PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

WHAT IS A PAEDIATRIC DENTAL GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY?
A general practice residency (GPR) is an additional year of training after graduation from an accredited undergraduate dentistry program. GPRs may be hospital and/or university-based.

A paediatric dental GPR is an additional year of training at a children’s hospital that offers new dentists an opportunity to enhance and advance their clinical skills and training in the area of paediatric dentistry. Currently, there are only three accredited GPR programs focused on paediatric dentistry in Canada. We are the only accredited facility east of Montreal.

WHO OFFERS THE PROGRAM AND IS IT ACCREDITED?
The program is offered by the IWK Health Centre Dental Department (IWK) in conjunction with the division of paediatric dentistry in the Faculty of Dentistry at Dalhousie University. There are four paediatric dentists who work at the IWK and teach at Dalhousie. In addition, residents interact with our staff orthodontist and oral maxillofacial surgeons. Residents also interact with medical staff in other departments at this teaching hospital. This one-year program is fully accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation of Canada.

WHERE DOES THE PROGRAM TAKE PLACE AND WHERE DO THE PATIENTS THAT I WILL SEE COME FROM?
The program takes place at the IWK Health Centre and Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The IWK is the teaching and tertiary health care centre for the Maritime Provinces and a quaternary care centre for the Atlantic Provinces in children’s health. We see approximately 4000 international, national, regional, and local patients annually, representing the most complex medically compromised children, craniofacial anomalies, genetic disorders, and acute emergencies, as well as many children with acute oral health care needs.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DOING A PAEDIATRIC DENTAL GPR AND WHAT EXPERIENCES WILL I GAIN?
Will I do sedation or work in the OR?
This program has a heavy clinical emphasis. Residents receive comprehensive training in the multidisciplinary management of all aspects of paediatric care that children in hospital settings require. Residents work with children of all ages who are medically compromised (cancer, cardiac, nephrology) and patients with neurological deficits, such as an intellectual disability (developmental delays, autistic spectrum disorder) or neuromuscular impairments (spastic quadriplegia). Residents see many children with genetic disorders and multisystem involvement, and cases involving interesting oral pathology. Residents participate in the cleft lip and palate/craniofacial clinic and attend team meetings weekly. Cont’d
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS CONT’D

Dental residents become competent in effectively managing the fearful child, as well as providing treatment with sedation. By the end of the year, residents will have completed upwards of 30-50 cases in the operating room, and a further 30-50 sedation cases in the clinic.

Residents will have one-on-one training with paediatric anaesthetists in airway management, intubations, and IV management. This rotation will enhance the clinical skills needed when sedating paediatric dental patients in the clinic.

Dental residents gain in-depth clinical skill in managing paediatric dental emergencies while on call with a certified dental assistant. An attending paediatric dentist is always on call with the resident and available to supervise. There are many traumas, acute dentoalveolar infections and other emergencies seen at our hospital that provide residents with invaluable experience, extensive knowledge, and clinical skills in all aspects of managing these emergency patients.

Because the program is affiliated with the division of paediatric dentistry at Dalhousie University, residents will have an opportunity to develop skills as dental educators in pre-clinical and clinical environments with undergraduate dental students.

This program is an invaluable opportunity for new graduate dentists to gain extensive and comprehensive training in managing children and their families. Residents who complete this program will have the skills and confidence needed for a general practice that treats families with children. Graduates of this program will also have the training and demonstrated competence to allow them to apply with confidence for hospital privileges at regional health centres or community-based surgical suites. Many of our residents are accepted into specialty programs as a result of their advanced training, including further specialization in paediatric dentistry through a formal training program.

PAEDIATRIC ANAESTHESIA
Residents will have one-on-one training with paediatric anaesthetists in airway management, intubations, and IV management. This rotation will enhance the clinical skills needed when sedating paediatric dental patients in the clinic.

PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY/CARDIAC SURGERY
Many paediatric dentistry patients have complex congenital heart disease. This rotation will give residents experience in evaluating children with murmurs and complex congenital heart disease. Residents will observe diagnostic cardiac procedures, interventional catheterizations, and open heart surgery.

PAEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY
Residents will participate in haematology and oncology outpatient clinics and the inpatient unit to enhance their understanding of bleeding diatheses and childhood cancers. Residents will also attend weekly tumour board meetings, at which all disciplines present cases.

DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRICS
Many paediatric dentistry patients have an intellectual disability. This rotation will enhance patient assessment skills and help residents appreciate the extent of medical and social issues that families must deal with.

oral maxillofacial surgery
Upon request, and taking the clinic schedule into account, an oral maxillofacial surgery rotation is available with staff oral maxillofacial surgeons at the QE II Health Sciences Centre. This is an opportunity to observe complex dental alveolar surgery. The QE II is located next door to the IWK in Halifax.

CLEFT LIP AND PALATE/CRANIOFACIAL CLINICS
These clinics enable residents to learn about the care that other disciplines within the team provide.

EMERGENCY ROTATION
At the beginning of the program, residents will spend several shifts in the emergency department to gain an understanding of the function of the emergency room, the triaging process, and the management of emergency patients of all types.

