

Family Medicine Residency Curriculum

FAMILY MEDICINE CONTINUITY CLINIC

Christ Health, Chalkville and Woodlawn health centers, respectively located in the suburban and urban communities we serve, are at the heart of the SVEFMR program. These clinics offer residents the opportunity to learn how to provide outstanding care. Each resident works on a team of highly-trained and caring allied health colleagues to provide continuity care to a designated panel of patients. Additionally, residents are integrally involved in the business aspects of running the practice to help ensure they are prepared to be successful in future practices of their own.

ADULT MEDICINE INPATIENT

The adult inpatient experience occurs solely at St. Vincent's East hospital. This rotation consists of four weeks of FM inpatient service (days) and alternating four weeks of night float. Typically, two interns and one upper-level resident comprise the day team; another upper level resident and intern comprise the night float team. Our inpatient service is unopposed as there are no other residencies at our facilities. The program provides significant autonomy to residents during this rotation. Attending faculty are present in the hospital daily for rounds and remain on-call and accessible 24 hours a day. Our residents are the Code Blue team responsible for the entire hospital. This rotation is consistently considered by residents to be a notable strength of the program.

SVEFMR aims to provide high-quality, compassionate, evidence-based adult inpatient medicine that is second to none. Patient volume is suitable for excellent exposure to the broad variety of adult illnesses without compromising education or patient safety. We manage all of our own patients, including those in the ICU—with or without ventilator management—and there is ample opportunity to receive competency in intubation, central line and chest tube placement, paracentesis and much more. Our sub-specialists are committed to resident education and consistently treat the residents and FM faculty as valued colleagues.

PEDIATRICS OUTPATIENT

The ambulatory care portion of the pediatric curriculum occurs at the Family Medicine Clinic during continuity clinics as well as with our staff pediatricians. Also, each resident will receive block exposure to a variety of specialized services including the Alabama Early Intervention System and Speech and Occupational Therapy. Residents are enrolled in the Johns Hopkins Internet Learning Curriculum for Ambulatory Pediatrics. SVEFMR requires one month of outpatient pediatrics for each year of residency, and every resident is provided PALS and NRP certification training. There are ongoing opportunities, such as partnering with local elementary schools via Telehealth platform, for residents to provide additional pediatric care.

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PEDIATRICS INPATIENT

As a PGY-2, residents rotate on the general or speciality wards service alongside the University of Alabama at Birmingham Pediatric residents at Children's of Alabama located in downtown Birmingham. The pediatric experience includes a four-week inpatient rotation where the resident acts as a pediatric intern and provides access to the many learning opportunities, such as group simulation activities and daily lunch lectures. While at Children's, residents also get experience working in the pediatric emergency room, a Level 1 Trauma Center, for four weeks alongside emergency medicine and pediatric residents.

OBSTETRICS

SVEFMR has a strong focus in obstetrics. Our faculty includes a family physician who is an Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) national advisor and Centering group trained, as well as several enthusiastic, supportive Obstetric/Gynecologists. The PGY-1 residents have a rotation at St. Vincent's Birmingham working alongside Family Medicine and OB physicians while also gaining experience in the NICU/newborn nursery. Residents are first assist on C-sections during their obstetrics block month. Interested residents may continue to follow obstetrics patients in their second and third years of residency, gaining sufficient experience to provide low-risk obstetrics care to their patients after graduation. Additionally, there are workshops on episiotomy suturing, ALSO, and other GYN procedures (colposcopy, excisions and biopsies) that occur annually.

GERIATRICS

We ensure residents are well prepared to provide outstanding care to the growing geriatric population through various learning environments and local partnerships. During all three years of training, residents participate in monthly geriatrics didactics and case presentations. During the PGY-2 and PGY-3 years, residents also assume care of two nursing home patients and one home visit patient as part of their continuity panel. Additionally, one month is dedicated to a deeper experience exploring hospice, palliative and geriatric medicine.

