

## **Clinical Preceptorship in ORAL MEDICINE**

### **A Three-Month Continuing Education Program**

#### **OVERVIEW**

This extended continuing education program is specifically designed for the participant to gain the scientific background and additional training in the practice of Oral Medicine. Oral Medicine is the field of dentistry that focuses on the diagnosis and therapeutic management of conditions affecting the oral cavity and maxillofacial complex that are medically related, as well as the oral health care of medically compromised patients.

#### **Our Philosophy**

Since Oral Medicine provides an essential link between dentistry and medicine, practitioners in this field must possess a thorough knowledge of basic physiological and pathological mechanisms that contribute to health and disease. To become competent in the practice of oral medicine, the clinician must perform a proper assessment of patients including history taking and physical examination, and develop an appropriate management plan. The management plan must be evidence-based and consistent with the standards of care set forth by the scientific literature.

The didactic program is designed to provide the participant with the necessary background for the practice of Oral Medicine. Participants will gain knowledge in several areas including medicine, laboratory diagnostics, oral pathology, oral radiology, oral oncology, orofacial pain, pharmacology, nutrition, special care and geriatric dentistry and management of medical emergencies in a dental setting through didactic and/or clinical exposure at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (RSDM). Based on this philosophy, participants will have a challenging opportunity to integrate and synthesize basic science with clinical acumen. This approach is critical to the diagnostic work up and medical risk assessment of oral medicine patients, promotion of oral health and delivery of safe dental care.

#### **SCHEDULE**

- The three (3) month program has start dates of January 2, April 1, July 1 or September 15.
- This program may be extended. *See tuition information on page 7 for details.*
- Participants will be allowed two (2) additional days off for personal or sick time.
- Holidays and vacations coincide with the post-graduate schedule.
- The school may also close for severe weather events.

#### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

- Commitment to improve didactic and clinical knowledge in the field of Oral Medicine.
- Educational background and previous trainings.
- Also, see *Admission Requirements* on page 6.

**PROGRAM DESIGN/OBJECTIVES**

The curriculum is composed of didactic assignments, clinical experiences, intramural rotations, and teaching responsibilities.

An important part of the program is the clinical experience that comprises nearly 50% of the scheduled activities.

The didactic learning experiences include seminars, lectures, and workshops. Each participant is required to attend didactic sessions designed to provide the necessary background for management of oral medicine patients.

Participants are encouraged to engage in scholarly activities including departmental research if the opportunity arises.

**COURSE COMPONENTS/DISCIPLINES**

Curricular content for the program in Oral Medicine is listed below and each requirement is briefly described on the following pages.

- Foundation of Oral Biology (selective/elective).
- Advanced Biomedical Sciences (selective/elective).
- Oral Medicine Seminar Series.
- Oral Pathology Seminar Series.
- Orofacial Pain Seminar Series.
- Clinical Care of Oral Medicine patients (medically complex, oral mucosal disease, orofacial pain).
- Oral Medicine Patient Rounds.

**Foundation of Oral Biology and Advanced Biomedical Science for Dentistry:**

These courses, a requirement for all matriculated postdoctoral graduate students, are given over a two-year period. Because the three-month Clinical Preceptorship program is of shorter duration, participants may audit one or more of these modules when scheduling permits and there are no conflicts. Listed below are a few modules that are particularly relevant to practice of oral medicine.

- Head and Neck Anatomy
- Pathobiology & Histology
- Oral Medicine & Pathology
- Orofacial Pain
- Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Embryology & Genetics

**Oral Medicine Seminar Series**

Faculty: Mahnaz Fatahzadeh, DMD MSD, Professor

This interactive seminar series focuses on reinforcing knowledge of topics within the field of Oral Medicine. The curriculum is designed to review fundamentals with an emphasis on applying this information to clinical practice. Topics covered include diagnosis, management and prevention of oral mucosal disorders, head and neck pathology, salivary gland diseases, orofacial abnormalities of local and systemic etiology, and oral complications resulting from systemic diseases, immune suppression, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, or problems secondary to the effects of medications. In addition, presentations address evaluation and management of patients with medically complex conditions and special needs.

