



LSUHSC - New Orleans at Lafayette

Family Medicine Residency Program

Program Director: Marilyn D. Marshall, MD

The 2023-2024 academic year brought about many changes to Family Medicine in Lafayette. Just prior to the start of the academic year, the CDC lifted the public health emergency declaration for Covid-19. Masks were no longer required except for those with active infection.

We have experienced several positional changes and promotions in the Family Medicine Administrative Department. In August 2023, we welcomed Brittney Benoit as our new Department Coordinator. Brittney has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Maisha Drexler, Residency Coordinator, resigned effective September 2023 and accepted a new position outside of the organization thereby leaving the Department in need of a new coordinator. Brittney Benoit stepped into the role as interim coordinator and eventually accepted the Residency Coordinator position permanently in December 2023. Brittney's primary function is to manage the day-to-day operations of the residency program and serve as a liaison with the residents, faculty, and staff.

In April 2024, we lost one of our long-standing faculty members. L. Glen Mire, MD - affectionately known as "Paw" - served in multiple roles in the FM department throughout his professional career. He was an outstanding Geriatric Faculty Member. He graduated from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans in 1973. Afterward, he completed his internship at San Bernardino County Hospital in San Bernardino, California (1973-1974) and his residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch, in Galveston, Texas (1977-1979).

His medical practice spanned 50 years, an accomplishment of which he was very proud. Dr. Mire served as a Hospice of Acadiana Staff Physician (1998-2008) and Medical Director (2008-2017). He was the Medical Director for Hospice Compassus (2019 – 2021). From 1990 until his death, Dr. Mire was the Medical Director of River Oaks Nursing Home of Lafayette.

Dr. Mire held the following positions with LSUHSC / Ochsner University Hospital and Clinics - Department of Family Medicine: Assistant Professor (1990-2003); Associate Professor (2003-2019); Professor (2019- 2024); and Residency Program Director (2004-2007). His love of medicine and desire to serve will remain indelibly etched in the hearts and minds of everyone he was able to meet.

The program benefits the Acadiana community by providing care for a diverse population, including infants and maternity care; inpatient care at OUHC and LGMC; team physicians for 5 local high schools and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; geriatric care in the clinical setting and at a local nursing home; and healthcare screenings at a variety of community-based events. Many of the community-based programs have returned post pandemic.

We would like to congratulate Shea Inman, MD and Logan Pittman, MD on their election as Chief Residents for the 2024-2025 academic year. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Chioma Ekwueme, MD and Ashley West, MD for all of their hard work as the outgoing Chief Residents 2023-2024.

A record number of applicants applied to our program through ERAS. We filled seven (7) of eight (8) PGY-1 positions through the MATCH and one (1) outside of the SOAP process. On July 1, 2024, we welcomed a diverse group of eight new physicians to our program and look forward to their time of training with us.

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Our intern class consists of three graduates from LSU New Orleans: Natalie Touchet, MD, Dennes Chen, MD, and Kaylee Moore, MD; one graduate from Saba University School of Medicine – Raquelle Collins, MD; one graduate from University of Texas Medical Branch John Sealy School of Medicine – Daniel Millsap, MD; one graduate from University of Louisville School of Medicine – Naveed Safi, MD; one graduate from St. George’s University School of Medicine – Patrick Orange, MD; and one graduate from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Louisiana Campus – Alyssa Juneau, DO.

Dr. Susila Shanmuganathan continues to be the Interim Program Director for the Geriatric Fellowship and is also the course director for the Geriatrics rotation for Family Medicine and Internal Medicine residents. For the geriatrics curriculum, we have reintroduced and expanded our nursing home experience for our residents, led by Dr. Shanmuganathan. To enhance her commitment to education, she participates in her own scholarly activity every year in addition to leading residents and fellows in their projects. She has been selected for another Presidential Poster at the AGS 2024 virtual meeting titled “A Punch for Parkinsons”, which was presented May 2024. Additionally, she serves as the President for the state affiliate, the Louisiana Geriatrics Society, and was awarded the AGS State Affiliate Achievement Award on behalf of her organization in 2022.

Dr. Ramamurthi, Geriatric Faculty, was recently selected for a scholarship sponsored by LSU-NO to participate and represent our program in the AAMC Early Career Women’s Faculty Leadership Development Seminar in San Diego, CA coming up in July 2024.

