



OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

COLLEGES OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND MEDICINE

SUNSHINE  
EDUCATION AND  
RESEARCH CENTER

TAMPA, FLORIDA



## OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW

The Occupational Medicine Residency (OMR) Program, at the University of South Florida, emphasizes both the use of critical thinking and research approaches in investigations. Residents are trained to recognize, manage, and prevent occupational disease and injury. Research focuses on:

1. Prevention of work-related respiratory conditions, especially occupational asthma;
2. Non-invasive methods for recognizing lung injury especially exhaled breath nitric acid and constituents of exhaled breath condensate;
3. Repetitive motion injuries of the upper extremity and back (emphasizing ergonomic control and prevention);
4. Health effects of indoor mold and issues of indoor air quality control; and
5. The role of heat stress from the use of protective clothing and the response to workplace conditions.

The practicum includes at least four months of supervised real world of work training and includes rotations in utility and power industry, aeronautic and space industry, occupational medicine clinics, and regulatory agencies. Rotation site locations are described below. Research time is required. We are proud of our faculty's educational and research accomplishments and we encourage faculty members and residents to work closely together in a supportive environment to refine professional skills in conducting research studies. It is our goal to provide you with an outstanding education that will lead to the greatest development of your skills in preparation of a lifetime of personal and professional gratification and to successful certification by the American Board of Preventive Medicine/Occupational Medicine. The residency is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

### EDUCATIONAL FACULTY

This OMR program has four faculty members on staff:

1. Stuart M. Brooks, M.D., Director, Professor
2. Karen Olson, MD, MSPH Faculty
3. Rosemary Szollas, MD, MSPH, Faculty
4. Thomas Truncale, DO, MPH, Assistant Professor, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Occupational Medicine



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### **MISSION**

The mission of our residency is to prepare physicians for careers in Occupational Medicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The residency offers a broad base of training, which includes all aspects of occupational health and safety with an emphasis on protective and preventive policies, procedures, practices, and programs. Graduates are trained to administer, manage, and direct clinical occupational health programs. The residency clinical rotations emphasize the health of the workers and their ability to perform work; the arrangement of work; and the physical, chemical, and social environment in the workplace. There is enough flexibility in our program to allow each resident to pursue and achieve his or her own personal interests and career goals.

### **RESIDENCY PROGRAM OPTIONS**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply to the two-year concurrent academic and practicum-phases residency program culminating into a Masters of Science in Public Health (MSPH). The academic work is completed at the College of Public Health during the evenings, while the practicum activities take place in the community during the day. A one-year practicum is available for suitable candidates who have a Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree.

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Stipend support and tuition waivers are provided for residents accepted into the residency.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Acceptance into the residency requires graduation from an approved medical school and completion of at least one year of clinical training in an accredited primary care residency in the United States. Consideration will be given for resident applicants having considerable occupational medicine practice experience and a minimum of one year of clinical specialty training. In addition, candidates must have passed all three steps of the USMLE (or equivalent) or have possession of a valid state medical license. The Residency Program generally accepts between two to four residents per year.



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YOU MUST HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS, PERTINENT TO YOUR SPECIFIC BACKGROUND, PRIOR TO HAVING YOUR FILE REVIEWED FOR THE INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM. PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. Completed Post-Graduate Training Program APPLICATION.  
Please ensure that all proper boxes have been checked off and all questions are answered completely. Do not write "see resume or CV" – fill in application completely. If you do not know the answer to a question, please provide a written explanation. If you have applied for the program before and are applying again, please fill out a new application form for the year you are applying.
2. CURRICULUM VITAE (CV) or RESUME.  
If you have applied for the program before and are applying again, please provide an up-to-date CV or Resume.
3. A PERSONAL STATEMENT.  
This statement should describe why you would like to pursue occupational medicine and be approximately one (1) typed page in length.
4. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (3 originals preferred).  
These three (3) original letters should be addressed to Dr. Stuart Brooks, Director of the Occupational Medicine Residency. If you have applied for the program before and are applying again, please provide three current (within the last year) letters of recommendation.
5. USMLE (Steps I, II, and III) or COMLEX-USA (Levels 1, 2, and 3) or FLEX SCORES or a State License [see #9] (copies).  
You must have all three steps of the USMLE or COMLEX-USA completed before you will be considered for the program. However, if you are waiting for the scores from a step, please indicate the date in which you took the step. Or, if you will be taking the third step between applying and the interview process, please let us know what date you will be taking the test.
7. MEDICAL SCHOOL DIPLOMA (copy).
8. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS (original) to all academic institutions attended.  
If you are unable to get these transcripts for some reason, please send an explanation in writing to this office. You may fax this to (813) 974-4994 or email to [traj@health.usf.edu](mailto:traj@health.usf.edu) . You may forward copies of your transcripts until original and official transcripts can be sent.
9. STATE LICENSE(S) (copy each), if you are licensed in any state.
10. ECFMG CERTIFICATE (copy), if you are a foreign medical graduate.  
It is the policy of the American Board of Internal Medicine that graduates of International Medical Schools must hold a valid ECFMG certificate **INDEFINITELY** in



