Advanced Education in Orofacial Pain Residency Program
Lutheran Medical Center
Department of Dental Medicine
Brooklyn, NY
Director, Omar F. Suarez DMD, MA
Diplomate, American Board of Orofacial Pain

The OFP program is a hospital-based training program. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the resident is awarded a Certificate in Orofacial Pain and meets the advanced education requirements of the ADA CODA and is eligible to take the American Board of Orofacial Pain board examination.

The Orofacial Pain Program is a 24 month CODA approved Program with GME funding

Program Strengths
- Strong didactic and clinical foundation in diagnosis and treatment of a complete spectrum of Temporomandibular (TMD) and Orofacial Pain disorders with emphasis on nonsurgical treatments
- Large and demographically diverse patient populations
- Modern clinical facilities
- Close professional relationships through collaboration between dental and medical disciplines
- Comprehensive knowledge and experience in diagnostic and therapeutic modalities and approaches
- Extensive training in the use of pharmacological/nonpharmacological modalities of treatments
- Training with specialists in various disciplines of dentistry, including but not limited to Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial surgery, Dental Anesthesia and complex restorative dentistry.
- Medical rotations include Radiology, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Neurology, Pain Management, Rheumatology, Otolaryngology, Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine
- Upon program completion, the resident will gain expertise in treating:
  - Full spectrum of TMD
  - Diagnosis and management of Orofacial Pain disorders
  - Interceptive strategies and approaches in Craniofacial Development
  - Various forms of sleep related breathing disorder using oral appliances
  - Diagnostic and therapeutic nerve blocks and
  - Management of Acute Closed locks of TMJ
  - Occlusal Diagnosis and Rehabilitation
  - Orofacial and Dental co-morbidities of systemic diseases
  - Headache Syndrome associated with Orofacial Pain
  - Xerostomia and Salivary gland hypofunction

Program History and Description
This 24-month ADA-CODA accredited program started in September, 2012. Residents rotate between the Lutheran Medical Center (LMC) hospital in Brooklyn Heights, New York, Sunset Park Family Health Center in Brooklyn, New York and other health centers throughout Brooklyn, New York. Treatments rendered at these locations will include consultations and comprehensive TMD/OFP care. Residents will spend approximately 30% of program time participating in didactic lectures at the Brooklyn Heights
campus. Residents will spend the remaining 70% of time performing clinical procedures in mentored environments within the Orofacial Pain Center and specialty rotations. Other Brooklyn, New York health centers where Orofacial Pain residents gain experience include (but not excluded to): Brooklyn Chinese Family Health Center, Caribbean-American Health Center, Park Ridge Family Health Center, and Park Slope Family Health Center.

**Core Curriculum**
The Core Curriculum consists of the following courses and clinical activities:

- Advanced Head and Neck Anatomy
- Case Presentations (Orofacial Pain and TMD)
- Dental Sleep Medicine
- Head and Neck Pathophysiology
- Headache Disorders Series
- Immunology
- Literature Review
- Neurobiology of Pain
- Orofacial Pain and Temporomandibular Disorders Advanced I
- Orofacial Pain and Temporomandibular Disorders Advanced II
- Orofacial Pain Patient Screening
- Pharmacology of Pain Management
- Rheumatology
- TX Plan Presentations and Patient Care Conferences (OFP)
- Dental Public Health
- Emergency Medicine
- Ethics and Professionalism
- Evidence Based Dentistry (EBD)
- Hospital Dentistry
- House Staff Orientation
- Jurisprudence and Risk Management
- Medical and Dental Assessment
- Methods and Materials in Dental Research
- Oral Biology
- Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology
- Oral Surgery
- Orthodontics
- Pain and Anxiety Control
- Physical Diagnosis
- Practice Management and Practice Administration
- Special Care Dentistry
- Craniofacial development
- Speech Pathology (Language and Speech Development)

**OFP Curriculum**
The curriculum is designed to meet the Accreditation Standards for Advanced Specialty in Orofacial Pain and to prepare the graduate for the American Board of Orofacial Pain. Residents will have the opportunity to comprehensively diagnose and treat patients with temporomandibular disorders (TMD) and Orofacial Pain disorders. Additionally, residents will develop proficiency in understanding the
causes, patterns of presentation, and management approaches of many complex pain states. Residents will work closely with faculty mentors who are recognized leaders in their specialties and who have significant expertise in traumatic injuries and systemic-morbidities.

First-Year Curriculum
The first year of the program focuses on didactics and clinical development of the resident within the discipline of TMD and Orofacial Pain. The core curriculum as listed is delivered via a combination of onsite lectures by faculty or invited speakers, Video teleconferencing with experts from other areas of the country and asynchronous web-based modules (via Sakai).

In addition, first-year Orofacial Pain residents will participate in specialized didactic seminars and clinical activities designed to develop foundational knowledge and skills preparing them to diagnose and treat patients in a multi-disciplinary pain practice post-graduation. Residents will complete courses in functional Neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of pain as well as behavioral science instruction as it relates to Orofacial Pain disorders and pain behaviors. Residents will also be expected to conduct classic and current literature reviews and participate in clinical case conferences.

Second-Year Curriculum
During the second year, clinical and biomedical courses will be focused on expanding a resident’s multi-disciplinary diagnostic and pain management skills through advanced seminars, patient treatment and clinical rotations. Second year residents will be expected to teach first-year Orofacial Pain residents as well as AEGD and GPR residents.

Clinical collaboration and rotations in dental and medical areas enhance the didactic curriculum and expand residents’ knowledge and experience in diagnostic and therapeutic modalities and approaches.

Medical Rotations include: Radiology, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Neurology, Pain Management, Rheumatology, Otolaryngology, Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine
Orofacial Pain residents will be required to design and complete an original research project over a two-year period. The resident will present a poster at the Annual Lutheran Medical Center Research Fair. Residents will also be required to submit a research paper to a peer-reviewed journal by the end of the second year.

During the last few months of training, residents will visit a number of private Orofacial Pain dental offices to gain experience in practice management and practice administration.

Program Stipend and Fringe Benefits
LMC Dental offers its postgraduate trainees generous stipends and fringe benefits which are competitive with other hospitals in the New York metropolitan area.

Application
Applications can be directly submitted to Dr. Omar Suarez
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