Dental Public Health Program

Program Overview

In 1951, the American Dental Association recognized dental public health as a specialty of dentistry. The residency is accredited and prepares residents for specialty examination by the American Board of Dental Public Health and careers in public health. Dentists with Master in Public Health (MPH) or equivalent degree can enroll in a 12-month full-time or equivalent, not exceeding 24 months, supervised program of field experiences, academic courses, and opportunities for practical experience. Completion of this program does not qualify trainees to become licensed to practice in California.

A specialist in dental public health will have an understanding of and be able to apply concepts involved in the planning, implementation, operation, and evaluation of dental public health programs, and will also have an understanding of the processes through which health policies are developed and regulated. To manage oral health programs and assume a leadership role in public health, a specialist must possess technical skills in a number of areas, including planning, marketing, communications, human resources, management, financial management, advocacy building, management of information, and evaluation, quality assurance, and risk management.

Residents may also gain public health research experience and participate in the multi-disciplinary activities of the NIDCR-funded UCSF Center to Address Disparities In Children’s Oral Health.
The activities of the residency are uniquely adapted to the prior experience and interest of the resident. The educational plan is reviewed on a regular basis and modified as needed. Residents are expected to complete a major and minor research project prior to completing the program. A non-traditional residency track can be tailored for individual needs. Limited support may be available for US Citizens and permanent residents.

The program is under the supervision of Dr. Howard Pollick. Faculty Members: Dr. Steven J. Silverstein, Dr. George Taylor, Dr. Lisa Chung, Dr. Irene Hilton, and Dr. Reginald Louie, all board certified in dental public health.

For additional information on the goals and content of the program, please click [here](https://prds.ucsf.edu/dental-public-health-program) or contact:

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**Photography**

**Courtesy of David Hand**