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order to sit for any of the Certifying Examinations in Internal Medicine. Any questions regarding this policy, please contact (215) 386-5900.

11. **PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP (copy).** Visas or Passports, etc., are not USF-acceptable proof for this program. If you do not have your Permanent Resident Card “Green Card,” you must be able to submit a valid work authorization form (card), and your social security card which shows “employment purposes only.” Letters showing approval of your Application for Lawful Permanent Residence does not show proof. The following are the only types of citizenship proof accepted:
- International Citizens – Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551 – also known as “Green Card” or formerly known as Alien Registration Card).
  - United States Citizens – Birth Certificate or Naturalization (Form N-550)

### **ACADEMIC COURSE WORK OUTLINE – Concentration Requirements (45 Credits)**

#### **COLLEGE CORE COURSES – 15 Credits**

1. PHC 6050 Biostatistics (3)
2. PHC 6000 Epidemiology (3)
3. PHC 6102 Principles of Health Policy and Management (3)
4. PHC 6410 Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health (3)
5. PHC 6357 Environmental and Occupational Health (3)

#### **REQUIRED CONCENTRATION COURSES – 18 Credits**

1. PHC 6356 Industrial Hygiene (2)
2. PHC \_\_\_\_ Occupational Medicine for Health Prof (2)
3. PHC 7019 Occupational Epidemiology (3)
4. PHC 6934 Occupational Health and Safety Administration (2)
5. PHC \_\_\_\_ Selected Safety Course (Principles of Safety Management or other approved safety course) (2)
6. PHC 6930 Seminar in Occupational and Environmental Research (1 credit for a minimum of 2 semesters)
7. PHC \_\_\_\_ Selected Toxicology course (Toxicology, Xenobiotic Metabolism, Occupational Risk Assessment (2-3 credits)
8. PHC 6051 Biostatistics II (3)

#### **ELECTIVES – 2 Credits (Minimum)**

It is expected that students will pursue electives that are of most interest to them personally and professionally. They are encouraged to choose a diversity of topics in order to foster a well-rounded educational experience. List examples of common elective options (course number, name and credits):

1. PHC 6350 Environmental Health Risk Assessment (2)



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2. PHC 7935 Biological Monitoring in Environmental Health (1)
3. PHC 6364 IH Aspects of Plant Operations (2)
4. PHC \_\_\_\_ Ergonomics (\_\_\_)
5. PHC \_\_\_\_ Occupational Health Law (\_\_\_)

### CULMINATING EXPERIENCES

1. PHC 6971 Thesis (6 credits minimum)
2. Comprehensive Examination (no credit)

### **INTEGRATION OF CORE REQUIREMENTS**

Solving recurrent problems in the workplace requires a large number of skills, including a broad understanding of the core areas of public health. For example, viable solutions to workplace hazards include an understanding of workers' perception of their health and vulnerability to disease and disability. Occupational health research depends heavily on epidemiologic principles in order to assess long-term trends in workers' illnesses and the relationship to the work environment. Health professionals prepared in occupational health must have knowledge of management principles, health insurance, legal and regulatory concerns, in order to manage and effectively provide health care and health care programs for workers.

### **ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCY**

Staff has found that problem-based learning, where real-life problems are addressed, is a very effective way of assuring that students have managed and integrated all of the skills gained in the curriculum. Residents are given a problem with many facets and we work through each aspect of the solution in a group or individual format. Learning is never looked at as a simple restating of facts – integration of knowledge is the goal. In addition, the ability to take a known situation and utilize those skills to solve new and different problems is stressed throughout the program curriculum. Students are expected to integrate principles and knowledge about risk assessment, safety, management, epidemiology, and industrial hygiene into their existing set of clinical skills.

