing dental care in the operating room, preparing the patient record including notation of pre and post operative orders, progress notes, descriptions of procedures and discharge summaries.

## **Pediatric Dentistry**

An opportunity to provide supervised care to children is offered at both the U of M School of Dentistry and University Hospital. These rotations can be tailored to the desires of the resident.

## **Pain and Anxiety Control**

Experience in the management of pain and anxiety is gained throughout the year at the VA Dental Clinic. The goal is to provide experience in a variety of modalities to allow residents to competently manage pain and anxiety (apprehension). The resident will gain experience through the use of behavioral management, local anesthesia and conscious sedation techniques and will become knowledgeable of the indications, contraindications and potential adverse reactions of medication used.

## **Teaching experience**

An opportunity to teach at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry is provided. Residents teach diagnosis and treatment planning to second year dental students in the clinic.

## **Anesthesiology**

The residents spend three weeks assigned to the anesthesiology department at the VA Medical Center to learn principles and techniques of general anesthesia and operating room protocol. They gain skills and knowledge in airway management and monitoring of the unconscious patient along with preoperative evaluation, venipuncture and intubation techniques.

## **General Medicine**

Residents see patients under direct supervision in the General Medicine Clinic at the Ann Arbor VA. The resident will gain experience in obtaining the medical history and performing physical assessments of patients. The resident will be better able to recognize deviations from normal health and make accurate risk assessments.

## **Emergency Medicine**

The resident rotates at the University of Michigan Emergency Medicine Department. On the completion of this rotation, the resident will understand an approach to the evaluation and management of common medical emergencies, with special emphasis on emergencies likely to present concurrently with dental procedures.

## **Inpatient Medicine**

The residents spend one week at an inpatient ward at the VA. They further develop skills of medical risk assessment, physical evaluation, and the management of inpatients in a hospital setting using a multidisciplinary approach.

## **ENT**

The resident will rotate in the ENT service at the VA Medical Center to become familiar with the performance of routine procedures and diagnostic methods used in the practice of otolaryngology. Experience is also gained during inpatient and OR procedures.

## **Venipuncture**

The residents are trained in the techniques of venipuncture with the opportunity to practice and become proficient. Residents will also gain experience during the anesthesiology and oral surgery rotations.

## **Community Dentistry**

Opportunities for the residents to become involved in off service clinical activities in community dentistry are available.

## VA Dental Clinical Faculty

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Discipline/Specialty</u></b>
CRUM, P.	Generalist (Geriatrics)
DesROSIERS, D.	Generalist (Program Director)
FOX, A.	Generalist
KARAM, L.	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
MORRIS, H.	Prosthodontist
MORRIS, S.	Generalist
OH, W.	Prosthodontist
PIKULSKI, J.	Generalist (Assistant Program Director)
SCHNEIDEWIND. S.	Generalist
SHAY, K.	Generalist (Geriatrics)
SMITH, E.	Generalist (OMFS experience)
WYDERKO, E.	Generalist
ZWETCHKENBAUM, S.	Maxillofacial Prosthodontist

## VA Consultants – from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Discipline/Specialty</u></b>
BROOKS, S.	Oral Radiology
FEINBERG, S.	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
HELMAN, J.	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
RICHARDS, P.	Periodontics
STEFANAC, S.	Oral Medicine
UPTON, G.	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
WANG, H.	Periodontics
WARD, B.	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

## 6: Programmatic Specifics

### **Accreditation**

The General Practice Residency is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education.

### **Certification**

A certificate of completion is given by the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System for satisfactory completion of the twelve-month residency.

### **Stipend and Benefits**

The salary for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is \$46,922 with an additional \$3,660 lump sum on 11/30/2009, consistent with the salary of a first-year house officer at the University of Michigan Medical Center. Each House Officer receives 20 work days (Mon-Fri) of vacation time per academic year.

There is no tuition required. Professional liability coverage is provided, and health and life insurance are available through the University of Michigan. Specifics on other benefits can be found in the House Officer Association handbook.

### **On-Call Responsibility**

On-call emergency care is shared by the residents of the University of Michigan Hospital GPR Program and the residents of the VA GPR Program. Pagers are provided to allow the on-call resident greater freedom within the community during non-clinic hours.

### **Non-Discriminatory Policy**

It is our policy to fill vacancies by selection from the best-qualified applicants. There will be no discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, lawful political affiliation, marital status, non-disqualifying physical or mental handicap, age or membership in a labor organization.

### **Additional Information**

A list of goals and objectives of residency training is available on request.

# Requirements for Application

To apply, please provide the following documents:

1. VA Application Form (VA Form #10-2850b)
2. Dental school transcript (Official copy)
3. Copy of National Board scores (Official copy)
4. Letter of Recommendation from the Dean
5. Three (3) additional Letters of Recommendation
6. Current Curriculum Vitae
7. Personal Statement describing your interest in a GPR program
8. Photograph (optional)

The deadline for a completed application is October 15, 2010.

## **Requirements for Appointment**

To qualify for a position, an applicant must be a graduate of a U.S. dental school or, if a graduate of a foreign dental school must have successfully completed Parts I and II of the National Board Examination.

For additional information, please contact:

**Deb DesRosiers, DDS, MS, Program Director**  
**Dental Service (160)**  
**VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System**  
**2215 Fuller Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105**  
**tel: 734.845.3411 fax: 734.845.3200**  
**email: [deborah.desrosiers@va.gov](mailto:deborah.desrosiers@va.gov)**