University of Pennsylvania
Occupational Medicine Residency Program

Program Description

The residency training program offers practicum year residency training in Occupational Medicine of one-year duration. The program is accredited by the ACGME and receives a training grant from the National Institute for Occupational Health & Safety (NIOSH). Prior to acceptance applicants must meet entrance requirements of an ACGME-accredited clinical (PGY-1) year and have completed or substantially completed another appropriate postgraduate degree including completion of core courses in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health and Health Care Administration. As a general rule additional clinical training and experience is strongly recommended, as is completion of all academic degree requirements.

By the end of the training year each resident must meet the competency objectives of the program. These include the competencies we believe are necessary for successful Occupational and Environmental Medicine practice in a variety of settings. The competency objectives include those of all residency programs in Preventive Medicine and some additional competencies. The competency objectives are arranged into a set of general and clinical competencies, achieved through supervised clinical training and didactic sessions, and five specific sets of competencies in subject areas of occupational medicine practice. The subject-area competencies are obtained in five two-month subject-area rotations namely:

- the workplace, hazard recognition, evaluation and control;
- environmental health, risk assessment and risk communication;
- organization and health care management;
- population-based occupational medicine; and
- the worker, disability and work fitness.

At the beginning of the year each resident completes a self-assessment against the competency objectives of the program. The Program Director or Associate Director assesses the resident’s core clinical skills through a global rating of observed performance. Based on these assessments each resident develops an educational plan that specifies the supervised clinical experiences, courses, competency area rotations (identifying a project topic in each), additional educational activities/experiences to obtain the required skills, and a plan for progressive assumption of responsibility.

Residents may obtain their supervised clinical experience at one or more of a variety of affiliated participating sites that collectively provide comprehensive Occupational Health Services to defined groups, including regular and frequent presence in the work-sites served. At each site clinical faculty (appropriately qualified health professionals, usually Board-Certified Preventive Medicine physicians) are responsible for clinical training, supervision and evaluation of the resident. To ensure educational quality the Program Director, Associate Director or senior faculty makes regular visits to each site. Qualified Resident’s may also obtain the supervised clinical training at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center by spending at least 6 months at the University Hospital and up to 6 months of elective experiences chosen from Rohm and Haas Co. GlaxoSmithKline, Research, OSHA in Washington, the Wharton School or other suitable experiences.

Each resident must complete a substantive project and approximately 30 hours of didactic sessions in each subject area rotation. Each subject area rotation has one or more Rotation Directors, experts in that area, who advise, supervise and evaluate the resident’s acquisition of skills. The subject area project work is usually, but not necessarily, completed from one of the resident’s clinical training sites.
Attainment of required competencies is evaluated by site supervising faculty (clinical and general competencies), by rotation directors (subject area competencies), and the program directors (certain special evaluations) using a variety of assessment tools. Prior to graduation the Program Director verifies that all competency and educational plan objectives have been met.

The educational effectiveness and quality of outcomes from the program are measured through three independent measures: before and after self-assessments by residents of their level of competence, and an assessment of whether the program met the resident’s training needs against each competency objective; faculty evaluations of resident performance; and performance in the ABPM Certifying Examination. Results of quality assessments are disseminated to faculty and any deficiencies addressed in a timely manner.

**Further Information**

Further information may be obtained from the Residency Coordinator:

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Prospective Applicants are strongly recommended to read the detailed published description of the program: