

# Department of Veterans Affairs Chiropractic Residency Program

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**Anthony J. Lisi, DC**

*Chiropractic Program Director  
Veterans Health Administration*

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration

# DC Residency: Integrated Clinical Practice



## Patient Care

- Mentored by senior VA DCs
- Team-based management; multimorbid cases



## Interprofessional Rotations

- Including primary care, medical/surgical specialties, mental health specialties, rehabilitation disciplines



## Scholarly Activities

- Individual and group EBM projects
- Attend/give presentations; teach/mentor chiro students

## Mission

- *To prepare chiropractic residents for clinical practice in hospitals or other medical settings, and/or academia, through hospital-based clinical training, interprofessional education, and scholarly activities*

## Curriculum

- *CCE 7 Core Competencies*

## Milestones

- *Modified with permission from American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*

# DC Residency: Integrated Clinical Practice

- Program Duration
  - Full-time, 1-yr (July 1 to June 30)
- Eligibility
  - Meet all VA employment requirements including US citizenship, Selective Service
  - DC degree from a CCE-accredited school prior to program start
    - (DC Licensure is not required prior to program start, but is a requirement of program completion)*
- Compensation/Benefits
  - \$43k average annual stipend
  - Paid time off Holidays and vacation
  - Eligible for life and health insurance
  - Student Loan Deferral
  - Public Service Loan Forgiveness
- Career context
  - Compared with typical new DC graduates, residents are extremely more likely to obtain a hospital/VA position, and likely to be started at a 25% higher annual salary

# National Program Data

VA Chiropractic Residency Programs



- VA Programs – DC School Affiliates

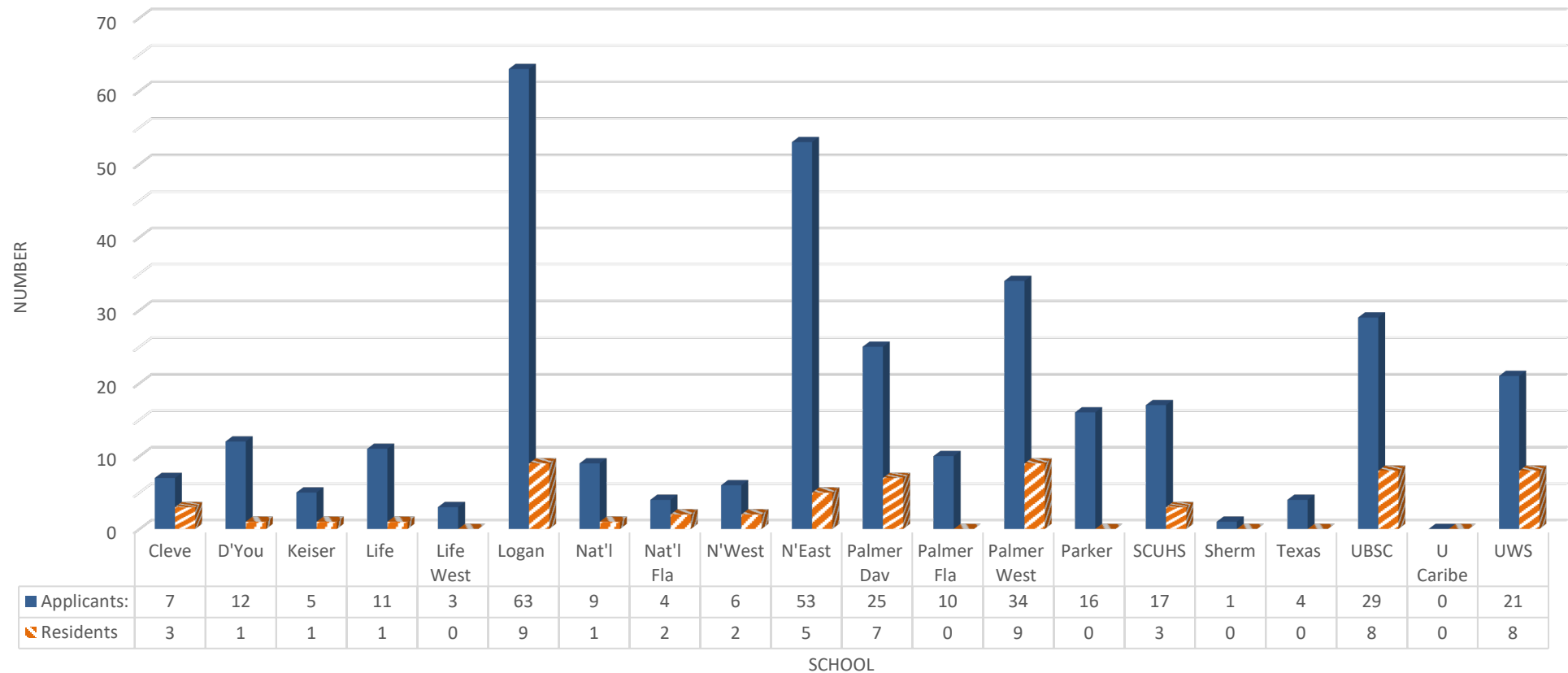
- Puget Sound – UWS
- Palo Alto – Palmer
- Los Angeles – SCUHS
- Des Moines – Palmer
- St. Louis – Logan U
- Cincinnati – UWS
- Buffalo – Northeast
- Canandaigua – Northeast
- West Haven – UBSC
- Miami – Keiser U

