

- Home
- All Stories
- Top Stories
- People
- Voices
- Around Campus
- Faculty Bulletin Board**
- Archives

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- Human Resources News
- UCOP at Your Service
- UCLA Sports
- UCLA Health Care
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Feb 17, 2011 - By Alison Hewitt

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Dental school receives \$2.4M grant for pediatric dentistry program



The **School of Dentistry** received a five-year, \$2.4 million grant from the Health Services and Resource Administration (HSRA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for the continued expansion of its postdoctoral Community Health and Advocacy Training Residency Program in Pediatric Dentistry (CHAT-PD).

Directed by Pediatric Dentistry Professor Francisco Ramos-Gomez, the program educates and trains pediatric dentists. Compared to other groups, children in low-income families experience higher rates of tooth decay and greater difficulty accessing dental care. These challenges require new training for pediatric dentists to understand the underlying causes of disparities that disproportionately affect certain vulnerable and underserved segments of the population.

"In my view, the uniqueness of UCLA's CHAT-PD residency model lies in its ability to equip trainees with new knowledge and skills which will enable them to improve the oral health of children from diverse, underserved communities, including children from low-income and minority families and children with special health care needs," Ramos-Gomez said.

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