**Oral Radiology Case Reviews**

Faculty: Steve Singer, DDS, Professor

Oral Medicine participants will have an opportunity to attend didactic seminars in diagnostic head and neck radiology discussing X-ray equipment, digital processing basics, radiation biology, radiation protection principles and radiographic manifestations of local and systemic diseases in the head and neck region. This experience provides participants with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge in selection and interpretation of standard and advanced imaging modalities: oral radiographs, panoramic radiology, plain films, digital radiography, tomography, sialography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, scintigraphy and Cone-beam CT.

Radiology case review sessions are complementary to radiology seminars and provide an interactive forum to discuss challenging/interesting radiology cases and help reinforce diagnostic radiology principles.

**Oral Pathology Seminar Series**

Faculty: Mahnaz Fatahzadeh, DMD MSD, Professor

Invited presenters provide a comprehensive review of oral and maxillofacial pathology composed of case-based presentations, clinical pathologic conferences with correlational histopathologic sessions. The approach will emphasize the art of developing differential diagnosis for soft and hard tissue lesions based on available data and provides ample opportunity for interaction and practice.

**Orofacial Pain Seminar Series**

Faculty: Gary M Heir, DMD, Professor

Offered by the Division of Orofacial Pain (OFP,) it focuses on reinforcing knowledge of topics within the field and its application to clinical practice. The curriculum is designed to review fundamentals of OFP, temporomandibular disorders, musculoskeletal conditions, chemosensory disorders and neuropathic pain disorders. When possible, participants also attend OFP rounds and lectures offered throughout the year.

**Oral Mucosal Diseases Clinic:**

Faculty: Mahnaz Fatahzadeh, DMD MSD, Professor

The Clinic provides diagnostic assessment including tissue biopsy and hematologic work up, education, preventive oral care, medical therapy and follow-up care for patients with oral mucosal diseases of local and systemic etiology. These include: oral manifestations of systemic disease (e.g., leukemia, sarcoidosis, lupus, anemia); and oral complications of chemo/radiotherapy, immune-based (e.g., pemphigus, pemphigoid, lichen planus, erythema multiforme), epithelial (e.g. erythroplakia, leukoplakia, dysplasia) and pigmented and reactive oral abnormalities, burning mouth, xerostomia, altered taste and salivary gland disorders. The Clinic receives referrals from a variety of medical disciplines including immunology, rheumatology, dermatology, and ophthalmology. As the participant progresses, they will obtain patient histories, perform examinations, and participate in the care of patients. All clinical activities are performed under the direct supervision of the faculty.

**Orofacial Pain Clinic:**

Faculty: Gary M Heir, DMD, Professor

Participants will also have the opportunity to attend Orofacial Pain clinic and observe evaluation and management of patients with temporomandibular disorders, acute and chronic orofacial pain and orofacial neurosensory disorders.

**Medically Complex Clinic:**

Faculty: Raphael Figueroa, DMD, Assistant Professor

The Medically Complex patient clinic provides comprehensive oral/dental care for patients with cardiovascular, renal, immune or hematologic compromise, organ transplantation or head and neck malignancy. Participant will have the opportunity to observe and/or assist in the oral care of medically complex patients. Emphasis is placed on medical risk assessment and necessary dental care modifications to prevent or manage problems such as increased risk of infection, impaired hemostasis, and adverse drug interactions.

**Case Presentation/Treatment Planning Seminars**

Faculty: Raphael Figueroa, DMD, Assistant Professor

Participants have the opportunity to join in on-site case presentation sessions during which residents, participants and faculty discuss comprehensive oral/dental management of medically complex patients referred to the Oral Medicine Clinic. Participants also have the opportunity to attend treatment planning seminars where comprehensive treatment planning for patients with complex dental needs are presented and pros and cons of different alternatives are discussed.

**Oral Medicine Patient Rounds**

Faculty: Mahnaz Fatahzadeh, DMD MSD, Professor

The rounds takes place in conjunction with the clinical care sessions providing an opportunity to review chief complaint, diagnostic work up, laboratory and radiographic findings, histopathology, and management strategy for new and follow-up patients seen by the Oral Medicine Service at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.

**Tumor Board**

Faculty: Mahnaz Fatahzadeh, DMD MSD, Professor

Interested participants have the opportunity to attend a virtual Tumor Board, which is an interdisciplinary forum comprised of otolaryngology/head & neck surgery, radiology, pathology, radiation/hemato-oncology and dental practitioners. Board members regularly meet to discuss comprehensive management of patients diagnosed with head and neck cancer.