- 9 years (AY 2015-23)

- 330 Applicants
- 60 Accepted Residents
- 50 Graduates

# Applicant/Resident Characteristics

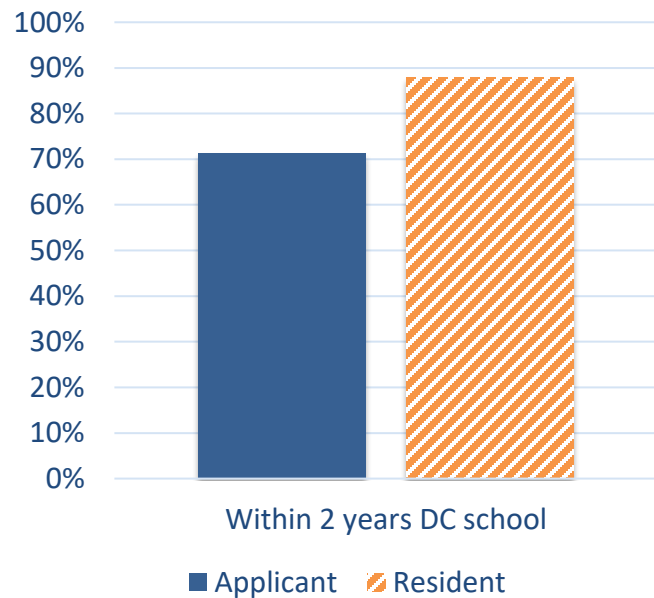
## DC School Alma Mater



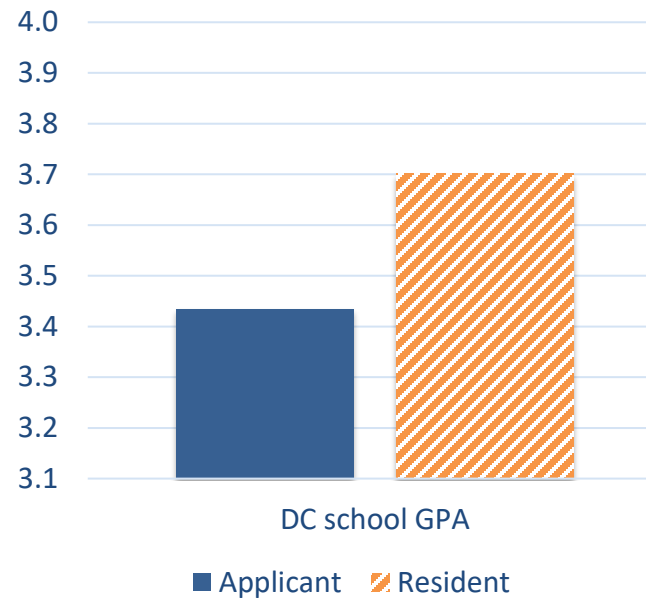
Totals, AY 2015-23  
 Applicants = 330  
 Residents = 60

