**ORAL MEDICINE GRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The graduate program in Oral Medicine is a full time, three-year program leading to Master of Medical Sciences (MSc.) in Oral Medicine. The graduate program in Oral Medicine is provisionally accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, with a site survey scheduled in 2018. The residents receive strong foundational knowledge in Oral Medicine through a well-structured didactic curriculum, and extensive clinical experience. The residents have an opportunity to pursue their individual research interests and collaborate with the well-established research labs within the University of Alberta network. A PhD option is available to interested candidates. One to two eligible residents are accepted every year.

**CORE-GRADUATE COURSES**

A comprehensive didactic curriculum is offered throughout the duration of the program, and includes seminars, literature review sessions and clinico-pathologic conferences. Residents are invited to attend the weekly Head and Neck Tumor board. The core-graduate courses offer foundational knowledge in Oral Pathology and Medicine, and complement the clinical training and rotations. The didactic courses offered are as follows:

Year 1:

General and Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

TMD/Orofacial pain/ Sleep disorders

Evidence-based dentistry

Systematic reviews in Dentistry

Introduction to Research Methodology

Year 2:

Advanced Oral Pathology

Oral Medicine Seminars

Pharmacotherapeutics in Oral Medicine

Advanced Oral Radiology

Medically Complex Patients

Year 3:

Oral Medicine Seminars

**CLINICAL EDUCATION**

The clinical education and experience of residents takes place at the University of Alberta Oral Medicine Clinic, University of Alberta Hospital, and Cross Cancer Institute. The development of clinical skills is a strong component of the program. The residents are closely supervised in maintaining patient health records and generating consultation reports.

**Oral Medicine Clinic**: The residents spend two half days a week during the entire duration of the program and gain extensive exposure to Oral Medicine patients. The residents learn how to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients presenting with a wide variety of oral mucosal conditions. For better management of patients, the residents have the opportunity to interact and consult with Oral Medicine specialists, Oral Pathologists, Oral Radiologists and Oral Surgeons on a regular basis. The residents have the advantage of being able to follow and evaluate their patients over time, thereby enhancing their understanding of disease progression and treatment outcomes.

**Orofacial Pain/TMD Clinic**: The residents spend four half days per week in the Orofacial Pain/TMD clinic during the first two years of the program. During the third year, they spend 2 half days per week. The residents gain significant experience in evaluating, diagnosing and management of patients who present with symptoms of acute/emergent pain, chronic orofacial pain and temporomandibular disorders. The residents are given modules of training leading to certification for the use of neuromodulators (e.g. Botox) in the treatment of Orofacial Pain. There is also experience offered in dental appliance therapy for Obstructive Sleep Apnea. The residents have the advantage of being able to follow and evaluate their patients over time, thereby enhancing their understanding of disease progression and treatment outcomes.

**Multi-disciplinary Orofacial Pain Clinic**: The residents spend 1 session per month during the entire duration of the program in the Multidisciplinary Orofacial Pain Clinic. Emphasis is given to a multidisciplinary approach to patients with orofacial pain, provided by a team of consultants including Oral Medicine specialists, Orofacial pain specialists, Oral Surgeons, Internal medicine specialists, pharmacists, physical therapists and nutritionists. Multiple specialists evaluate the patient, and the resident gains a strong sense of multidisciplinary approach and the best combination of therapies are offered to the patient.

**Hospital consultation rotation**: The residents spend a half-day a week over 3 months with the General Practice Residency Program during the third year of the program. The rotation enables the residents to gain a better understanding of management of medically complex patients and oncology patients.

**Dermatology rotation**: The residents spend 4 weeks in an off-service rotation in the Dermatology service during the third year of clinical training.

**Oncology rotation**: The residents spend 2 weeks in an off-service rotation in the Head and Neck Oncology service, and at the Cross Cancer Institute during the third year of clinical training.

**ENT rotation**: The residents spend 2 weeks in an off-service rotation on the ENT service during the third year of clinical training.

After the successful completion of the program, the residents are eligible to take the Royal College of Dentists of Canada Specialty Examination in Oral Medicine. They will also be eligible to take the American Board of Oral Medicine certification exam.

**Program Directors:**

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