Department of Veterans Affairs
Chiropractic Residency Programs

Overview and Update

November 2021

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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.

2007-13
Residency development and planning

2014
$1M, 3-year pilot program launched

2016
All 5 local programs received CCE accreditation

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

2017
Approved as a standing VA residency program

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

2019
The program is expanded to 5 additional VA facilities

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 \(\approx 1,250 \text{ hrs (66\%)}\)
- Mentored by senior VADCs
- Team-based collaborative management, including highly complex cases

Interprofessional Rotations \(\approx 320 \text{ hrs (17\%)}\)
- Including primary care, medical/surgical specialties, mental health specialties, rehabilitation disciplines

Scholarly Activities \(\approx 320 \text{ hrs (17\%)}\)
- 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

- **Program**
  - Full-time, 12-month program (July 1 to June 30)
  - Offered at 10 VA locations

- **Eligibility**
  - Meet all VA employment requirements including US citizenship, background check, and Selective Service registration (when applicable)
  - DC degree from a CCE-accredited school prior to program start
    - *Can apply without DC degree bust must have degree before July 1 start date*
    - *DC Licensure is not needed prior to program start, but is a requirement for program completion*

- **Compensation/Benefits**
  - $40k average annual stipend (varies based on location)
  - Paid time off Holidays and vacation
  - Eligible for life and health insurance
  - Student Loan Deferral dependent on Lender
# VA Chiropractic Residency Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Established</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Attending DC Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canandaigua VA Medical Center</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Paul Dougherty, DC</td>
<td>Christopher Farrell, DC, Lindsay Rae, DC, Michael Allgeier, DC, Alyssa Troutner, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cincinnati VA Medical Center</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Michael Clay, DC, MPH</td>
<td>Frank Bucki, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami VA Healthcare System</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Gina Bonavito-Larragoite, DC</td>
<td>John D’Amico, DC, Terry Rubin, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Central Iowa Health Care System</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Nathan Hinkeldey, DC</td>
<td>Heather Meeks, DC, Julie Olson, DC, LAc, Jeffrey Remsburg, DC, MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Connecticut Health Care System</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Anthony Lisi, DC</td>
<td>Lauren Austin-McClellan, DC, MS, Christopher Coulis, DC, Nathaniel Majoris, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Valerie Johnson, DC</td>
<td>Paul Barkmeier, DC, Robb Russell, DC, Enya Katz, DC, Benjamin Liang, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Palo Alto Health Care System</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Robert Walsh, DC</td>
<td>Annie Babikian, DC, Alec Schielke, DC, Peter Hibl, DC, Charles Sullivan, DC, Kevin Kaldy, DC, Margaret Sels, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Puget Sound Health Care System</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Clinton Daniels, DC, MS</td>
<td>Edward Bednarz, DC, Morgan Price, DC, Christopher Roecker, DC, MS</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA St. Louis Health Care System</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Jason Napuli, DC</td>
<td>Ross Mattox, DC, Matthew Knieper, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Western New York Healthcare System</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Andrew Dunn, DC, MS</td>
<td>Derek Golley, DC, Jonathan Danner, DC</td>
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Applicant/Resident Characteristics

DC School Alma Mater

Totals, AY 2015-22

Applicants = 302
Residents = 50
Applicant/Resident Characteristics

Graduation
- Within 2 years DC school
- Applicants vs. Residents

GPA
- DC school GPA
- Applicants vs. Residents

Medical Training
- With medical rotations
- Applicants vs. Residents

Totals, AY 2015-22
- Applicants = 302
- Residents = 50
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.

To date 38 of the 40 graduates (95%) 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
  - Strong recommendation letters from individuals with experience formally supervising/assessing the applicant
  - Professional, collegial, and self-driven approach