



VA Palo Alto Healthcare System

Chiropractic Integrated Clinical Residency Program

Applications for Academic Year 2020-2021 will be accepted from January 6 – January 31, 2020

Period: 12 months - July 1 to June 30, annually

Positions: One

Director

- Robert Walsh, DC, Chiropractic Section Chief

Attending DC Faculty

- Charles (Bret) Sullivan, DC
- Alec Schielke, DC
- Steven Huybrecht, DC
- Annie Babikian, DC

Mission Statement

The mission of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) Chiropractic Integrated Clinical Residency is 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.

Brief Description

VAPAHCS is a Level 1a facility, consisting of three inpatient facilities located at Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Livermore plus seven outpatient clinics in San Jose, Fremont, Capitola, Monterey, Stockton, Modesto, and Sonora. These facilities serve 60,000 veterans and provide some of the world's finest medical care and cutting-edge technology. VAPAHCS is a teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient care services. The chiropractic section is within the department of primary integrated care and the chiropractic resident rotations include primary care, physiatry, pain medicine, neurology, spinal cord injury, neurosurgery, behavioral medicine, emergency department and other clinics. The resident will learn from or participate in the chiropractic faculty's ongoing research projects and engage in scholarly activities at the facility as well as Palmer College of Chiropractic's San Jose campus. VAPAHCS maintains one of the top three research programs in the VA and currently maintains 168 academic affiliations to provide a rich academic environment including training for providers in virtually all specialties and subspecialties. Additionally, VAPAHCS is a Whole Health flagship.

Resident Goals/Objectives

- Residents will acquire postgraduate clinical experience in hospital-based chiropractic care
 - Residents will provide supervised patient care at satisfactory levels of competence, to a broad population of musculoskeletal cases, most commonly spinal, in the context of collaborative team-based care
 - Residents will gain experience in managing a range of complex/multimorbidity cases
- Residents will engage in interprofessional educational experiences with relevant medical, surgical and associated health specialties
 - Residents will complete clinical rotations in primary care, physical medicine and rehabilitation, other relevant medical or surgical specialties, behavioral medicine and other associated health disciplines
- Residents will participate in scholarly activities to gain experience relevant to integrated practice and/or academia
 - Residents will complete scholarly assignments, online didactic courses, and collaborate with other chiropractic residents to complete group assignments
 - Residents will attend scholarly presentations among available hospital and/or academic affiliate offerings
 - Residents will engage in research activities, and/or present scholarly material, and/or clinical workshops to staff and/or trainees at VA and/or academic affiliate venues

Program DC Faculty

Annie Babikian, D.C.

Dr. Babikian received her BS from La Sierra University and her DC degree from Southern California University of Health Sciences in 2013. She earned her CCSP, DABCSP and is a certified Primary Spine Practitioner. Dr. Babikian serves on multiple U.S. national teams as the teams' chiropractor and is currently stationed at the VA Palo Alto. Dr. Babikian is adjunct faculty at Southern California University of Health Sciences.

Steven Huybrecht, D.C.

Dr. Huybrecht received his BS from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and his DC degree from Northwestern Health Sciences University in 2014. He completed the VHA Chiropractic Residency in St. Louis in June 2018 where he also completed acupuncture certification and is board eligible. Dr. Huybrecht is stationed at both our Stockton CBOC and Modesto CBOC, he is adjunct faculty at Palmer College of Chiropractic.

Charles (Bret) Sullivan, D.C.

Dr. Sullivan received his undergraduate training at Cal-State Fresno and received his DC degree from Pasadena Chiropractic College in 1983. He is a Board Certified Chiropractic Orthopedist through the American Board of Chiropractic Orthopedists and maintains his Qualified Medical Examiner status with the division of workers' compensation in California. Dr. Sullivan is currently stationed at the Monterey CBOC and he is adjunct faculty at Palmer College of Chiropractic.

Alec Schielke, D.C.

Dr. Schielke received his BS from the University of Wisconsin and his DC degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic in 2016. He completed the VA Chiropractic Residency Program at the Canandaigua VAMC in June 2017 where he also completed acupuncture certification and is diplomate eligible. Dr. Schielke is stationed at the Palo Alto Medical Center as well as the San Jose CBOC, he is an associate professor at Palmer College of Chiropractic and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of the Academy of Chiropractic Orthopedics.

Robert Walsh, D.C. (Director)

Dr. Walsh received a BS from Simon Fraser University and his DC degree from Palmer West in 1995. He is CCSP and after 20 years of private practice in 2015, became the first chiropractor appointed to the medical staff at VAPAHCS, where he developed processes for integrating hospital-based clinical services and interprofessional clinical education. In 2019, Dr. Walsh was appointed to the Chiropractic Field Advisory Committee. He has been involved in chiropractic academics since 1995, teaching at Palmer College of Chiropractic, where he is currently serving as an associate professor.

Location

Training takes place throughout the [VAPAHCS](#), and although the resident will primarily be located at the main hospital (3801 Miranda Ave Palo Alto, CA 94304), they will also be expected to travel to our Monterey, Stockton and Modesto [community based outreach clinics](#) (CBOC) to familiarize themselves in the unique differences and challenges between a medical center and a CBOC needs and resources. VAPAHCS is affiliated with Stanford school of Medicine and trains hundreds of residents and fellows annually in several health care professions.

Clinical Facilities

The Palo Alto chiropractic clinic is composed of 3 exam/treatment rooms furnished with state-of-the-art exam/treatment tables, computers, and other necessary equipment. Two additional conference rooms with computers and high-resolution imaging viewing stations are available. The Monterey and Stockton chiropractic clinics are composed of two exam/treatment rooms furnished with state-of-the-art exam/treatment tables, computers, and other necessary equipment. The Modesto chiropractic clinic is one treatment room furnished with state-of-the-art exam/treatment tables, computers, and other necessary equipment. Library support through VISON 21 Online Library is available as well as Palmer College of Chiropractic West Librarian services.

Compensation

The resident stipend is established based on geographic location by the [VA Office of Academic Affiliations](#). The compensation for the 2020 academic year is \$44,570. This stipend is not contingent upon resident productivity. Residents are paid on a two-week salary period. Residents receive paid Federal holidays and accrue vacation and sick leave. Residents are also eligible for life and health insurance. Residents are protected from personal liability while providing professional services at a VA health care facility under the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act, 28 U.S.C. 2679 (b)-(d).

Certificate of Completion

Upon satisfactory completion of program requirements, the graduate will receive an official Certificate of Residency, and records will be maintained at the VAPAHCS and the VHA Chiropractic National Program Office.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must hold or be scheduled to receive a DC degree from a CCE-accredited school prior to the start of the residency program. Applicants must be eligible for, or hold a current, full, active, and unrestricted chiropractic license in a State, Territory or Commonwealth of the US, or in the District of Columbia. Applicants must meet all VA employment requirements including US citizenship, and Selective Service registration when applicable.

Application Process

The program follows the VA Chiropractic Residency Match process. A call for applications will be issued on January 6, 2020. Applications are only accepted during the open call. Applicant assessment is through a competitive process considering factors such as academic background, relevant experience, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and telephone, video, and/or in-person interviews. Applicant rankings are made by a review committee of the residency director and DC faculty.

Accreditation

Initial application to the Council on Chiropractic Education is projected for submission by October 2020.