



# Department of Veterans Affairs Chiropractic Residency Programs

## Overview and Update

December 2019

Anthony J. Lisi, DC

*Director, Chiropractic Program*

*Veterans Health Administration*

# Timeline

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



*The programs became the first DC residencies to receive accreditation in the US*

*After a competitive application process, 5 new facilities were selected out of 17 proposals*

*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 VADCs
- 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/mentor DC students and other trainees

### Mission

- *To prepare chiropractic residents for clinical practice in hospitals or other medical settings, and/or academia, through hospital-based clinical training, interprofessional education, and scholarly activities.*

### 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*

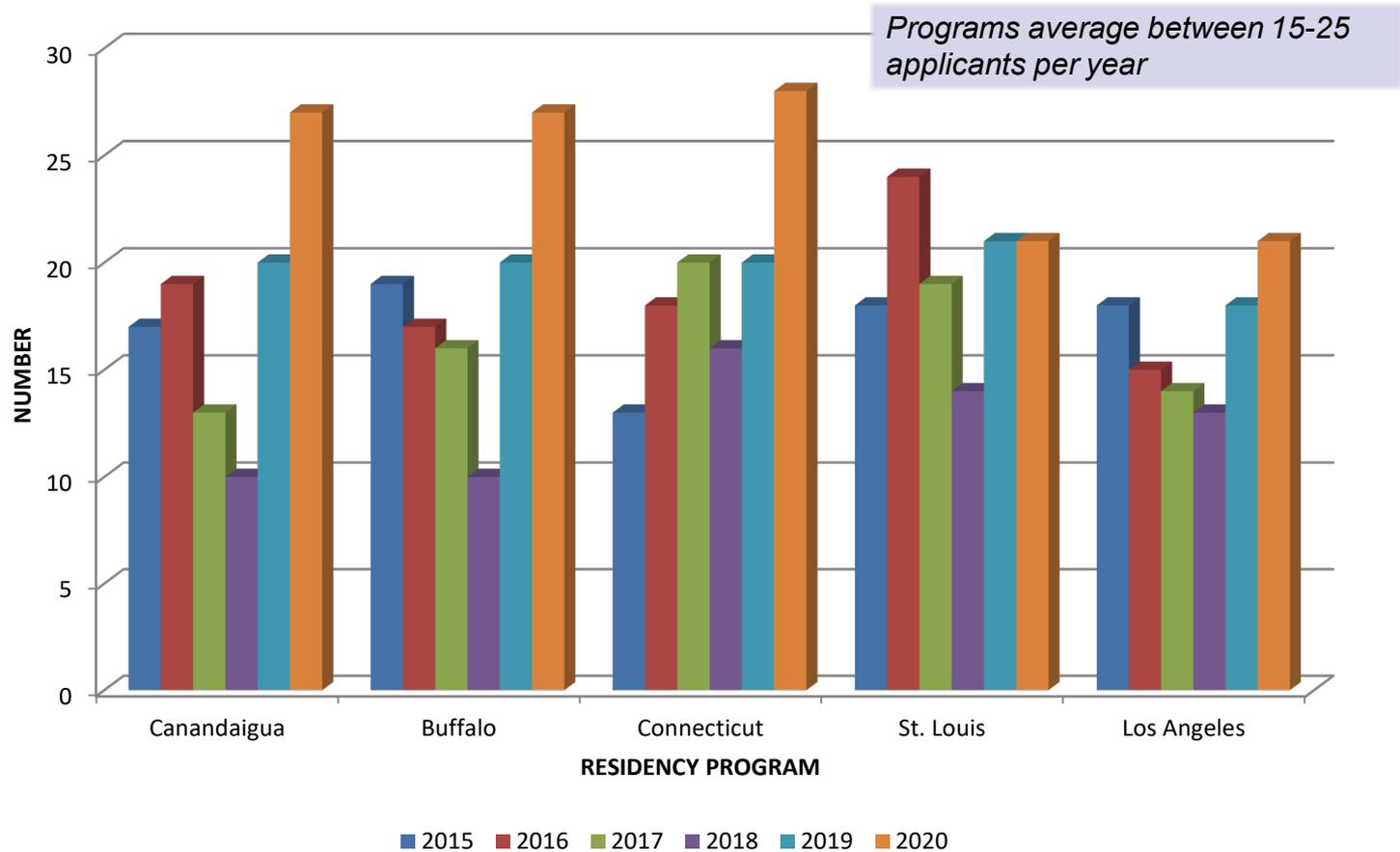
## VA Chiropractic Residency Programs

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>Attending DC Faculty</i>
Canandaigua VA Medical Center	2014	Paul Dougherty, DC	Michael Barbato, DC Christopher Farrell, DC Lindsay Rae, DC
