

**GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY (GPR) PROSPECTUS  
FOR RESIDENT CYCLE 2024-2025**

**SPONSORED BY THE  
CENTER FOR DENTAL EDUCATION  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES**

**1. BACKGROUND**

The UAMS General Practice Residency (GPR) is a one-year hospital-based program that emphasizes comprehensive general dentistry on patients with complex medical histories. The majority of the resident's time is spent in the UAMS Oral Health Clinic, where a private practice environment is maintained to assist in the transition from academics to "real world dentistry." Residents have their own operatory, assistant, and patient pool. Four full time faculty members and various adjunct faculty are available at all times for clinical instruction. The UAMS dental patient population is comprised of dental clearance patients (stem cell and solid organ transplant, head and neck radiation, cardiovascular surgery, joint replacement, etc.), medically compromised patients, UAMS employees and staff, and general patients from the community. Residents rotate through UAMS Otolaryngology and Anesthesia for two weeks in each department and Emergency Medicine for one week. Each resident will also spend three weeks at Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) rotating between Oral Surgery, Pediatrics and Special Needs Dentistry, and Periodontics, with a heavy focus on treating patients in the OR setting. Residents will also spend approximately seven evenings at the UAMS 12<sup>th</sup> Street Health and Wellness Center and two days at the Harmony Health Clinic. At the successful completion of the GPR program, each resident will receive a certificate of completion. An optional second year is also available to residents who wish to receive additional training in sedation, implantology, simple orthodontics, and other advanced training tailored to the resident's interests. This second year will focus heavily on providing care to patients in an operating room.

**2. PURPOSE**

The General Practice Residency (GPR) Program is a postdoctoral educational program designed to provide essential skills, attitudes, and abilities related to the contemporary practice of advanced general dentistry, with emphasis on total patient-centered care. The program provides the recent graduate the opportunity to augment his/her knowledge of oral disease and his/her diagnostic and therapeutic skills in dentistry. Treatment of oral disease in the medically complex patient and/or hospitalized patient is emphasized. A private practice environment is maintained throughout the program to assist the recent dental school graduate in the transition from academics to "real world dentistry."

**3. GOALS**

The overall programmatic goals are in accordance with the standards described by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, which state that the GPR residency will prepare the resident to:

**Goal 1:** Plan and provide care for a variety of patients including special needs and the medically compromised.

Objectives - The resident will be able to:

1. Treat patients whose medical, physical, psychological, or social situations make it necessary to modify normal dental routines in order to provide dental treatment for that individual.
2. Gain a deeper understanding of general medicine and the relationship between systemic disease states and proposed dental treatment.
3. Become proficient in pain and anxiety control in the dental setting.
4. Act as a primary care provider for individuals and groups of patients which includes: providing emergency and multidisciplinary comprehensive oral health care; providing patient focused care that is coordinated by the general practitioner; and directing health promotion and disease prevention activities.

**Goal 2:** Function effectively and efficiently in multiple health care environments within interdisciplinary health care teams in a hospital setting.

Objectives – The resident will be able to:

1. Learn the concept of hospital organization.
2. Become proficient in operating room protocol.
3. Interact with other hospital departments through consultation and while on various rotations.
4. Manage the delivery of oral health care by applying concepts of patient and practice management and quality improvement that are responsive to a dynamic health care environment.

**Goal 3:** Increase knowledge and skill beyond the pre-doctoral level and incorporate evidence-based decision making and lifelong learning into professional practice.

Objectives – The resident will be able to:

1. Utilize advanced knowledge in planning and executing their treatment plans.
2. Incorporate their knowledge of technology-based information in patient care.
3. Utilize their critical thinking and evidence based clinical decision-making skills in patient care delivery.
4. Utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, adaptability, and acceptance of cultural diversity in professional practice.

**Goal 4:** Understand the oral health needs of communities and engage in community service.

Objectives – The resident will be able to:

1. Assess, plan, implement, and evaluate activities that address oral health needs in various populations.
2. Promote the importance of daily oral care and maintenance.

#### **4. RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

**Program Length:**

The GPR Program, sponsored by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences consists of 12 months of advanced dental education in clinical dentistry and is conducted primarily within a hospital environment. An optional second year is

available for residents desiring additional hospital and OR-based dental training.

**Program Dates:**

The program begins June 12, 2024 and concludes June 30, 2025. In general, entering residents are **required** to report on this date for UAMS Hospital Orientation and to help in patient transition. The optional second year will begin July 1 and run through June 30 of the following year.

