



Initial Results of a Novel Interprofessional Chiropractic Clinical Residency in the Department of Veterans Affairs

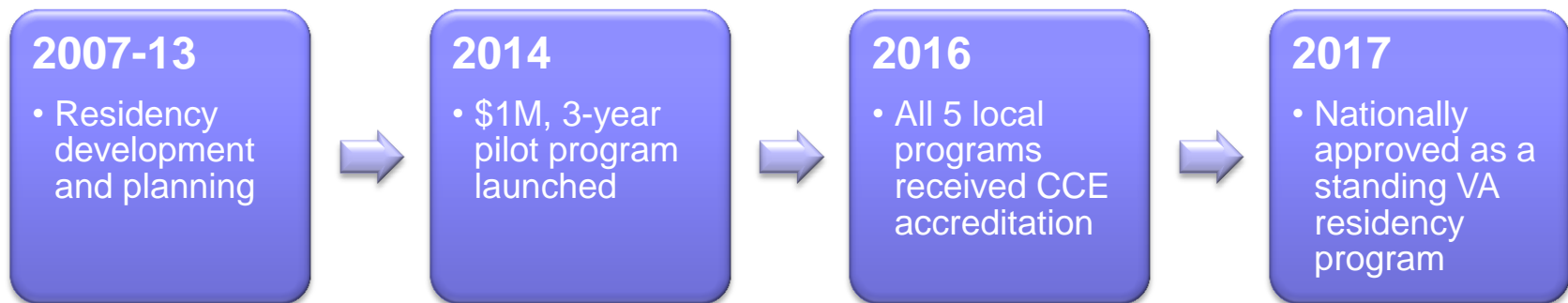
Anthony J. Lisi, DC
*Director, Chiropractic Program
Veterans Health Administration*

January 2018

Timeline

VA convened an advisory committee including external chiropractic profession experts. The program was developed consistent with VA priorities and chiropractic profession aims.

The programs became the first DC residencies to be accredited in the US



Through a competitive application process, 5 VA facilities were selected out of 10 proposals

Upon meeting VA performance metrics, the pilot program was converted to ongoing

Integrated Clinical Practice



Patient Care ~1,250 hrs (66%)

- Mentored by senior VA DCs
- Team-based collaborative management, including highly complex cases



Interdisciplinary Rotations ~320 hrs (17%)

- Including primary care, medical/surgical specialties, mental health specialties, rehabilitation disciplines



Scholarly Activities ~320 hrs (17%)

- Individual and group didactic content and projects
- Attend/give presentations; teach/assess DC students

Aim

- To provide graduate DCs with advanced training and experiences relevant to careers in hospitals, integrated medical systems, and/or academia

Details

- Full-time, 1-year program
- \$40k average annual stipend
- Paid time off Holidays and vacation
- Eligible for life and health insurance
- Open to US citizens only

