

Fellowship Program in Craniofacial Research for Dentists

The Fellowship Program in Craniofacial Research is a one-year curriculum that gives the Fellow exposure to basic and clinical research focusing primarily in the areas of genetics and or orthodontics (e.g., external apical root resorption associated with orthodontic treatment, facial growth, facial pain, class III and II division 2 malocclusion, and dental anomalies and cancer).

Our educational philosophy is to create a collegial atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Although mentorship will be provided, the Fellow is expected to be a self-starter, responsible for putting their time and the time of the faculty to good use, highly capable of learning and working independently. Though this the Fellow will develop critical thinking skills in clinical and scholarly activities. To achieve these goals, we provide a broad diversity of didactic and clinical exposures to craniofacial research.

The Fellowship Program is a one-year in length beginning on July 1 and ending on July 30 of the following year. The end date may be moved up if the Fellow has been accepted into a subsequent program. The goals of the Program are for the Fellow to become proficient in using Endnote for focused literature searches, to understand the scientific method and how it is applied to research protocols and evaluation of professional literature, to actively be involved in one or more research projects, and to strengthen their background in research for future application to subsequent education and or clinical practice. The Craniofacial Research Fellow participates in the three areas of study highlighted below.

The Didactic Component

The Craniofacial Research Fellow attends all weekly seminars, case presentations and literature review sessions offered by the Graduate Orthodontics Program and other components of the University as directed. She or he will apply to the University of Kentucky Graduate School as a non-degree seeking student, and be registered in a variety of Master's Degree courses offered throughout the year along with the orthodontic residents. Course contents include cephalometrics, oral biology, oral pathology, neuroanatomy, growth and development, pain physiology, craniomandibular biomechanics, masticatory function and dysfunction, pharmacology, imaging techniques, statistics, and epidemiology.

The Clinical Component

The Craniofacial Research Fellow observes and assists faculty members and residents in the evaluation and management of orthodontic patients seen in the Graduate Orthodontics Program. Approximately 50% of the Fellow's scheduled time is spent observing the clinical management of orthodontic patients. The degree of participation of the Craniofacial Research Fellow in the clinic will be determined by the Program Director with consultation from the other faculty members. The Fellow is responsible for procuring a dental license (regular or teaching) in the state of Kentucky in order to be considered for clinical activity beyond observation.

The Research Component

The Craniofacial Research Fellow will write a review article on a topic related to craniofacial biology. The Fellow will select a topic, approved by the Program Director, and research all significant articles related to that topic. This review article will be completed one month prior to the end of the Fellow's program. Depending on their background, interests, and motivation, the Fellow may have the opportunity to participate in ongoing research efforts. The degree of participation will be determined by the availability and type of ongoing research activity at the time. The Director will determine the degree of participation of the Fellow.

Tuition

This program is provided through the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. The tuition and fees for the one-year Craniofacial Research Fellowship for the 2009-2010 academic year are \$22,000.00, payable in four installments of \$5,500. Food, lodging and all other expenses are not included. Fellows accepted as non-degree students and who enrolled in a minimum number of course hours have been able to secure school loans for this activity through the College of Dentistry. Satisfactory completion of the Fellowship will result in the Fellow receiving a Certificate from the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry indicating their completion of the Craniofacial Research Fellowship.

Admission Requirements

Each Craniofacial Research Fellowship candidate must return a completed application, with dental school transcripts and two letters of recommendation by December 1 of the year prior to the beginning of the program. A dental degree (DMD, or DDS) from an accredited school in the USA or Canada is required. A visit to the University of Kentucky for an interview at the candidate's expense is normally requested by the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee will select one to two candidates by December 1 and those individuals will be notified at that time.

If you wish to apply to the program, please send your curriculum vitae to Dr. Hartsfield by mail or e-mail to the following address:

James K. Hartsfield, Jr., DMD, PhD, FACMG
Director of the Craniofacial Research Fellowship Program
Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics
Diplomate of the American Board of Medical Genetics
Professor and E. Preston Hicks Endowed Chair in Orthodontics and Oral Health Research

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FAQs

1. Do I need a US dental license in order to apply?

No. You will need to apply for and receive a special academic license for the state of Kentucky, but that is generally not a problem. The decision to grant such a license is given by the state dental board and is not under our direct control. In the past, however, this has not been an issue.

2. I am a foreign dental graduate. Can I apply?

No, unless your degree is from an accredited Canadian dental school. At this time we require candidates to have a dental degree (DMD or DDS) from an accredited dental school in the USA or Canada.

3. Upon completion of the Craniofacial Research Program, am I guaranteed admission to the Graduate Program in Orthodontics or other program?

No. However, those who do well in the Craniofacial Research Program would be expected to be strong applicants for positions in any Graduate Program and are encouraged to apply.

4. Will I be permitted to treat patients during the program?

All trainees will be expected to observe the orthodontic treatment of patients. The decision as to whether a given trainee will be permitted to assist in the treatment of orthodontic patients in the Graduate Orthodontics Program will be made on an individual basis by the Program Director and faculty.