



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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UMDNJ General Practice Residency with Second Year Concentration in Special Care Dentistry

The General Practice Residency (GPR) program at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) has a second year concentration that provides training in special care dentistry (SCD). This extra year is necessary to provide a dentist with specialized skills that are required to serve patients with a wide spectrum of special needs, both in the hospital and in outpatient settings. The traditional one-year GPR program at UMDNJ provides an off-service SCD rotation for 2-4 weeks. Most traditional one-year GPR programs at other institutions provide similar experiences. However, this is not a sufficient amount of training to assure dentist proficiency in the care of persons with special needs. The cost of sponsoring a GPR/SCD resident at UMDNJ is approximately \$42K. The program at UMDNJ began in July 2005 and has graduated one GPR/SCD resident to date. The practice is new but offers a different vehicle for training "special care" dentists. If Special Care Dentistry is to become a more widely recognized and respected area of practice and if it seeks to obtain specialty status within the dental profession, it will need to provide a sufficient number of high quality training opportunities for practitioners. This GPR/SCD model could serve as blueprint for such training.

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