**Other Departmental/Division Academic Activities:**

In addition to the core program, participants can attend a variety of academic activities offered by the Division of Oral Medicine as opportunities arise.

**EVALUATION OF PARTICIPANT**

For satisfactory completion of the program, the Participant must:

- Complete attendance requirements of the program.
- Demonstrate didactic and clinical knowledge in Oral Medicine as determined by the program director and attending faculty in the Division of Oral Medicine.

**FACILITIES**

The Rutgers School of Dental Medicine is located on the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Newark Campus. The medical and dental schools, graduate school of biomedical sciences, and the University Hospital are grouped together on an attractive campus with convenient private parking.

**FACULTY****Department of Diagnostic Sciences****MAHNAZ FATAHZADEH, DMD MSD, Professor**

Program Director

Division of Oral Medicine

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**STEVEN R. SINGER, DDS, Professor**

Chair, Department of Diagnostic Sciences

Acting Director, Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

**GARY M. HEIR, DMD, Professor**

Program Director

Division of Orofacial Pain

**RAPHAEL FIGUEROA, DMD, Assistant Professor**

Clinical Assistant Professor

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Have a DDS/DMD degree or its equivalent from an accredited dental school.
- Payment of non-refundable applicant fee of \$200 U.S. (*This can be paid online, see website for link.*)
- Submission of a completed application form, including:
  - Documentation of your Objectives and Goals (see page 3 of the form).
  - Curriculum Vitae (attach or insert a small photo if available).
- Verified copies from your dental school of your Transcript and Dental School Diploma.
- Two to three original Letters of Recommendation (see page 4 of this form).
- Applicants with foreign degrees will be considered based upon an evaluation of their academic credentials. Submit an original Evaluation Report from one of the following:
  - Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE - preferred) –or- World Education Services (WES).
  - We recommend you request a report showing a breakdown by courses.*
- Applicants with English as a second language must attain a TOEFL score of 80 or higher; or an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) overall score of 6 or greater.
  - Submit an original report.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and National Board scores are not required, but may be submitted in support of the application.
- Attend a personal interview when possible.
- Be a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States, or a foreign national with a visa status acceptable to the CE program.

**Deadline for submission of application:** See website.

## Further Requirements

Upon notification of preliminary acceptance into the program, the applicant will also be required to:

- Pay a non-refundable deposit within 10 business days of notification. The formal acceptance letter is sent when the deposit is received. *See "Tuition" on next page for more details.*
- Submit Health and Immunization Forms per University policy ("Student Immunization and Health Requirements.") Due three months prior to start date of program.
- Submit Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification for BLS that will be valid for duration of program.
- Be cleared by a Background Check; an additional fee is required for this.
- Provide proof of Health Insurance from a U.S. based company. Insurance must remain active for full duration of the program.
- Licensed U.S. Dentists provide proof of Liability Insurance.

Due to time constraints and other obligations, all correspondence from us is done by email.

If you need to contact us, please use our email address: [cde@sdm.rutgers.edu](mailto:cde@sdm.rutgers.edu).

**TUITION** (for Academic Year 2022-2023)

- The 3-month program tuition is a total of \$8,600 (US).
- A non-refundable deposit of \$1,500 (US) is required to hold your place in the program, and must be received within 10 business days of the pre-acceptance notification. (Notifications are emailed.)
- The tuition balance is due one-month prior to the program start date.

*With permission from the program director, this program may be extended on a month-by-month basis at the prorated amount of \$2,875 (US) per month, for up to a maximum of three additional months.*

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

To participate in this program you must be pre-registered with the Office of Continuing Dental Education. No refunds of any tuition paid will be made after program has started.

**CREDIT**

The **3-month program** offer a unique opportunity for didactic and hands-on clinical experience in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences. It is a non-matriculated, continuing dental education program. Upon satisfactory completion of the program, participants in the 3-month program will earn 390 C.E. credit hours.

**HOW TO APPLY****Submit completed application to:**

Rutgers School of Dental Medicine  
Continuing Dental Education  
Attn: Clinical Preceptorship Program  
110 Bergen Street, B701  
Newark, NJ 07103

**Our Contact information:**

**Email:** [cde@sdm.rutgers.edu](mailto:cde@sdm.rutgers.edu)

**Website:**

<https://cde.sdm.rutgers.edu/clinical-preceptorship-programs/>  
(Link to **Application Form** can be found on this webpage)