Cincinnati VA Medical Center	2020	Michael Clay, DC, MPH	Frank Bucki, DC
Miami VA Healthcare System	2020	Charles Penza, DC, PhD	John D'Amico, DC
VA Central Iowa Health Care System	2020	Nathan Hinkeldey, DC	Heather Meeks, DC Julie Olson, DC, LAc
VA Connecticut Health Care System	2014	Anthony Lisi, DC	Lauren Austin-McClellan, DC, MS Christopher Coulis, DC, MS Todd Kawecki, DC Nathaniel Majoris, DC
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	2014	Valerie Johnson, DC	Paul Barkmeier, DC Benjamin Liang, DC Robb Russell, DC
VA Palo Alto Health Care System	2020	Robert Walsh, DC	Annie Babikian, DC Steven Huybrecht, DC Alec Schielke, DC Charles Sullivan, DC
VA Puget Sound Health Care System	2020	Clinton Daniels, DC, MS	Edward Bednarz, DC
VA St. Louis Health Care System	2014	Pamela Wakefield, DC	Glenn Bub, DC Ross Mattox, DC Jason Napuli, DC
VA Western New York Healthcare System	2014	Andrew Dunn, DC, MS	Derek Golley, DC

# Initial Results

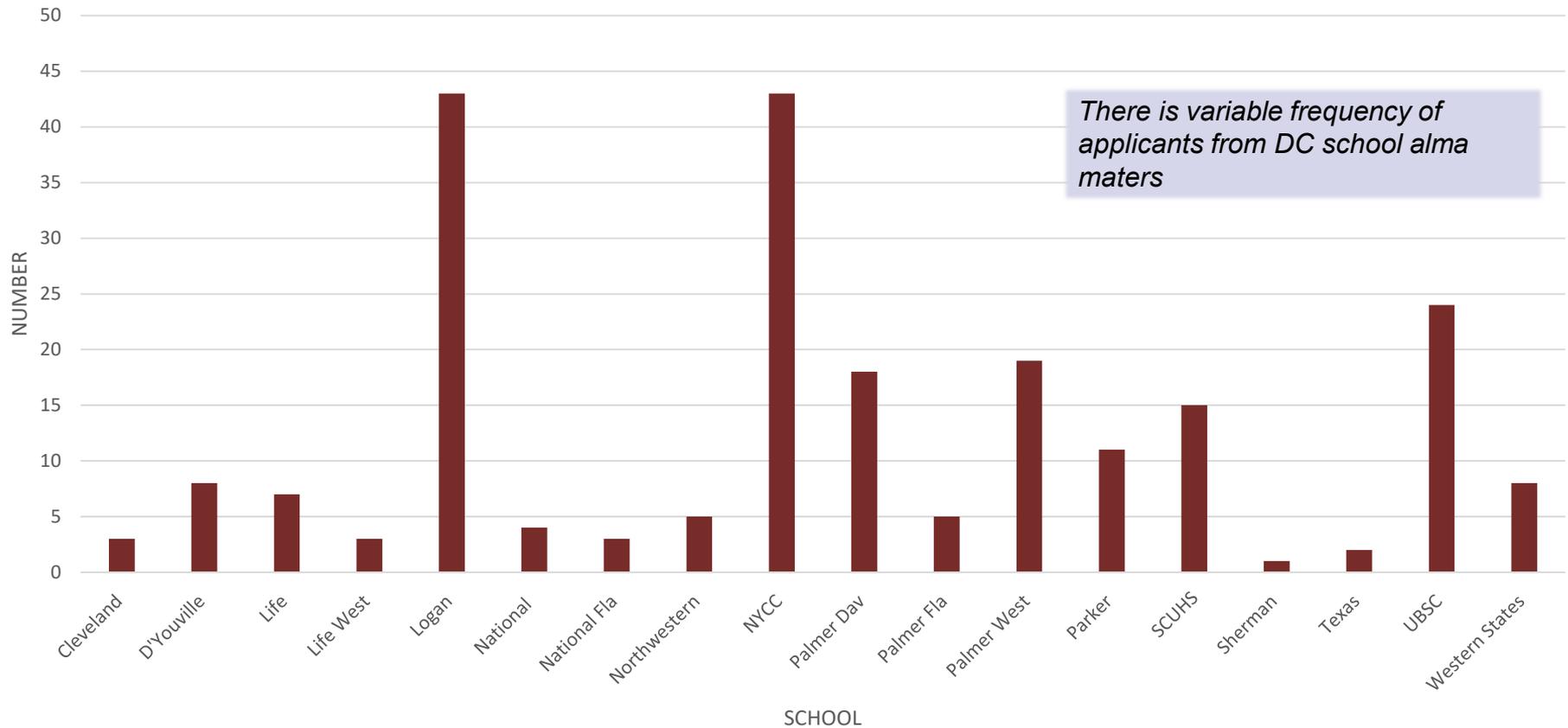
- Academic Years 2015 – 2020
  - Applicant and resident characteristics
  - Graduate performance
  - Perceived value