WILL I BE ABLE TO DO ANY ROTATIONS IN OTHER MEDICAL DISCIPLINES?
Rotations are an invaluable part of the residency program. They allow residents not only to enhance their clinical skills, but to see procedures that other services have performed on patients to help with their care. This will help residents understand different procedures carried out within the hospital and gain an appreciation for the team approach to treating children within a tertiary care environment. Current rotations include:
GRAND ROUNDS
Residents attend paediatric grand rounds weekly throughout the scheduled year. At grand rounds, paediatric subspecialists present up-to-date reviews and research regarding paediatric health-related topics.

ARE THERE ANY FORMAL TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES, LEARNING OBJECTIVES, AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS?
Residents receive a three-day orientation to the program. Any residents who have not taken a didactic nitrous oxide inhalation sedation course will receive training. Residents will also be required to take the paediatric advanced life support course (PALS). Journal clubs will review relevant topics in paediatric dentistry through a review of current literature. Residents will also make case presentations on a formal basis during the year.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
At the end of the program the resident will:

Be able to diagnose and treat paediatric oral pathological conditions using enhanced clinical skills in paediatric dentistry, including, when applicable, sedation in a primary care clinical or hospital environment using evidence-based practices and standards; treat children with associated medical co-morbidities in an appropriate setting with a multidisciplinary approach using evidenced-based regimens and protocols; be eligible and competent to apply for privileges to practise dentistry in a regional hospital/clinical and operating room setting; recognize complex medical conditions and oral pathological needs that require the expertise of a specialist in paediatric dentistry or other dental specialty and initiate an appropriate detailed referral; be able to work as a dental educator in a faculty of dentistry and participate in research; have enhanced eligibility for advanced training as a specialist in paediatric dentistry or other dental specialty programs.

As part of the course requirement for hospital/clinical paediatric dentistry and medicine, students will complete a case report for publication in a peer-reviewed dental/medical publication. This case report can be taken from one of the cases they have presented. Residents also complete an educational project as part of their teaching assignments.

WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE PROGRAM, WILL I BE PAID, AND ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS?
The program is one year in duration and begins mid-June. Residents are paid a competitive stipend. There are three weeks of paid holidays, one week during the hospital summer closure, one week during the hospital Christmas/New Year closure, and one week to be agreed with the program director, depending on rotations and clinic schedules. There are no housing accommodations available through the IWK. Residents are required to pay their student license fees, Nova Scotia Dental Association fees, and CDSPI malpractice insurance.

HOW MANY RESIDENTS ARE ACCEPTED PER YEAR?
There are currently two positions available per year.

WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND HOW DO I APPLY?
The admission requirements are outlined in the admissions calendar, Faculty of Dentistry, Dalhousie University.

Residents must have a DDS, DMD, or equivalent from a CDAC-accredited or reciprocal accredited institution. A minimum “B” average in undergraduate and professional coursework is required. Students will have demonstrated an interest and aptitude in paediatric dentistry in their undergraduate curriculum as shown by their marks in second and third year paediatric dentistry and, in the case of a graduate dentist, fourth-year paediatric dentistry. Candidates are required to submit reference letters regarding their character and suitability for the residency program, and participate in the Match process.

Candidates must satisfy the requirements of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia for student licensure for registration. Graduates of all Canadian and American dental schools are eligible to apply. Canadian citizenship is an advantage. Foreign dentists, other than U.S.-trained graduates, must possess a certificate issued by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada and must meet immigration requirements.
Application

A complete application consists of:

- Application fee - $70.00 (Cdn)
- Official academic transcripts for the first three years of dentistry, if applying prior to the end of the completion of an accredited undergraduate dental program, or complete transcripts if an applicant has completed his/her dental program. These must be sent directly from the applicant’s university.
- Official transcripts from all universities attended, sent directly from the applicant’s university.
- Two letters of recommendation, sent directly by the referees
- Results of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) if your first language is not English. A minimum TOEFL score of 600 or a computer TOEFL score of 250 is required. Where TOEFL is not available, the following tests will be accepted. MELAB (minimum score 90); and IELTS (minimum score 7).
- Curriculum vitae (current)
- Letter of intent
- Participation in the Match process
- Completed application form. Application forms can be downloaded electronically from: dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/admissions/dent_residency_app.pdf. Like all other Canadian residency programs, Dalhousie University participates in the Match process.

OPTIONAL APPLICATION MATERIAL
The following are not prerequisites for a successful application, but are considered helpful.

- Results of the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) scores, if you have not graduated from a Canadian university.
- The abstract from a thesis and/or copies of papers published or in preparation.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIAL AND MATCH PROCESS
The program deadline for receipt of completed applications (including all supporting materials) is September 30. However, due to the limited number of spaces available, it is in the applicant's best interest to submit a completed application well in advance of these dates.

WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION MATERIAL
Send your completed application forms, supporting materials, and application fee to:

Registrar’s Office
Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2 CANADA

It is recommended that a hard copy or electronic copy of the application and supporting materials be forwarded to:

Pamela Reed
Administrative Assistant
Dental Department
IWK Health Centre
5850/5980 University Avenue
PO Box 9700
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 6R8 Canada
Tel: 902.470.3852
pamela.reed@iwk.nshealth.ca

Please forward any inquiries regarding this program to the above.