MENTAL HEALTH

Our mental health curriculum includes ample opportunity for residents to learn respectful, compassionate care for patients and families. All residents complete a two or four-week rotation at our Live Oaks Mental Health Clinic, adjacent to Christ Health Center Woodlawn. The clinic is staffed by one adult and one pediatric psychiatrist, as well as a nurse practitioner and therapist/social worker. In the hospital, the Behavioral Medicine facility provides inpatient geriatric and general psychiatric care as well as

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MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUED

consultation services to inpatients. Residents also receive ongoing instruction via specific mental health lecture series curriculum. In their outpatient continuity clinic patient panel, residents have longitudinal instruction in behavioral medicine. Residents become proficient in recognizing, counseling and treating patients with a wide range of psychosocial and spiritual issues that affect all areas of health.

SPORTS MEDICINE

Residents work for two weeks at the Andrews Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center at St. Vincent's Birmingham campus. Each year, Andrews Sports Medicine Fellows have their outpatient continuity clinic at Christ Health Center, which allows additional time for residents to work with Fellows. If residents are interested in sports medicine, additional opportunities to work at local high school and collegiate sporting events are available. Through these experiences, residents will be able to establish a relationship with the Sports Medicine program and may apply for fellowship training after graduation.

PHARMACY

One of the favorite rotations of residents is working with our clinical pharmacists. We partner with Samford University Pharmacy School Faculty, who work with residents during two-week rotations in both the inpatient and outpatient setting. They are always available to assist with questions and participate directly in patient care with Coumadin Clinic and Diabetic Education and Management. Pharmacy students and residents rotate at our facilities, and they are valued members of our team, assisting with medication reconciliation issues, patient education and medication recommendations. Additionally, our pharmacy faculty are delighted to collaborate on numerous and varied scholarly activities, including posters, publications and presentations.

REQUIRED MEDICAL SUBSPECIALTIES

Residents spend focused block rotations in Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine, Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Neurology, Nephrology, Radiology and Infectious Disease. Electives are available in Allergy/Immunology, Hematology/Oncology, Palliative Care Medicine, Endocrinology and others.

SURGERY/SURGICAL SUBSPECIALTIES

All residents work one-on-one with community surgical preceptors during surgical rotations. These rotations include general surgery with Inpatient and Outpatient care, Urology, ENT, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic surgery and Dermatology.

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ELECTIVES

The FM ACGME required curriculum allows for generous elective time during all three years of training. Each resident is permitted 5-6 months of electives with the ability to individually tailor experiences to their specific goals and needs for future practice. Off-site and international/missions opportunities are not only available but are encouraged by the program. There are program funds allocated to assist residents in pursuing overseas endeavors. Many current and former residents—as well as faculty members—participate in serving the under-served both locally and globally.

TELEHEALTH

Trying to stay ahead of current events and trends, we are currently launching a telemedicine program that will allow residents to provide medical care remotely to our clinic patients as well as to local schools and ministries. We have received state-of-the-art equipment that allows us to interview, examine and treat patients virtually to remove patient barriers in order to care and extend our reach into communities in need both locally and internationally. We are excited to use technology to help extend our outreach and our mission!

COMMUNITY MEDICINE/PUBLIC HEALTH/POPULATION MEDICINE

Family medicine is integrated, patient-centered health care—hopefully close to home. Here at SVEFMR, we introduce residents to a myriad of community medicine and public health-related topics through monthly didactic sessions. In PGY-3, residents experience various clinic settings providing safety net care to many vulnerable members of our community. Residents also rotate through specialized departments of our renowned Jefferson County Health Department and Occupational Medicine Department. The rotation culminates in a presentation on a related public health topic at one of our didactic sessions.

LONGITUDINAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Physicians are leaders by default, but becoming effective in this role is a choice. At SVEFMR we promote leadership growth as a deliberate aspect of our training. Monthly physician formation and wellness sessions invite residents to consider and reconnect with the reasons why they chose a career in medicine. Throughout training, residents train alongside medical, pharmacy, and physician assistant students, growing their skills in teaching and mentoring during this longitudinal experience. During PGY-2 and PGY-3 years, residents actively serve on a hospital committee. Before graduation, 3rd year residents engage in a leadership summit exploring critical skills such as mentoring, negotiating, advocacy and media relations. Many residents also choose to serve on local foundations and boards in our community as well as within state and national Family Medicine organizations.