### **DOCUMENTATION**

The program maintains active relationships with the external residency practicum site coordinators and they are queried frequently about changes occurring in the public practice of occupational health and safety. In addition, a variety of occupational health



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professionals are members of the residency advisory committee (RAC), which meets on a bi-annual basis and they provide input and suggestions for the continuing improvement and relevance of the residency experience. The residency is provided a breakdown of scores on subject areas of the American Board of Preventive Medicine/Occupational Medicine certification examination; areas of deficiency and weakness can be identified and subsequent curriculum areas can be better emphasized.

### **UNIQUE FEATURES OF OUR RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply to the two-year concurrent academic and practicum phases of the residency program. The academic work is completed at the College of Public Health during the evenings, while the practicum activities take place in the community during the day. A one-year practicum is available for suitable candidates who have a Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree. Research time is required. Also, all residents start at the PGY II level.

### **ROTATION SITE LOCATIONS**

#### **James A. Haley Veterans Administration (JHVA) Hospital**

The James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JHVA) is a tertiary care teaching hospital which operates 361 hospital beds, composed of 118 medical beds, 8 in neurology, 60 in psychiatry, 42 in rehabilitation medicine, 60 in spinal cord injury and 73 in surgery. There is also an Extended Geriatric Care facility composed of a 180 bed Nursing Home Outpatient Clinic and the Bartow Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). Complete ranges of primary and subspecialty outpatient programs are also provided.

An active role in the sharing of medical and other scarce resources has been pursued with military installations in Tampa (MacDill Air Force Base) and with Orlando Naval Hospital. Tampa is also designated as a Primary Reception Site for the National Disaster Medical System and the VA/DOD Contingency Plan. Tampa is a major referral center for DOD/ASMRO patients for rehabilitation, Spinal Cord Injury, Psychiatry and other Clinical Care Programs. Research activities have attracted national attention in Immunology (asthma center); and in AIDS management. The hospital was activated in 1972 and is affiliated with the University of South Florida, College of Medicine, resulting in a unique and close professional relationship. The JHVA rotations are intended to overlap and strengthen many aspects of the real-world-of-work experiences. The resident will have the opportunity to analyze and apply their unique occupational health



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skills in the day to day operational problem solving situations and corresponding decision making opportunities as it relates to them as "subject area consultants."

### **Kennedy Space Center (KSC)**

The Kennedy Space Center (KSC) provides the resident with the opportunity to become familiar with the aerospace medicine. The rotation is unique because it offers clinical rotations in specialty fields, which are located at the launch site of past and future manned missions to space. The program takes place at the Kennedy Space Center, located on Florida's Space coast. It is the only launch complex for manned space operations in the USA. There is an occupational medicine facility for the 1,300 KSC employees.

The rotation at KSC provides residents with an opportunity to examine occupational health and safety issues from the prospective of the aerospace industry. The education and training of the resident involves supervision by professionals who are Board Certified in several specialties, including: occupational medicine, aerospace medicine, internal medicine and emergency medicine. The resident training at KSC emphasizes:

1. Clinical care of workers in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of work-related disorders;
2. Evaluation of the fitness of workers for normal or modified job assignments in a wide variety of work environments;
3. Assessment of impairment and/or disability;
4. Counseling and education of employees and supervisors regarding job-site hazards, environmental hazards, and personal lifestyle health-related habits;
5. Planning, administration, supervision and health and safety risk assessment, accident evaluations, and development of risk reduction recommendations;
6. Application of administrative and scientific principles in the achievement of compliance with regulatory requirements and those of workers' compensation plans; and
7. Acquisition, compilation and evaluation of health and environmental data.

The one month rotation at KSC is considered a real-world-of-work experience. The emphasis is on the work environment, the health and safety of employees and the activities are devoted to preventive medicine. Physicians at KSC provide occupational health support for the employees, including astronauts. Resident activities include clinical, administrative, exposure assessment, surveillance, ergonomics, physical agents, clinical toxicology, environmental medicine and preventive approaches and wellness. The resident deals with hazard evaluation and toxicity of hazardous chemicals



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including rocket fuels and other agents used in the aerospace program. Residents may be present during some of the astronaut launches at KSC.

