

VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

General Practice Residency in Dentistry



VA Palo Alto Health Care System
www.palo-alto.med.va.gov

The VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) is located in the Santa Clara Valley, otherwise known as Silicon Valley. Nestled between two large metropolitan areas, San Francisco to the north and San Jose to the south, there is easy access to many places of interest and a myriad of diverse activities. The San Francisco Bay Area is world renown for its centers of technological advancements, culinary geniuses, cultural diversity and proximity to beautiful beaches and the majestic mountains of the Sierras.

VAPAHCS consists of three inpatient facilities located at Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Livermore plus six outpatient clinics in San Jose, Capitola, Monterey, Stockton, Modesto, and Sonora. These facilities provide some of the world's finest medical care and cutting-edge technology.

VAPAHCS operates nearly 900 beds, including three nursing homes and a 100-bed homeless domiciliary all to serve more than 85,000 enrolled veterans. VAPAHCS is home to a variety of regional treatment centers, including a Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center, Spinal Cord Injury Center, a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center, a Traumatic Brain Injury Center, the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center, a Geriatric Research Educational and Clinical Center, a Homeless Veterans Rehabilitation program, and the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

VAPAHCS maintains one of the top three research programs in the VA with extensive research centers in geriatrics, mental health, Alzheimer's disease, spinal cord regeneration, schizophrenia, Rehabilitation Research and Development Center, HIV research and a Health Economics Resource Center.

VAPAHCS is a teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient care services, with state-of-the-art technology as well as education and research. Comprehensive health care is provided in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, rehabilitation, neurology,



oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care.

An affiliation with the Stanford University School of Medicine provides a rich academic environment including medical training for physicians in virtually all specialties and subspecialties. VAPAHCS operates one of the largest Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs in VHA. Medical training is provided to more than 1,300 trainees (yearly) including medical students, interns, residents and fellows from 161 academic institutions. VAPAHCS was awarded the Worthen Award for academic excellence, the highest award given by VA in academics.

The hospital has two fitness facilities, a basketball gymnasium and indoor pool for use by hospital staff. The dental residents will receive hospital privileges at the VA Hospital, Highland Hospital, and at Stanford

University Hospital.



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http://www.palo-alto.med.va.gov/hcservices/general_practice.asp

PASS (<http://www.adea.org/EPS/searchform.asp>)

MATCH (<http://www.natmatch.com/dentres/>)

The VAPAHCS general practice residency in dentistry is a comprehensive educational program designed to provide clinical, didactic and hospital experience at the post-doctoral level. It is approved by the American Dental Association's Commission on Accreditation.

The general practice residency program is designed to provide the new dental graduate with a one year guided clinical experience in general dentistry as practiced in a hospital setting. Particular emphasis is placed on the dental management of patients with systemic disease and the relationship of medical disorders to oral disease and dental care. The program will allow the resident to learn to work effectively with other health professionals in the hospital environment while giving him or her, the opportunity to refine and advance knowledge and skills in clinical dentistry.



Program Curriculum

The program curriculum is conducted at the postgraduate level (PGY-1) and consists of didactic clinical instruction in all areas of dental treatment modalities under the guidance of experienced professionals. Emphasis is made in the treatment planning and comprehensive treatment of medically compromised patients through formal case presentations where all aspects of patient management are discussed.



Clinical experience and some advanced training is provided in preventive dentistry, geriatric dentistry, operative, fixed and removable prosthodontics, dental implantology, geriatric dentistry, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery and oral pathology. The oral surgery rotation includes an experience in the plastic surgery and craniofacial clinics at Stanford University Hospital. Consultant services are available in endodontics, orthodontics and pedodontics. Off

service assignments include rotations to the emergency room, ENT, infectious disease, speech pathology and audiology, cardiology and anesthesiology. Formal training includes regularly scheduled consultant visits, assignments in oral surgery and prosthodontics, hospital dentistry conferences and case presentations. Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification is also available. There is a monthly journal club and oral pathology conference.

