

Orthodontic Residency Program

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The Department of Orthodontics offers a thirty-five month residency for advanced training in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics. This program is designed to offer a broad spectrum of clinical, didactic, research and teaching experience in the field. The emphasis of the program is placed on strong clinical and scholarly skills. The training program meets the formal requirements for eligibility to take the Phase II and Phase III portions of the American Board of Orthodontics.

The program trains residents with a broad knowledge and understanding of research methodology, growth and development, diagnosis and treatment planning, biomechanics, craniofacial anomalies, interdisciplinary dentistry, surgical orthodontics, and teaching. Patient care is conducted in the clinic of the Orthodontic Department. Facilities are available for complex radiographic and diagnostic imaging. Patients are screened in the clinic and accepted for treatment based on the difficulty, educational benefit and needs of the residents. Treatment cases will represent a cross-section of the cases encountered in private practice. This clinical experience combined with the research and teaching experience ensures that the residents' education is well rounded. The graduating resident is well prepared to contribute to their local dental community.

The first year is composed primarily of small group seminars and lectures combined with clinical experience in preparing and initiating treatment of comprehensive orthodontic cases. The program begins in late June or early July with exposure to research methodology, introduction to orthodontic technique and clinical procedures. As the semester continues, the clinic is started and patients are assigned to each resident. The didactic portion continues in the fall with diagnosis and treatment planning and the biomedical core course. The spring semester begins with growth and development, biomechanics and continuation of the biomedical core course. Patient assignments throughout the program will be adjusted to guarantee that each resident has a diverse caseload.

The second year involves clinical rotations, seminars and teaching activities. Patient care continues throughout the second year. The residents gain academic experience through teaching in the pre-doctoral clinic and orthodontic lab/lecture course which runs the entire year. In the summer, didactics begin with surgical orthodontics and current topics discussion. The fall semester includes current topics and courses begin on craniofacial anomalies and interdisciplinary dentistry. The spring expands on current topics and interdisciplinary dentistry. At the end of summer, the residents are examined to determine how each individual is progressing in the program and to provide feedback.

The third year is focused on completion of treatment for the resident's patient population, research and exposure to practice management. At the end of the year the residents should be prepared to take the Phase II portion of the American Board of Orthodontics. The residents present case reviews, which allow in-depth review of treatment and outcomes provided to the patient population in the clinic. Practice management reviews and examines aspects of traditional private practice and other options available upon completion. Office visits to practitioners in the area allows for outside exposure to practices.

This is a 35 month certificate program with the option of pursuing a master's degree. This degree may be completed through programs that exist in the Health Science Center and/or at other Colleges/Universities throughout the San Antonio area. These programs include, but are not limited to, basic science, clinical research, public health and education. The residents can also complete a Ph.D. program, which will require an appropriate increase in time commitment.

Application deadline is September 15 for the program which will begin at the end of the following June. Questions regarding the program may be directed to the Residency Program Director in the Department of Orthodontics:

Dubravko Pavlin, DMD, MSD, PhD, Program Director
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Dental School, Department of Orthodontics, MC 7910
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900
(210) 567-3510

Full Time Faculty

John D. Rugh, PhD, Chair

Dubravko Pavlin, DMD, MSD, PhD

Clarence Bryk, DDS, MS

Peter Gakunga, BDS, MS, PhD

Part Time Faculty

Bloyce H. Britton, III, DDS, MS

Fidel Del Toro, Jr., DDS, PhD

Jerome (Jay) M. Gibson, DDS

Henry Hammer, DDS, MS

Loyd Lee Harris, DD., MSD

David L. Hime, DDS, MS

Ann Larsen, DDS, MS

Robert R. Lemke, DDS, MD

Percy (Bud) Luecke, DDS, MSD

Dan Peavy, DDS, MSD

Norman (Nick) Salome, DDS, MSD

Ray Sprayberry, DDS, MSD

O.B. Vaughan, DDS, MSD, MS

Paul B. Wiegand, DDS, MSD

Research Faculty

S. Thomas Deahl II, DMD, PhD

John Hatch, PhD.

Jelica Heinrich, PhD

Lianrui Chu, MD

For any other information contact:

Ms. Patti Lairsey
Academic Coordinator
(210) 567-3510
Email: lairsey@uthscsa.edu