# Program Applicants



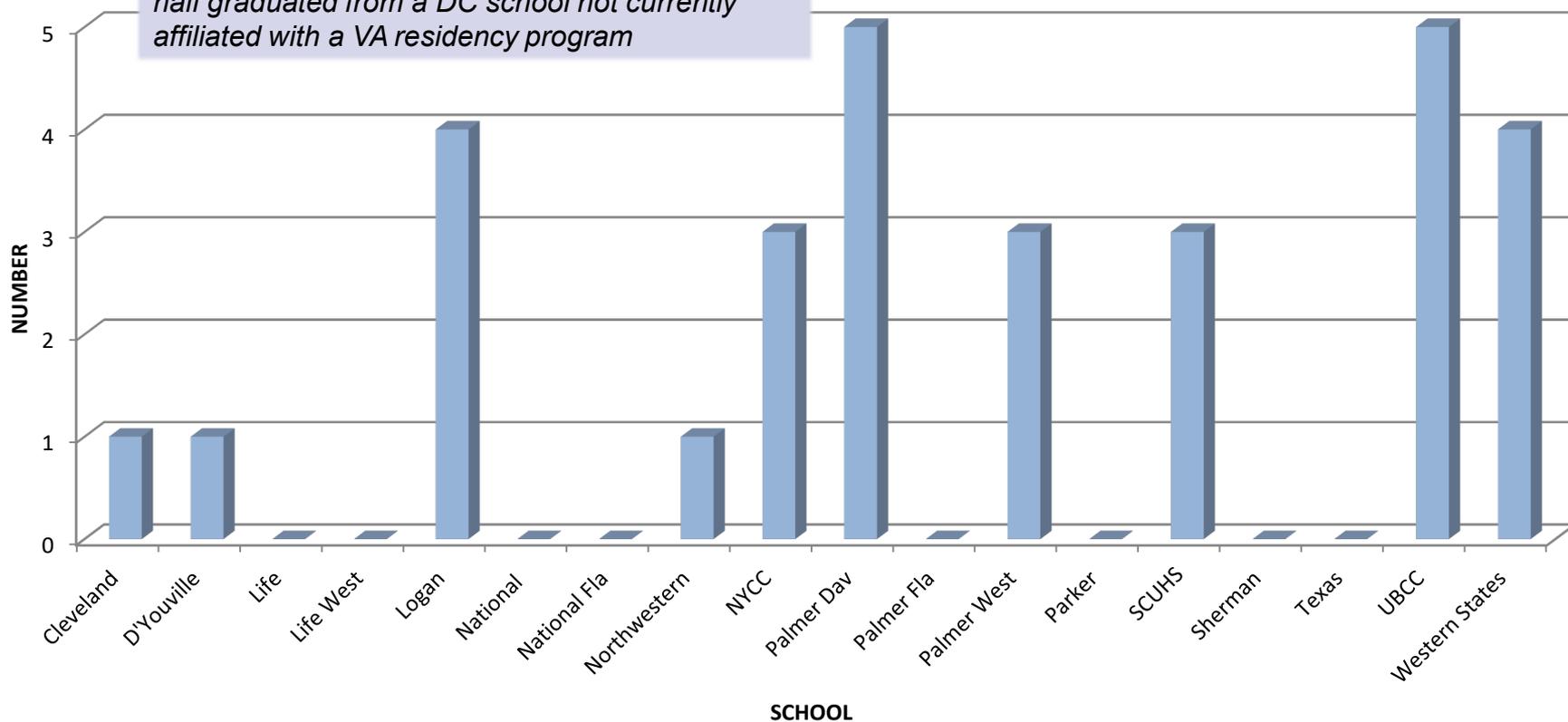
# Applicants by Alma Mater

Total Applicants, AY 2015 through 2020



# Accepted Residents by Alma Mater

*Nationally of the 30 residents accepted to date, half graduated from a DC school not currently affiliated with a VA residency program*



# Select Characteristics

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Applicants</b>						
Total number	50	49	30	26	30	37
No. within 2 years of DC school graduation	22 (44%)	21 (43%)	22 (73%)	20 (77%)	26 (87%)	32 (86%)
Average DC school GPA	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
% with medical rotation as a DC student	30%	53%	83%	62%	70%	78%
<b>Accepted Residents</b>						
Total number	5	5	5	5	5	5
No. within 2 years of DC school graduation	4 (80%)	3 (60%)	4 (80%)	4 (80%)	5 (100%)	5 (100%)
Average DC school GPA	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.8	3.8
% with medical rotation as a DC student	40%	80%	100%	100%	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 graduate met or exceeded all program clinical, interprofessional, and scholarly requirements
- Resident scholarly output has included multiple scientific posters, platforms, and peer-reviewed publications

## Career Placement by Academic Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Medical facilities</b>					
VA	5	3	3	3	3
Private		2	1		
<b>Academia</b>					
Medical			1	1	1
Chiropractic					

*To date 23 of the 24 graduates (96%) have placed in one of the target positions (medical/hospital practice, or academia) within 9 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 first business Monday of January each year
  - Full information is available on the VA Chiropractic Program [website](#)
- VA Chiropractic Residency Programs follow a standardized application and Match process to fill available slots
  - Candidates are matched to residency programs following an unbiased, algorithmic match process where candidates and facilities rank order their preferences and the candidate's preference receives priority
- 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