The general practice residents are expected to have a full time commitment to the program during their academic year. This translates to on-time attendance at all

scheduled lectures and conferences while devoting time beyond regular clinic hours to program related activities such as hospital ward rounds, medical records and preparation for presentations. Residents are encouraged to actively participate in all case presentations, treatment planning discussions and to critically analyze and discuss scientific articles during the journal club meetings.



Salary and Benefits

An annual stipend of ~\$48,716 is provided per agreement. (The average apartment housing in the Santa Clara Valley ranges from \$500-\$2000 a month for one-three bedrooms.) Other benefits include but are not limited to:

- Medical Insurance
- Group Life Insurance
- 20 days leave
- 10 Federal Holidays
- Educational leave by prior arrangement
- Scrubs and free parking

During the off-service rotations, residents must adhere to the policies and work schedules of the services to which they are assigned. They will be under the direct supervision of the attending staff or chief resident.

Residents are expected to diagnose and treat veteran patients in a diligent and compassionate manner and to relate well and respectfully to fellow workers and the general public. Appropriate dress and appearance is required for all activities associated with the program. Scrub-wear is provided.

Formal evaluations of the residents are conducted quarterly by the attending staff. A certificate is awarded by the Department of Veterans Affairs after satisfactory performance and favorable recommendation of the attending staff and the program director.

Resident Year at a Glance

Rotation	Location	Duration
General Dentistry	VA Palo Alto	30 weeks
Oral Surgery	Stanford Hospital VA Palo Alto & Livermore Division Highland General Hospital	10 weeks
Anesthesia Rotation	VA Palo Alto	2 weeks
Geriatric Dentistry	VA Menlo Park	1-2 weeks
ENT	VA Palo Alto	1 week
Emergency Room	VA Palo Alto	1 week
General Medicine	VA Palo Alto	1 week
Cardiology	VA Palo Alto	1 day
Speech Pathology	VA Palo Alto	1 day
Audiology	VA Menlo Park	1 day
Immunology Clinic	VA Palo Alto	1 day
Dental Emergency Triage	VA Palo Alto	7-8 weeks

Faculty and attending staff

Dental Service Chief-Lori Beeninga, DDS, FAAHD (**UCLA**)

Assistant Chief-Jim Beatty, DDS (**Ohio State Univ.**)

Assistant Chief Livermore Div.-Lakshmi Subramanian, DDS (**UCLA**)

GPR Director-Shannon Parr, DDS, MA (**UCSF**)

Staff Prosthodontist

Ken Hsu, DDS (**Univ. of Illinois, Prosthodontics VAMC Hines, IL**)

Staff Oral Surgeons

Mitchell Day, DDS(**UCSF, OMFS University of Pittsburgh**)

Sabine Girod, DDS, MD, PhD

(**Freidrich Wilhelm Univ. Germany, Med. Hochschule Hannover, Univ. of Koeln**)

Joerg Wittenberg, DDS, MD (**UOP, OMFS LSU**)

Al Steunenbergs DDS (**UCSF, OMFS Missouri**)

Staff Periodontist

Frank Martinez, DDS (**USC, Perio. Naval Dental Center, Bethesda, MD**)

Staff Hospital Dentists

Robin Arita DDS (**UCSF**)

Ann Chen DDS (**UCLA**)

Mark Diehl DMD, FAGD (**Washington Univ., St. Louis**)

Ian Lin, DMD (**Penn**)

Ruchi Nijjar DDS (**UOP**)

Al Sze DDS (**UOP**)

Tim Verceles DDS, MAGD (**UCSF**)

Sunny Young DDS (**UCLA**)

Consultant Faculty

Periodontist: Dr. William Lundergan (**UOP, Perio. U. Conn**)
Pedodontist: Dr. Randy Ligh (**Temple, Pedo. UCLA**)
Orthodontist: Dr. Larry Morrill (**USC, Ortho. UCSF**)
Endodontists: Dr. Lynne Baldassari Cruz (**UCSF, Endo. Iowa**)
Dr. Bruce Fogel (**UCLA, Endo. Harvard**)
Dr. Kingstone Shih (**UCSF, Endo. Temple**)

Prepared by: Tim Verceles, D.D.S.

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