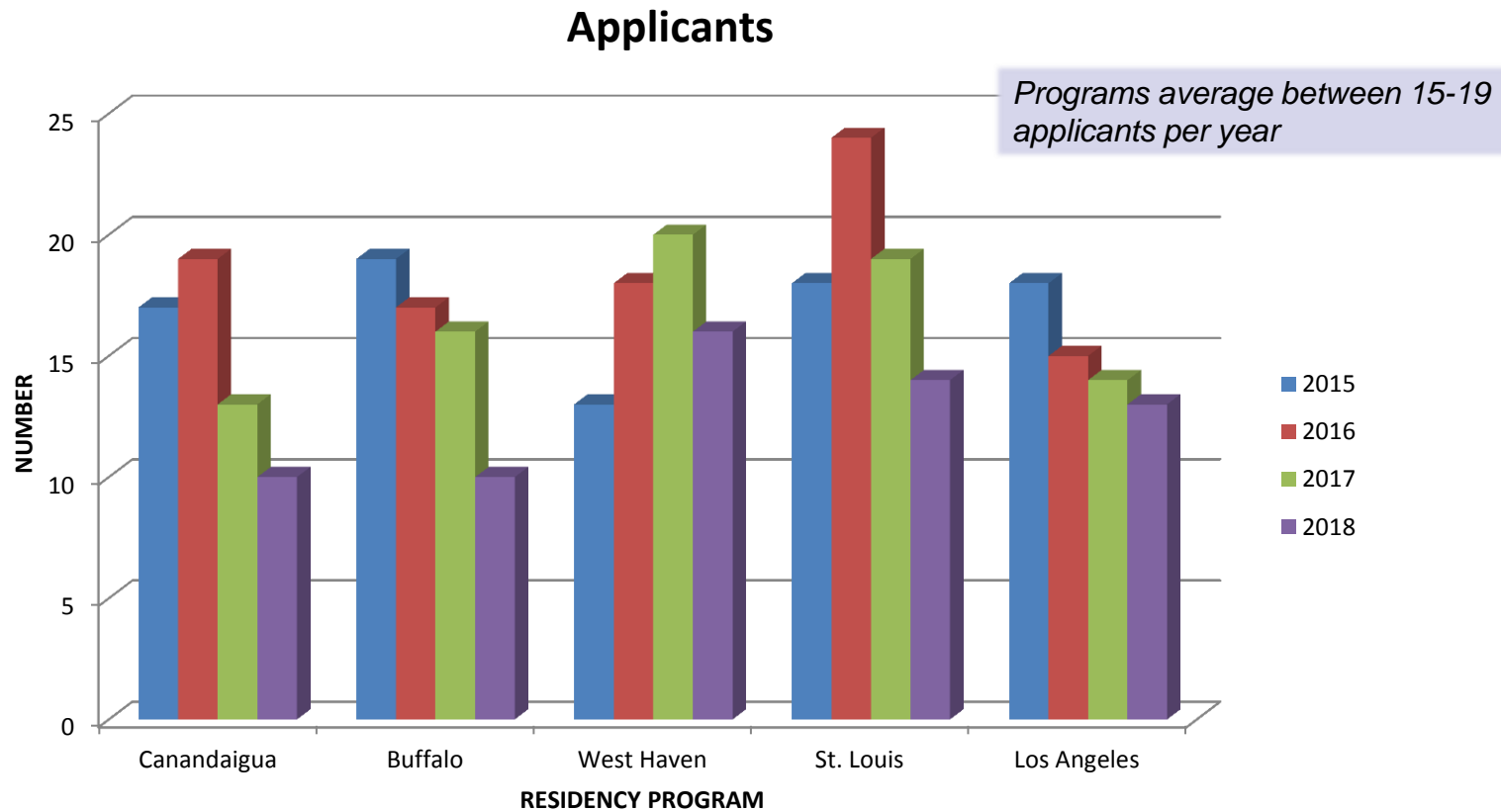
VA Residency Sites

VA Facility	Chiropractic Residency Director	Affiliated Chiropractic School
<u>VA Connecticut Healthcare System</u>	Anthony Lisi, DC	University of Bridgeport
<u>Canandaigua VA Medical Center</u>	Paul Dougherty, DC	New York Chiropractic College
<u>VA Western New York Healthcare System at Buffalo</u>	Andrew Dunn, DC	New York Chiropractic College
<u>VA St. Louis Healthcare System</u>	Pamela Wakefield, DC	Logan University
<u>VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System</u>	Valerie Johnson, DC	Southern California University of Health Sciences