**Assignments:**

***UAMS Oral Health Center – 10 months***

Residents spend 10 months at the OHC where the majority of time is spent providing hands-on patient treatment. Clinical rotations are spread out during the entire year to assure continuity of care. During their time in clinic, residents gain a wide variety of experiences by providing complex dental treatment for both hospitalized and ambulatory patients. The concept of comprehensive care is stressed, with an emphasis on considering the "whole" patient. Opportunities exist for providing comprehensive dental care; including fixed and removable prosthodontics, implant placement and restoration, rotary endodontic therapy, periodontal therapy, oral surgery, and advanced esthetic operative techniques. Residents will become well versed in providing dental clearance for UAMS patients requiring head and neck radiation, solid organ transplant, and stem cell transplant. Residents also gain extensive experience in evaluating hospital patients and providing dental consultations for various hospital services.

***Oral Surgery, Pediatric and Special Needs Dentistry, and Periodontics – 3 weeks***

The GPR resident spends two weeks at the Arkansas Children's Hospital Dental Clinic. This rotation is heavily focused on treating patients in the operating room providing care to Pediatric and special needs patients. For the oral surgery portion, each resident will spend one-on-one time training with the oral surgeons at ACH learning surgical procedures and familiarizing themselves with third molar extractions, jaw resections, stabilizations, obturator construction and TMJ therapy. They will also participate in removal of cancerous tumors and cysts, assist the surgeon with biopsies, and participate in surgeries with the cleft palate team. Patients included are complex pediatric and adult patients, special needs patients, trauma, and OR cases. For the Pediatric and Special needs portion, emphasis is placed upon prevention of oral disease in the child and adolescent, management of dental emergencies, and treatment of the phobic or disruptive patient via behavioral management, inhalation analgesia, or general anesthesia. Residents will also spend time in the clinic and OR with the ACH periodontist, actively assisting and performing periodontal procedures such as gingivectomies, frenectomies, exposure of impacted teeth, extractions, and periodontal procedures in conjunction with orthodontics.

***Emergency Medicine – 1 week***

During this one-week rotation, residents actively participate in the care of patients presenting to the UAMS Hospital Emergency Room and Walk-in-Clinic. UAMS serves as a Level 1 trauma center; thus residents are exposed to a wide variety of emergency medical situations, from sprained ankles to major trauma. The GPR residents are often assigned one-on-one with an Emergency Medicine physician to

maximize their rotation.

### ***Otolaryngology – 2 weeks***

This two-week rotation is spent on service with the Department of Otolaryngology. The GPR resident will be primarily assigned to the head and neck cancer team. They will follow patients undergoing multidisciplinary management for head and neck cancer. Time will be spent in radiation oncology and medical oncology. Residents will observe and participate in numerous outpatient surgery procedures at the UAMS Otolaryngology clinic and operating rooms. Residents will participate in the care of hospitalized patients from admission to discharge. The GPR residents are required to participate in at least five operating room cases.

### ***Anesthesia – 2 weeks***

During this rotation, residents actively participate in the care of surgery patients via assignment to the Department of Anesthesiology at the UAMS Hospital. Residents receive experience in physical evaluation of the pre-anesthetic patient, starting and maintaining intravenous lines, oral and nasal intubation, monitoring vital signs, maintaining optimum airways, utilizing various equipment and instrumentation for monitoring the anesthetized patient, and patient recovery.

### ***UAMS 12th Street Health & Wellness Center and Harmony Health Clinic***

The 12<sup>th</sup> Street clinic currently sees an underserved population, and the dental clinic will also see this same type of patient population. Residents will spend on average 7 evenings per year at the 12<sup>th</sup> street clinic. Residents will also spend approximately two days per year working in the Harmony Health Clinic serving Central Arkansas' homeless population. The residents will treat these dental patients and provide a much-needed service for the community.

### ***Endodontics***

An endodontic course is taught and supervised by a private practice endodontist in the oral health clinic. This course focuses consists of clinical instruction, incorporating the use of endodontic instrumentation, use of the microscope, and use of rotary endodontics.

### ***Periodontics***

This periodontal course is taught and supervised by our adjunct faculty dentists and a private practice periodontist. This course provides didactic instruction and clinical training in periodontal procedures as needed for restorative treatment including crown lengthening, flap surgery, osseous surgery, implant placement, and grafting procedures.

### ***Implant***

The implant course is taught and supervised by our adjunct faculty dentists. This course provides training in implant placement and restoration, CBCT software with implant planning, and exposes resident to at least one surgically guided implant experience.

### ***Ozark Prosthodontics (OP)***

This four-day experience takes place in a private ambulatory surgery center in Northwest Arkansas. Residents will get exposure to complex prosthetic rehabilitation of craniofacial anomalies including cleft lip and palate, ectodermal dysplasia, amelogenesis imperfecta, etc. in addition to post head/neck radiation and chemo rehabilitation and maxillofacial trauma rehabilitation. Center uses cutting-edge technology and employs

software engineers to design prosthetics and surgical guides. All providers are prosthodontic specialists employing IV sedation with CRNAs for cases, allowing resident to enhance their anesthesia experience, in addition to their prosthodontic experience and surgical experience. They also bill 90% medical insurance based on the patient diagnosis allowing residents to see a completely different practice model of medical dentistry.

**Didactics:**

Didactic lectures are given on Friday afternoons. All GPR residents, including those on rotation, are required to attend these Friday sessions. Space permitting, continuing education courses offered by the UAMS Center for Dental Education are made available to the residents. Residents will also attend a yearly CE course facilitated by the Arkansas chapter of the Academy of General Dentistry. Residents are also exposed to organized dentistry and will attend the fall annual meeting of the Arkansas State Dental Association.

**5. FACILITIES**

**UAMS Oral Health Clinic:**

The UAMS Oral Health Clinic is a 15 operatory modern, spacious dental facility located in the UAMS Hospital. The operatories have fiber optic capability, digital radiography, nitrous oxide delivery units, and an integrated electronic patient record system. There are three front-office staff, twelve dental assistants and three hygienists assigned to the GPR clinic full-time. Inpatient and outpatient needs are readily served by the clinic's convenient location. Convenient parking for patients and residents is available.

**University Hospital:**

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Hospital is a Level 1 trauma center and major teaching and service facility with a capacity of 450 beds. This well-respected tertiary care hospital serves patients regionally, nationally, and internationally. It is particularly well known for clinical care and research relating to cardiac surgery, cancer therapy, organ transplantation, and geriatrics. The University Hospital is consistently ranked as one of the best health science center hospitals in the United States.

**Arkansas Children's Hospital:**

Arkansas Children's Hospital, as a private nonprofit institution, is the only pediatric medical center in the state and is one of largest in the nation. With 316 staffed beds, ACH is a Level 1 tertiary care regional referral center treating children from birth to age 21. Patients come from every county in Arkansas and many nearby states; the hospital hosts the only Burn Center in the state. A new and expanded Children's Hospital Dental Clinic was recently opened. A full spectrum of dental services is provided for medically compromised and healthy pediatric patients.

**6. CALL**

Residents currently do not participate in after-hours call throughout the year, however, residents are required to live within 30 minutes of UAMS Hospital in case they are needed for emergency management.

## 7. APPLICATION PROCESS

### **General:**

Selection of the residents is based on the following criteria:

- Class standing, GPA and National Boards Part I or INBDE
- Letters of recommendation (2 letters of recommendation and one dean's letter)
- Applicant essay
- Interview
- Clinical procedures completed

The GPR Admissions Committee is comprised of full-time faculty and part-time faculty. Applicants must be a graduate of a CODA accredited North American dental school. Successful completion of the National Boards Parts 1 and 2 or INBDE is required prior to matriculation into the program. *Arkansas state licensure, National Provider Identifier (NPI) number, and DEA number must be obtained prior to matriculation in the program.* All application forms must be received by September 15, 2023 for admission in 2024.

Accepted applicants must have current **BLS** certification prior to start of program.

### **PASS Application:**

Beginning with the 2016 entering class, participation in the PASS application program is **mandatory** for all applicants. Application materials can be accessed through the PASS website: <http://www.adea.org/passapp/>

### **UAMS Equal Education Opportunity:**

As an institution of higher education and in the spirit of its policies of equal employment opportunity, UAMS hereby reaffirms its policy of equal educational opportunity. All applicants for admission will be considered without regard to an applicant's race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, natural origin, disability unrelated to program performance, disabled veteran status, or Vietnam-era veteran status.

## 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### **Stipend:**

Each resident of the General Practice Residency Program receives stipend support as determined yearly by the administration of the University Hospital. The stipend compares favorably with those of other programs. Specific information is available from the program director. The first-year stipend is approximately \$55,123 a year plus benefits.

### **Moonlighting:**

For all first-year residents, the residency is to be a full-time endeavor. The after-hours practice of dentistry will not be permitted.

## 9. HEALTH POLICIES

All newly appointed residents must undergo a pre-employment physical examination and will be tested for tuberculosis at no cost by UAMS Employee Health within the first month of arrival. All newly appointed residents are also screened for

immunization of Hepatitis-B and childhood diseases as part of the physical.

**10. DISCLAIMER**

The contents of this prospectus represent the most current information available at the time of publication. It is possible that changes may be made with respect to this information without prior notice. Thus, the provisions of this prospectus are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the school and the student.

**11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For information concerning application status, requests for application materials, or for additional information about the UAMS General Practice Residency, please contact:

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