



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Dental Residency Program to Increase Access to Care *CVCH Dental Program has received conditional approval for accreditation*

Tuesday, March 18, 2014: Wenatchee, WA: The **Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)** has awarded conditional approval to [Columbia Valley Community Health](http://www.cvch.org) (CVCH) to host dental residency positions. This accredited program will add two full-time dental residents to CVCH – one for its Chelan clinic and one for the Wenatchee site. These will be add-on sites of the [Northwest Dental Residency Program](#), housed by [Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic](#) (YVFWC). The residency program will receive permanent credentialing following a site visit in 2015.

CVCH Dental Director **Dr. Bruce Wilcox** says residencies are a primary method for improving access to health care. “These programs bring an extra set of hands to provide care for our low-income dental patients, and it has been shown that community-minded residents serving in an underserved area tend to locate there for permanent practice. These programs are strongly supported by the [Washington State Dental Association](#), and are a great resource to replace our community’s retiring dentists and assure continuity for their patients.”

“The Washington State Dental Association is pleased to see that the Northwest Dental Residency Program is expanding into Chelan and Wenatchee this year,” said **Dr. David Minahan**, WSDA President. “Dental residencies, especially those embedded in community health centers, provide residents with invaluable experience working with vulnerable patient populations. Dental residents take these experiences and apply them throughout their careers in dentistry.”

For the 2014 match year, Wilcox is interviewing residents to fill these one-year rotations by July. Most of these candidates will either be newly graduated or students looking to complete their second year of residency for special licensing qualifications. He is excited for what this program will provide for the community, the dental residents and ultimately to community health care.

“We will integrate our residents into active teams where the dentist takes on a role as the mentor and can pass more onto the student. This successful model allows the resident to experience more procedures, receive more training, manage time efficiently and become a better dentist.”

The CVCH dental clinic has offered student rotations since 2010, partnering with the Arizona School of Dental and Oral Health (ASDOH) and the University of Washington School of Dentistry. CVCH will continue to offer these one- to four-month long student rotations after the residency program is in effect.

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CVCH Press Release: CVCH Dental Residency Program Approved

For more information, please contact Dr. Bruce Wilcox, CVCH Dental Director, at 509-662-6000 x1532 or by email at Bwilcox@cvch.org.

About Columbia Valley Community Health

[Columbia Valley Community Health](http://www.CVCH.org) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves over 24,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

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