

Abstract

Training Affiliation between Scott AFB AEGD

And

Southern Illinois Edwardsville School of Dental Medicine

Introduction:

Scott AFB AEGD problem(s): The Scott AFB AEGD (Advance Education in General Dentistry) Residency Program lost its pediatric dentist in 2009. With no active operating rooms at the medical treatment facility at Scott, the pediatric dentist manning slot was removed indefinitely from the local staffing. Although Pediatric Dentistry is not an American Dental Association (ADA) accreditation item for general dentistry residencies, the lack of pediatric dentistry training significantly affects training quality of graduates. Specifically for Scott AFB, a graduate's preparedness for treating pediatric patients at overseas and remote areas would be compromised without such training. Additionally, the Scott AEGD would provide less training opportunities relative to other AF AEGDs with pediatric dentists. Two areas, specifically with the ADA accreditation evaluations, would show weakness without this training. The first area, Community Service, would be considered weak with pediatric preventive education opportunities only during National Children's Dental Health Month. The second area, Special Care Dentistry, would be graded as weak with the generally healthy population within the AF.

Southern Illinois Edwardsville School of Dental Medicine (SIUE SDM) problem(s): Due to a change to an Illinois statute, only state residents can be treated in an Illinois dental school funded by the state. SIUE SDM lost a private practice Missouri Oral Surgeon part-time faculty support when this law forbade Missouri patients to be treated. Also, the need for other part-time faculty support was noted by SDM leadership, and staffing support in prosthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, and general dentistry specifically welcomed.

Methods:

SIUE SDM leadership and Scott Medical Group Education and AEGD leadership met to discuss issues and solutions. A template for a training affiliation was developed from a standard form used by the AF with adjustments to meet the local situation. Support was provided by the AF JAG/Medicolegal Team. The biggest obstacles to overcome included the following issues which the SDM agreed to provide if Scott resident training was matched by Scott part-time faculty support:

- a) Malpractice coverage
- b) Time devoted to training and faculty support
- c) Help in obtaining and full payment of Temporary Dental Licenses for residents not holding Illinois licenses
- d) Help in obtaining and full payment for Part-time Faculty Licenses for Scott teaching staff not holding Illinois licenses

In April 2010, the training affiliation was signed and made operational for the 2010-2011 training year. Highlights included:

- a) Scott AEGD teaching staff providing approximately 1 day per month of part-time faculty support with an emphasis on oral maxillofacial surgery. Scott would provide monthly staffing support days for oral surgery (2), prosthodontics (2), periodontics (1), endodontics (1), and general dentistry (1).
- b) Each Scott resident would receive 6-14 days of Pediatric and Special Care Dentistry training. Specifically, residents would spend 5 days at the East St Louis Dental Campus for Pediatric and Pediatric Special Care dentistry.

Resident Training Sites:

East St. Louis Dental Clinic

Residents would gain experience in all aspects of pediatric dentistry by providing dental care to disadvantaged and under-served populations of East St Louis.

Special Needs Clinic (Alton Campus)

The **Special Needs Clinic** is a satellite facility on the Alton campus. Residents would rotate through the clinic one day per 2 week rotation, providing dental treatment to both pediatric and adult special needs patients.

Results:

Scott Resident Training Results (Per Resident):

Average # of Patients Per Rotation: Approximately 15 pediatric/special care patients with complex needs and/or behavioral management problems for a total of 90 patients seen by the entire class. Treatment including restorative, endodontic, and oral surgery procedures.

Confidence Levels: All residents without exception noted a huge boost of confidence in managing and treating pediatric patients, particularly those assigned to overseas bases.

Morale: All residents noted the very positive experience of pediatric/special care dentistry and the community service to those patients who need it most.

SIUE SDM Results:

Training Benefits: Approximately 7 days per month over 10 months of specialty-trained/board certified staffing for 15-20 residents in periodontics, endodontics, implant prosthetics, and AEGDs. Additionally, multiple dental students audited the training, primarily in oral surgery.

Confidence Levels: All residents were credited with a huge boost of confidence in managing and treating patients with multiple disciplinary problems.

Perspective Variance: All residents were credited with techniques/rationale from military dental specialist perspective.

Additional Benefits for Scott AFB and the AF in particular:

- a) Improved AF recruiting platform for dental training scholarship programs
- b) Enhanced teaching staff influence and community service
- c) Built up community exposure and support for Scott AFB

Conclusion:

The training affiliation between Scott AFB AEGD and the SIUE SDM was a win/win affiliation for enhancing the training experience of both sets of student residents. The residents received an enhanced learning opportunity from dual perspectives. The associated agencies enhanced their teaching platforms, enhanced their recruiting and inspection positions, and all was completed without cost to either agency.