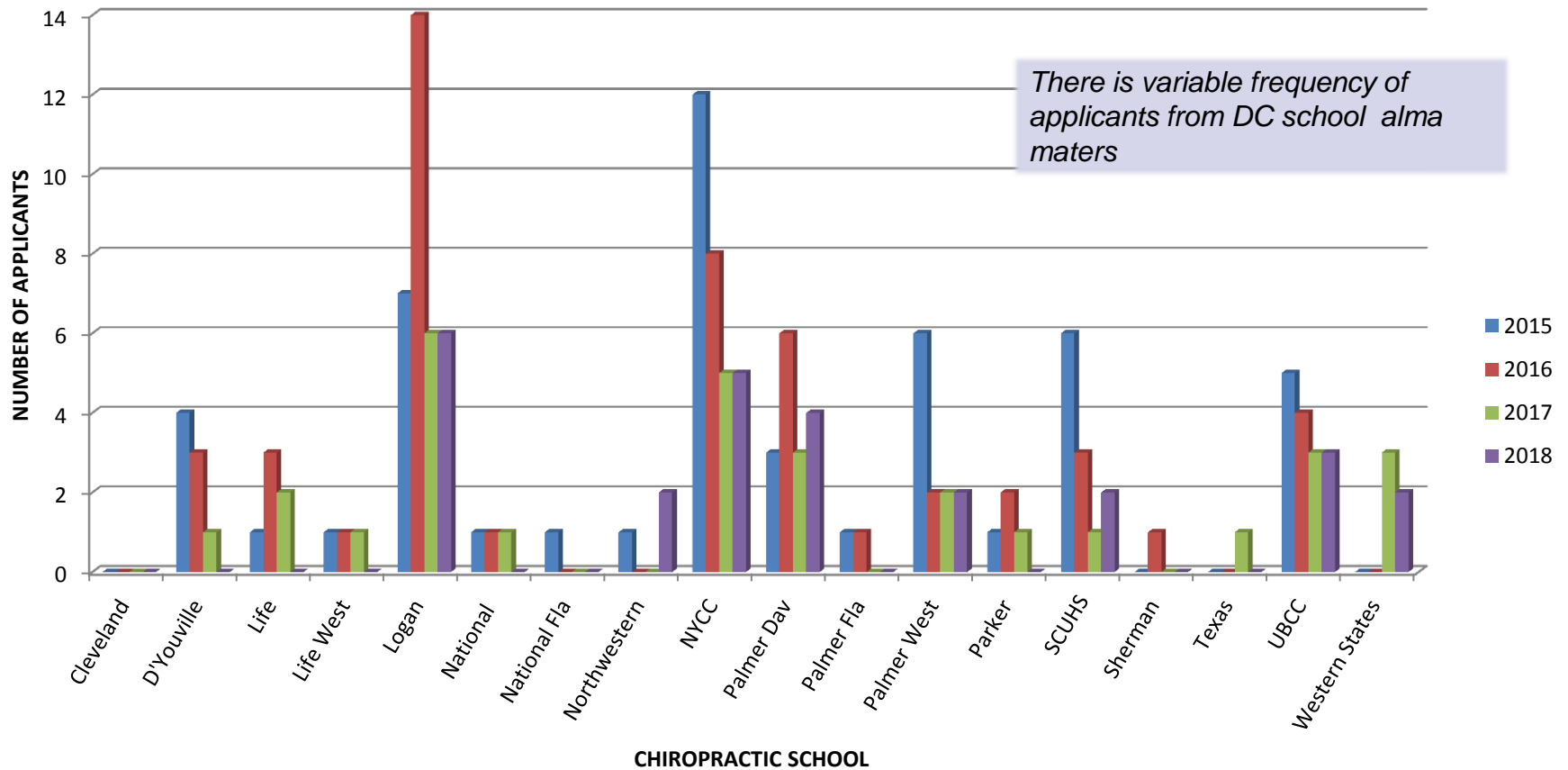
Initial Results

- Academic Years 2015 – 2018
 - Applicant and resident characteristics
 - Graduate performance
 - Perceived value

