

UC Davis School of Medicine Programs

Supporting Joining Forces

David Grant USAF Medical Center partnership

Since the summer of 2005, the entire residency program of David Grant Medical Center, located at Travis Air Force Base, has been merged with the UC Davis Medical Center residency program. Military surgeons who received trauma training and completed surgical residencies at UC Davis applied the organizational principles they learned there while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, to great effect. At Kirkuk Air Base in Northern Iraq, a surgeon who had been trained at UC Davis Medical Center implemented what became known as “the Davis system.” It defined clear roles for technicians, nurses and each member of the medical team, relieving doctors of their prior responsibility for these duties. The result was a significant reduction in the amount of time that passed between when a patient arrived and was in the operating room. The greater efficiency achieved by “the Davis system” drew the praise of the Air Force’s Forward Surgeon general.

Currently, seven active-duty Air Force residents are in UC Davis’ general surgery residency program. Next year, that number will increase to 14, as UC Davis inaugurates a pre-flight surgery surgical training program to better prepare physicians who enter flight surgery after internship. The partnership between UC Davis and David Grant is mutually beneficial. David Grant provides residents with outstanding training in endoscopic and general surgery, and an expansion of David Grant’s vascular and CT surgery programs will provide residents with excellent training in those areas, also.

Vascular Surgery Residency Program

The integrated residency program in vascular surgery accepts two residents per year for the five-year program, one civilian and one from the U.S. Air Force. Several factors have made integrated residencies in vascular surgery an increasingly desirable option, including a shortened training timeline compared to completion of a fellowship after general surgery residency. Advances in technology and changes in clinical care have increased the distinction between general and vascular surgery. The integrated residency allows trainees to learn advanced imaging and interventional skills earlier. Of the 36 accredited integrated residency programs in vascular surgery, the UC Davis program is the only one that includes a Department of Defense medical treatment facility — David Grant Medical Center — as an affiliated teaching site.

Internal Medicine Residency Program

In 2009, David Grant Medical Center established an internal medicine residency training program with the UC Davis Department of Internal Medicine. Currently four active-duty Air Force residents are in the program, with another two who have matched scheduled to begin in July 2012. The residents receive the majority of their training at UC Davis Medical Center, and at the medical center's affiliated VA and Kaiser affiliates. During their second and third years, the residents work on the inpatient and outpatient service at David Grant for two months. The goal of the integrated residency program is to train outstanding internists who, after graduation, will work for the Air Force for current and future patients.

Military Student Interest Group

The Military Medicine Student Interest Group is primarily intended for UC Davis medical students pursuing careers in the armed forces. The group serves as an important resource for sharing information about opportunities and challenges in training for and later providing medical care to U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. The group currently has 15 students in years 1-4 enrolled in different military medicine programs, including the National Guard, active duty and reserves.

Military Faculty Mentors

The School of Medicine's Office of Student Wellness has assembled a group of faculty members who have served in the military or still retain some form of active status to serve as mentors to medical students who are veterans, or are considering a career in military medicine. The faculty members have agreed to make themselves available to these students to provide counseling, advice and other support to help them avoid feelings of burnout and isolation. Mentors have participated on military medicine panels that were open to all students, who were able to ask the panelists questions on any aspect of serving in the military, work-life balance and career opportunities. These panels were organized in conjunction with Veterans' Day, to honor those fallen and raise awareness about military medicine careers.

John A. Majda, MD Foundation Grant

The Office of Student Wellness, in collaboration with two student leaders, was recently awarded a two-year grant from the John A. Majda, MD Foundation to pursue additional support for military students. Specifically, the goal of this project aims is to identify and characterize the factors that protect against burnout in military medical students. The group, in collaboration with the Military Medicine Student Interest Group, is developing a comprehensive strategy to provide support, including one-on-one meetings with active or retired military faculty mentors, support groups, panels and a listserv. One of the group's premises is that military students who receive support will have a lower incidence of burnout compared to those who do not receive support. To test its

hypothesis, the group will annually administer the Maslach Burnout Inventory online questionnaire to all military students at the UC Davis School of Medicine, then compare the burnout scores of military students who used the support available to them to the many military students who do not have access to or use such support. Project leaders anticipate that findings of this pilot will be disseminated to other institutions and help develop a blueprint for similar military student support efforts.

Partnership with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

UC Davis Health System has a long and successful partnership with the VA Northern California Health Care System. For example, UC Davis Medical Center provides care for veterans needing specialized services that are not available on-site at the VA. The VA serves as an outstanding teaching center for many UC Davis medical students and residents. UC Davis collaborates with VA colleagues on a variety of research studies, including studies conducted at the Sacramento VA Medical Center facility and the VA Outpatient Clinic and Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care in Martinez.

- **CTSC Clinical Research Center, Sacramento Veterans Administration**

Hospital

- Located at the former Mather Air Force Base, the CTSC Clinical Research Center is one of only four such facilities housed at any of the nation's 158 VA medical centers. It is a highly specialized patient unit that provides medical scientists with opportunities for the careful study of disease. Any researcher from Veterans Affairs may apply for use of the research center. Consequently, substantial numbers of veterans have participated in trials and benefited from being provided novel treatment and diagnostic opportunities. Many studies rely on the enrollment of veterans, such as cancer studies. By participating in these studies, veterans have access to cutting-edge cancer treatments that otherwise would not be available to them.

- **UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Center**

- The UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Center is one of only 29 research centers designated by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging. The center's goal is to translate research advances into improved diagnosis and treatment for patients while focusing on the long-term goal of finding a way to prevent or cure Alzheimer's disease. It conducts trials in Sacramento and in Martinez at the VA Medical Center to understand how common factors like age, ethnicity, race and socioeconomic status contribute to the onset of neurodegenerative diseases. The Alzheimer's Disease Center now is enrolling volunteers at its Martinez site to join the second phase of the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative Study. This groundbreaking study seeks to help define the subtle changes that may take place in the brains of older people many years before overt symptoms of the disease appear.