# Applicant/Resident Characteristics

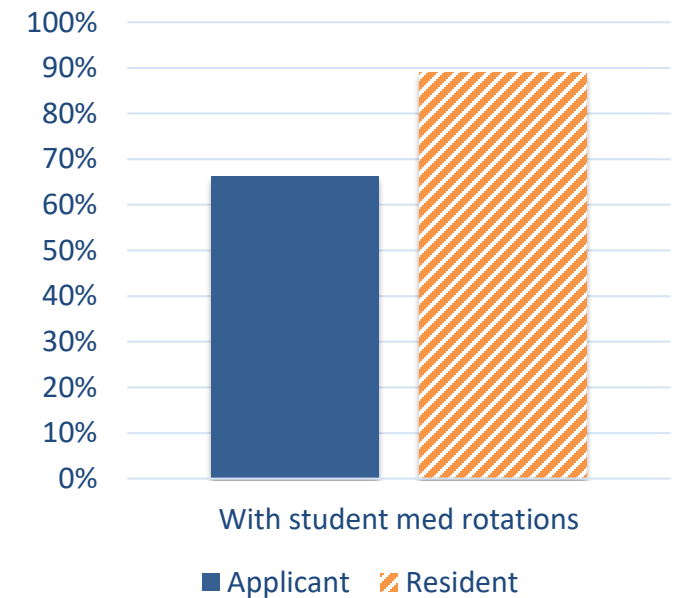
## Graduation



## GPA



## Medical Training

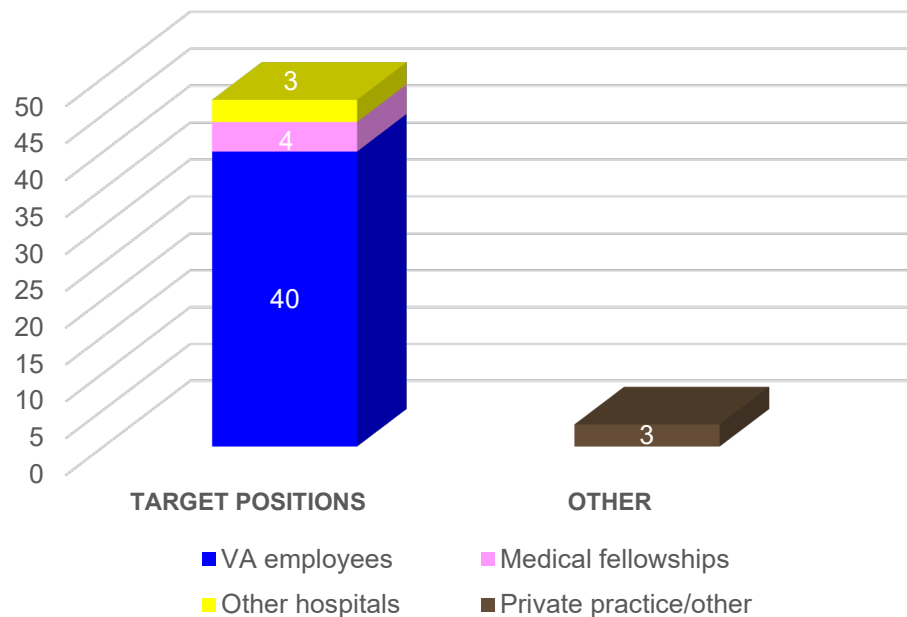


Averages, AY 2015-23  
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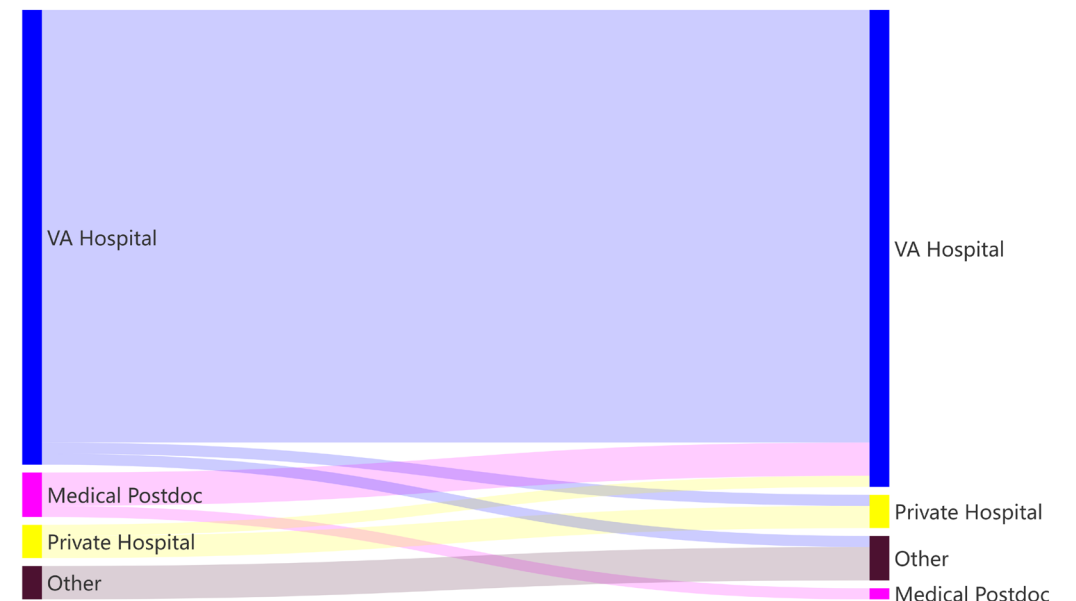
# Resident performance

- Each resident met or exceeded all program requirements
- 47 of 50 graduates (94%) placed in a target position within 12 months of completion

*Initial placement within 12 months of residency completion*



*Position flow from initial placement through November 2022*



# MD attendings' perceptions of DC residents

## Clinical competence

*"The chiropractic resident was excellent; he was on par with a mid-level neurosurgery fellow"*

- Chief, Neurosurgery

## Integration

*"I had her teach the low back exam to my med students"*

- Primary Care Physician

## Value

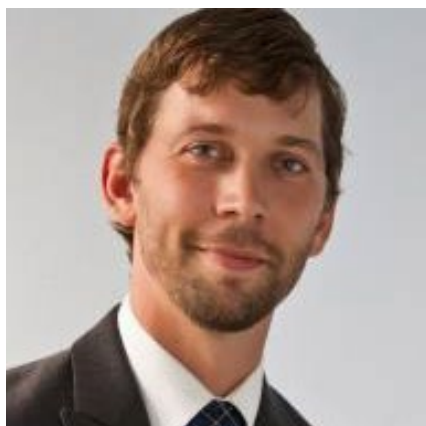
*"I wish we could hire him right now"*

- Chief, Physiatry





# Residency alumni perceptions



**Clint Daniels, DC**  
St. Louis, 2015

*"The residency program has opened innumerable doors... pathways to pursue a chiropractic career in a hospital system, opportunities for leadership positions and academic projects, and a robust network of colleagues committed to my success."*

Chiropractic Section Chief  
VA Puget Sound Healthcare System



**Brian Giuliani, DC**  
Connecticut, 2016