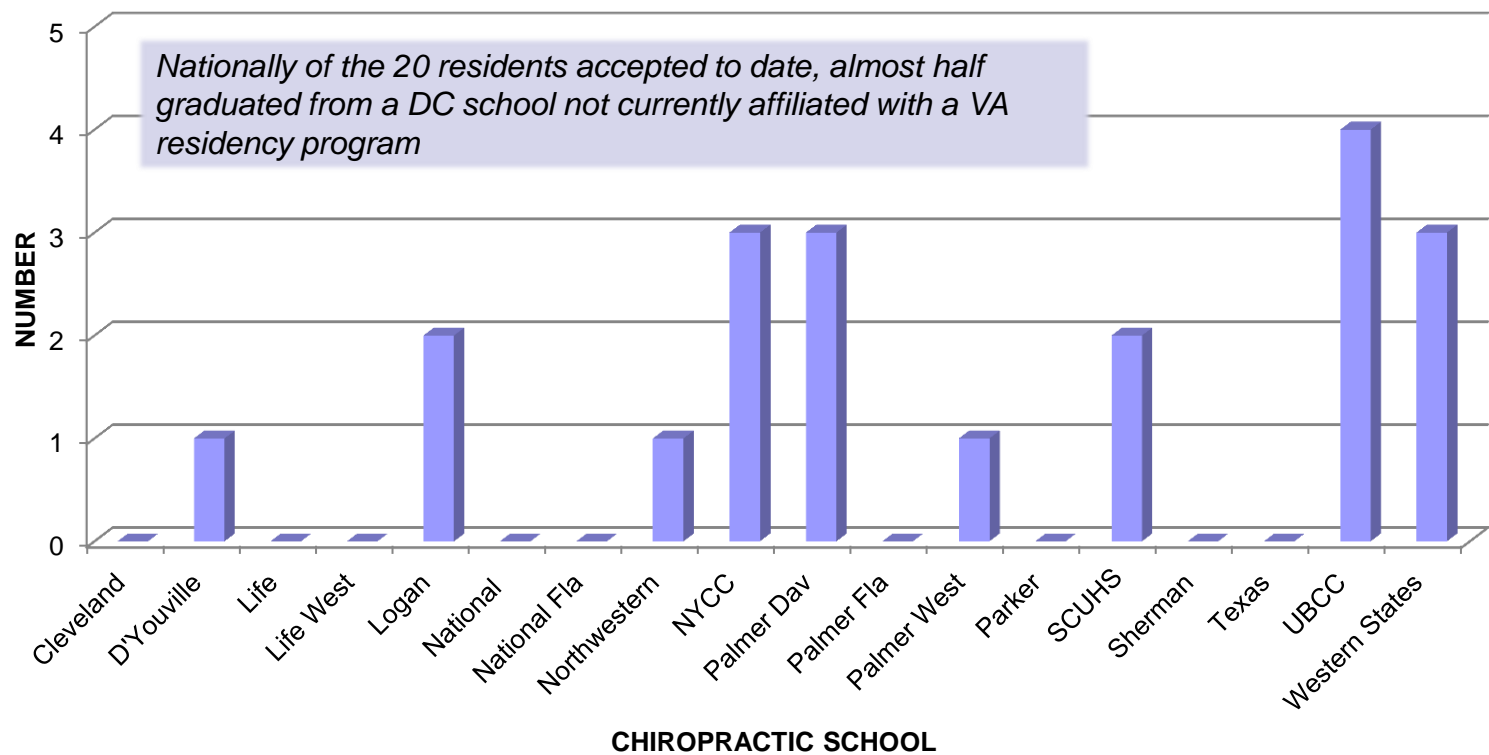
Program Applicants



Applicants by Alma Mater



Accepted Residents by Alma Mater



Select Characteristics

	2015	2016	2017	2018
<i>Applicants</i>				
Total number	50	49	30	26
No. within 2 years of DC school graduation	22 (44%)	21 (43%)	22 (73%)	20 (77%)
Average DC school GPA	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.5
% with medical rotation as a DC student	30%	53%	83%	62%
<i>Accepted Residents</i>				
Total number	5	5	5	5
No. within 2 years of DC school graduation	4 (80%)	3 (60%)	4 (80%)	4 (80%)
Average DC school GPA	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.5
% with medical rotation as a DC student	40%	80%	100%	100%

High GPA, recent graduation, and prior medical training rotations are common traits among applicants, and more so among accepted residents

Graduate Performance

- Each program met its target of 1 graduate per year
- Each graduate met or exceeded all program clinical, interprofessional, and scholarly requirements
- Resident output has included 3 peer-reviewed papers and multiple professional publications

Career Placement by Academic Year

	2015	2016	2017
Medical facilities			
VA	5	3	2
Private	-	2	1
Academia			
Chiropractic	-	-	-
Medical	-	-	1

To date 14 of the 15 graduates (93%) have placed in one of the target positions (medical/hospital practice, or academia) within 6 months of residency completion

Perceived Value

DC Residents

- “This was life changing for me”
(Resident, Class of 2015)
- “This opportunity...has truly unlocked the unlimited potential of my chiropractic education and training”
(Resident, Class of 2016)
- “This residency has had such a powerful impact on my career which has exceeded my expectations”
(Resident, Class of 2017)

MD Attendings

- “His history and exam was on par with a mid level neurosurgery fellow” *(VA Neurosurgeon)*
- “I had her teach the low back exam to my med students” *(VA Primary care physician)*
- “I wish we could hire him right now”
(VA Physiatrist)

Residents report high satisfaction with the program. Medical specialists report very favorable perception of residents' competence and value.

Supplemental Information For Applicants

- Application period opens the second Monday of January each year
 - Full information is available on the VA Chiropractic Program [website](#)
- Candidates may apply to multiple locations but must follow each program's specific instructions
 - Each program evaluates its applicants independently
 - In the absence of a national “match” system, a candidate may receive multiple residency offers; if this occurs, programs follow a structured approach to process subsequent offers
- Features of strong applicants
 - High GPA and hospital training as a DC student
 - Commitment to integrated, collaborative practice
 - Knowledge of current evidence related to chiropractic care
 - Recommendation letters from individuals with experience formally supervising/assessing the applicant
 - Professional, collegial, and self-driven approach