### **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

The Tampa regional OSHA office is one of the largest OSHA offices in the country, servicing Tampa and the surrounding regions. It is one of the busiest offices in the country and makes more than 1,200 inspections each year. The resident has the opportunity of viewing how OSHA will be working with business and labor to rewrite many old, industry consensus standards into plain language so they are more understandable and useable. The resident may assist in the process. OSHA's new philosophy is to rely on a voluntary approach to correct workplace hazards through cooperative actions. Examples are:

1. Partnerships with workers and management to identify actions to reduce or remove a hazard,
2. Encouragement of voluntary standard-setting organizations (such as the American National Standards Institute, and the American Council of Governmental Industrial Hygienist) to take action on priority hazards,
3. The issuance of guidelines,
4. The use of the existing Federal/State consultation program to encourage employers to identify and correct priority hazards, and
5. The dissemination of information about hazards and ways of preventing or controlling them.

Information approaches involve the gathering, generation and distribution of additional information about priority hazards and issues. Examples include:

1. Research on health effects or control technology,
2. Technical information exchanges such as workshops or symposia,
3. NIOSH Criteria Documents,
4. Special Hazard Reviews and Hazard Alerts,
5. OSHA's "SafeWorks" and "Fatal Facts" Fact Sheets, and
6. Joint actions by employers and workers to publicize hazard information.

### **Heritage Summit Healthcare of Florida, Inc.**

The rotation at Heritage Summit Healthcare of Florida, Inc. provides training in occupational medicine practice with an emphasis on:



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1. Clinical care of workers in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of work-related disorders,
2. Evaluation of fitness of workers for normal or modified job assignments in a wide variety of work environments, and the assessment of impairment and disability,
3. Counseling and education of workers and supervisors with respect to work or environmental hazards, health-related habits of living, and the arrangements of work,
4. The planning, administration, supervision, and evaluation of a broad program for the protection and promotion of the health and safety of workers in the work setting including health risks assessment, accident evaluation, and risk reduction,
5. Application of administrative and scientific principles in the achievement of compliance with regulatory requirements and those of workers' compensation plans, and
6. Acquisition, collation, storage and analysis of health and environmental data.

### **Tampa General Hospital (TGH)**

TGH is affiliated with the University of South Florida, College of Medicine, and serves as the primary teaching hospital for the University. The large numbers of physicians in almost all departments are also USF faculty, therefore, arrangements can and have been made to develop a variety of educational experiences for the residents. TGH is a 1,000 bed international and regional referral center.

Residents spend at least three months over the two year residency at TGH. The practicum rotations consist of subspecialty clinics in areas related to occupational medicine. Residents select the particular rotation from those which have been developed at this site to date, dependent on their own personal background interests and career goals. There are also ancillary clinically related experiences offered as electives in the areas such as poison control, physical rehabilitation, etc.

### **BayCare Occupational Health Program at St. Anthony's Hospital**

**Lakeside Occupational Clinic**

**Bay Pines Veterans hospital**

**Medero Clinic**

**LoPresto Opthomology**

**US Healthworks**

**Other Rotation Sites**

Other rotation sites will be added to the OMR rotations as necessary.



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### **GEOGRAPHICAL AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

The Tampa Bay area is one of the world's most desirable areas in which to live, boasting a booming employment rate, year-round festivals and activities, and a climate that is consistently pleasant and sunny. The Tampa Bay area is situated in west-central Florida along the Gulf of Mexico. Local beaches are consistently rated in the top 10 by several vacation rating groups. Tampa, itself, has a variety of local entertainment opportunities, and Orlando with all of its theme parks, is only approximately one hour away.

### **USF OMR CONTACT FOR AN APPLICATION OR PROGRAM RELATED QUESTIONS**

Tabitha Raj, Occupational Medicine Residency Program Coordinator  
Sunshine Education and Research Center  
College of Public Health, University of South Florida  
13201 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MDC 56  
Tampa, FL 33612-3805  
Telephone: (813) 974-7537  
Fax: (813) 974-4994  
Email: [traj@health.usf.edu](mailto:traj@health.usf.edu)  
Applications can be emailed to you.

### **Specific Course Information Contacts:**

Professor Stuart M. Brooks, M.D., Professor and Director  
Telephone: (813) 974-6626  
Email: [sbrooks@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:sbrooks@hsc.usf.edu)

### **Check out our web sites at:**

<http://www.hsc.usf.edu/erc/OMR.html> or  
<http://publichealth.usf.edu/eohmedical.html>

Applications cannot be downloaded at this time from our web site.