*"I work for a large hospital system and fully credit the VA chiropractic residency program for my professional success. Learning under experienced chiropractors enabled me to better manage the complex musculoskeletal cases that I see daily. The interprofessional clinical rotations made it easy to integrate into my current role in our spine clinic."*

Staff Chiropractor  
Aurora Health Care



**Enya Katz, DC**  
Los Angeles, 2019

*"The residency put me in the position to excel at this VA job that I am so blessed and grateful to have. The program presented uncountable opportunities that I otherwise would never dream of having, such as scrubbing in to surgeries, and learning from the smart, thoughtful, and talented attendings and residents who were generous enough to teach and mentor me."*

Staff Chiropractor  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

# Supplemental Information for Applicants

- Application period opens the first Monday of January each year
  - Full information is available on the VA Chiropractic Program [website](#)
- VA Chiropractic Residency Programs follow a standardized application and Match process to fill available slots
  - Candidates are matched to residency programs following an unbiased, algorithmic match process where candidates and facilities rank order their preferences and the candidate's preference receives priority
- Features of strong applicants
  - High GPA and hospital training as a DC student
  - Commitment to integrated, collaborative practice
  - Knowledge of current evidence related to chiropractic care
  - Strong recommendation letters from individuals with experience formally supervising/assessing the applicant
  - Professional, collegial, and self-driven attributes