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program successfully matched two fellows for the 2023-2024 academic year. Jacob Clement, MD and Carrie Guidry, MD were both graduates from our 2023 Family Medicine PGY-3 residency class. Dr. Clement is considering a position in academic medicine. Dr. Guidry accepted a position with Acadia St. Landry hospital.

The fellowship curriculum has been modified for enhanced educational experiences, now including a geriatric inpatient consultation service, and geriatric home visits, both led by Dr. Ramamurthi. The fellows were integrally involved in teaching activities through the quarterly geriatric lecture series for the FM residents. The fellows will each be presenting their own research projects at the AGS virtual meeting in May 2024.

Our seventh class of Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellows commenced their training on August 1, 2023, and will complete it on July 31, 2024. Dr. Chris Hong and Dr. Luis Crespo, are graduating this year after completing their Sports Medicine Fellowship training. Chris Hong, DO will be returning to New York to private practice within an orthopedic group as the only primary care sports medicine physician. Additionally, Ariel Crespo, MD, is returning to Florida to join a private practice where he will exclusively practice Sports Medicine.

We warmly welcome Dr. Tiana Morton, who completed her Family Medicine Residency at Nuvance Health in Rhinebeck, NY, and Dr. Ryan Giang, who completed his residency at HCA West Houston Family Medicine Program in Houston, Texas, as they join our Sports Medicine Fellowship starting in August 2024.

With the departure of faculty member Dr. Liu Mancera to private practice in Austin, TX, Dr. Iridi Pavliqoti has taken his place within our fellowship program. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Iridi Pavliqoti to our Sports Medicine Fellowship program. Dr. Pavliqoti brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we are confident that his dedication to teaching and his compassionate approach to patient care will greatly enrich the fellowship experience for all involved. We are fortunate to have such an excellent teacher and caring physician as part of our team. As we embark on this new academic year, we eagerly anticipate the contributions and achievements of our fellows and faculty. We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and excellence in sports medicine.

We successfully completed the 18th annual Education Day. During Education Day, PGY3 residents design and propose a

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critical appraisal / literature review. Residents then organize and present their research ideas to Family Medicine residents and faculty.

The 2024 Education Day titles were:

"Resistance Training Effectiveness on Body Composition and Body Weight Outcomes in Individuals with Overweight and Obesity Across the Lifespan: Systemic Review and Meta-analysis" - Dr. Jason Adekoya

"Effectiveness of Lifestyle Interventions for Diabetes Remission on Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: Systemic Review and Meta-analysis" - Dr. Bradley Ber

"Factors Influencing Symptom Appraisal and Help-seeking of Older Adults with Possible Cancer: A Mixed-methods Systemic Review"- Dr. Rachel Jacobs

"A Systemic Review and Meta-analysis of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Medicine and Healthcare: Applications, Considerations, Limitations, Motivation and Challenges"- Dr. Lilla Lendvai

"Effect of Daily Coffee Consumption on the Risk of Alzheimer's Disease: A Systemic Review and Meta-analysis" – Dr. Lisa Nguyen

"The Effectiveness of Metformin in Diabetes Prevention: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis" – Dr. Ashley West

"Thank you, Come Again... But With Your Meds This Time"- Dr. Jacob Clement

"Pain, Pain, Go Away! Comparing Topical Diclofenac vs Topical Lidocaine creams for Mild Osteoarthritis Treatment" – Dr. Carrie Guidry

Margaret Smith, MSW, LCSW-BACS supports our integrated behavioral health model which helps our team to holistically care for patients and their needs, including their social determinants of health. She supervises MSW interns who not only learn about medical social work but are also able to interact with patients and address their psychosocial needs. She supports resident wellbeing with an annual resident retreat for Family Medicine Residents where residents are able to connect with each other outside of the hospital walls.

Finally, we said goodbye to an extraordinary class of residents at our graduation ceremony on June 21st, 2024. Our 2024 graduates were Jason Adekoya, MD; Bradley Ber, MD; Chioma Ekwueme, MD; Rachel Jacobs, MD; Lilla Lendvai, MD; Lisa Nguyen, MD; and Ashley West, MD. Graduates will be entering private practice, working in urgent care clinics, practicing hospital medicine, and working in ER's.

All of our 2024 third year residents successfully completed the ABFM certification examination giving our program a first-time board take and pass rate of 100% for the eleventh consecutive year.

Our program continues to strive for excellence in residency / medical education and patient care.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn D. Marshall, MD
Family Medicine Program Director