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 upon 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 five accredited GPR program’s focused on paediatric dentistry in Canada. We are the only accredited facility east of Montreal.

Who offers the program and is it accredited?

This one year program is a 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 is offered by the IWK Health Centre Dental Department (IWK) in conjunction with the Division of Paediatric Dentistry, Department of Dental Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, Dalhousie University. Faculty includes the 4 staff paediatric dentists who work at the IWK and teach at Dalhousie (Dr. Ross Anderson, Dr. Tracy Doyle, Dr. Heather Dyment and Dr. Jennifer MacLellan.) In addition, residents interact with our staff orthodontist and staff oral maxillofacial surgeons. Lastly, residents also interact with medical staff in other departments at this teaching hospital.

The program is run 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 of 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 paediatric dental GPR and what experiences will I gain?

This program has a heavy clinical emphasis at the IWK Health Centre where the residents receive comprehensive training in the multidisciplinary management of all aspects of paediatric care required by children in hospital settings. Residents work with children of all ages who are medically compromised (cancer, cardiac, nephrology) and those 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.

Dental residents gain in-depth clinical skill in the management of 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 provide supervision if required. There are many traumas, acute dental alveolar infections and other emergencies seen at our hospital that provide residents invaluable experience, extensive knowledge and clinical skills in all aspects of management of these emergency patients.

As the program is affiliated with the Division of Paediatric Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Dalhousie University, residents will have an opportunity to develop skills as dental educators in pre-clinical and clinical environments with undergraduate dental students.

What will I do today?

There is always a broad range of patient care activities to choose from within the Department.

Dental residents will see a variety of patients including those requiring comprehensive treatment with sedation or in the operating room. By the end of the year residents will have completed upwards of 30-50 cases in the operating room depending upon their proficiency.

Dental residents become competent in effectively managing the fearful child, as well as providing treatment with sedation or in the operating room. Residents will have one-on-one training with paediatric anaesthetists providing airway care environment. Current rotations include:

- Paediatric Anaesthesia
- Paediatric Cardiology/cardiac surgery
- Pediatric Dentistry General Practice Residency Program
- Paediatric Dentistry/Orthodonticrotation

Paediatric Anaesthesia

Residents will have one-on-one training with paediatric anaesthetists providing airway management, intubations and IV management. This rotation will enhance the clinical skills required during sedation of paediatric dental patients in the clinic.

Paediatric Cardiology/cardiac surgery

Many patients seen in paediatric dentistry have complex congenital heart disease. This rotation will give residents a chance to evaluate children with murmurs and complex congenital heart disease. Residents will observe diagnostic cardiac procedures and 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. In addition to this rotation, residents attend tumour board weekly where cases are presented by all disciplines.

Paediatric Neurology and Developmental Paediatrics
Many patients seen in paediatric dentistry have an intellectual disability or a neuromuscular deficit. 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
In addition to daily dental alveolar surgical interventions on children treated in the clinic and OR, residents spend time with staff oral maxillofacial surgeons at the QE II Health Sciences centre providing complex dental alveolar surgery. The QE II is located next door to the IWK in Halifax.

Paediatric Otolaryngology and Speech, Hearing and Language Pathology
Residents will have the opportunity through Cleft Lip and palate/craniofacial clinics to learn about the care that other disciplines of the team provide. In addition residents will have the opportunity to participate in the About Face camp for patients with craniofacial anomalies in the summer.

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, triaging, and management of emergency patients of all types.

Grand Rounds
Residents attend paediatric grand rounds weekly through 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 3 day orientation to the program. For those residents who have not taken a didactic nitrous oxide inhalation sedation course they will receive this. Residents will be required to take the paediatric advanced life support course (PALS). Journal clubs will review relevant topics in Paediatric Dentistry through review of current literature. Case presentations will also be done by the Residents 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 utilizing enhanced clinical skills in Paediatric Dentistry, including when applicable, sedation in a primary care clinical or hospital environment utilizing evidenced-based practices and standards.

Be able to diagnose and treat oral pathological conditions utilizing evidenced-based practices and standards.

Be eligible and competent to apply for privileges to practice dentistry in a regional hospital/clinical or 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.

Be able to diagnose and treat paediatric oral pathological conditions utilizing enhanced clinical skills in Paediatric Dentistry, including when applicable, sedation in a primary care clinical or hospital environment utilizing evidenced-based practices and standards.

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 3 weeks of paid holidays, 1 week during the hospital summer closure, 1 week during hospital Christmas/New Years closure and 1 week to be agreed upon with the Program Director in respect of 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 will require a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or equivalent from a CDAC accredited or reciprocal accredited institution. A minimum “B” average in undergraduate and professional coursework will be required. Students will have displayed an interest and aptitude in paediatric dentistry in their undergraduate curriculum as displayed by their marks in second and third year paediatric dentistry and in the case of a graduate dentist fourth year paediatric dentistry. Candidates will be required to submit reference letters regarding their character and suitability for the residency program.

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:

1. Application fee - $70.00 (Cdn).
2. 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 their dental program. These must be sent directly from the applicant's university.
3. Two letters of recommendation, sent directly by the referees.
4. 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).
5. Curriculum Vitae (current)

Dalhousie University participates with all programs in Canada in a common notification date for acceptance. Applicants will be informed of their acceptance on the LAST Monday in November of the application year.

Optional Application Material

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

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

Deadline for Submission of Application Material

The 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 and supporting materials along with the 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 forward to;

Dr. Ross D. Anderson,
Chief of Dentistry
IWK Health Centre
5850/5980 University Avenue
PO Box 9700
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3K 6R8 Canada

Or electronically at:
ross.anderson@iwk.nshealth.ca

Please forward any inquiries regarding this program to:

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