

Tulane University School of Medicine Department of Family and Community Medicine

Department Chair: Rade Pejic, MD, MMM

The 2025–2026 academic year has been one of change and consolidation for the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Tulane University. As a department, we continue to work tirelessly to serve as an anchor for our patients and students while Tulane navigates the changes associated with the continued integration of its teaching and clinical activities into the LCMC Health network, as East Jefferson General Hospital (EJGH) in Metairie, LA, now serves as our primary teaching hospital. Our outpatient clinics remain located throughout the New Orleans metropolitan region. The department continues to provide a critical component of the University's ongoing efforts to serve our community and to provide a safe learning environment for our students, preceptors, faculty, and staff.

2026 Match Results & Medical Student Awards

Tulane matched 15 students into Family Medicine residency programs this year. We are grateful to our preceptors, who practice throughout Louisiana and the region, for their generous contributions to guiding and educating our students. They remain the core of our clerkship and the prime driver of its popularity among students (see the Owl Club Awards below).

<u>Students</u>	<u>Match Site</u>	<u>Clerkship Preceptor/Sites</u>
Abby Mowen, MPH	University of Illinois, Chicago, IL	Dr. Riley Taylor and Dr. Jolie LeBlanc (Crescent Care, New Orleans, LA) Tulane EJGH FMRP Acting Internship
Helen Trahan	Texas A&M, Bryan/College Station, TX	Dr. Mark Levin (Nome, AK) LSU Bogalusa FMRP Acting Internship
Krishna Navaratnam	Montefiore, Bronx, NY	Dr. Jose Mata (New Iberia, LA) LSU Bogalusa FMRP Acting Internship
Arnie Lynn Bengo	Healthy Rural California, Chico, CA	Dr. Jody George (Westlake, LA) Tulane FM Hospice Elective
Winnie Yeates	University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH	Dr. Derek Metoyer (Opelousas, LA) Tulane EJGH FMRP Acting Internship
Jessica Tran	Tulane - East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, LA	LSU Lake Charles FMRP Clerkship Tulane EJGH FMRP Acting Internship Tulane DePaul FMRP FM Elective Dr. Vu Mai FM Elective (Marrero, LA)
Sean Tran	University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD	Dr. Vu Mai (Marrero, LA)
MC Stovall	University of Rochester, Rochester, NY	Dr. Mark Levin (Nome, AK) Dr. Rade Pejic FM Elective (New Orleans, LA)
Austin Thomas	Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC	Dr. Michael Felton (Broussard, LA) LSU Lake Charles FMRP Acting Internship Tulane FM Hospice Elective Dr. Hannah Williams FM Elective (New Orleans, LA)
Mohammed Sharief	LSU Shreveport-Alexandria FMRP, Alexandria, LA	Dr. Wei Guo (Metairie, LA)

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William Smith	University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, Chattanooga, TN	Dr. Kirk Bonner (New Orleans, LA)
William Goodman	Temple University, Philadelphia, PA	Dr. Jim Theis (Marrero, LA)
Yonis Hakim	Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center, MS	Dr. Ashley Kreher (New Orleans, LA) Tulane EJGH FMRP Acting Internship Dr. Chris Van Hise FM Elective (New Orleans, LA) Dr. Kirk Bonner (New Orleans, LA)
Gabriel Egbuna	Osteopathic Medical Education Consortium of Oklahoma, Enid, OK	Dr. Courtney Washington (New Orleans, LA)
Emma Kostoff	Middlesex Health, Middletown, CT	Dr. Katharine Rose (Metairie, LA)

The Scott Gregory Kramer, M.D., Family Medicine Award

This award is given annually to the graduating senior with the highest class-rank who is pursuing a career in Family Medicine.

Awardee: Abby Mowen

Originally from Philadelphia, Abby moved to New Orleans in 2012 to attend Tulane University, where she received her B.S. in public health and international development, her M.P.H. in maternal and child health, and her M.D. After several years working in public health, she decided to pursue a career in family medicine so that she could provide comprehensive care to urban underserved communities and historically marginalized populations. Abby is passionate about street medicine, trauma-informed care, gender and sexual health, substance misuse, adolescent health, and global health. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, printmaking, and riding her bike. She will be attending the University of Illinois Chicago for her family medicine residency and plans to return to New Orleans afterward, where she hopes to work at an FQHC and continue working on healthcare reform at the policy level.

The Tulane/LAFP Family Medicine Excellence Award

This award is given annually to the graduating senior who is entering a career in Family Medicine and demonstrates a commitment to high-quality, patient-oriented, continuous, and preventive care across the spectrum of age, disease, and health.

Awardee: Jessica Tran

Born and raised in New Orleans East, Jessica Tran is excited to stay close to home after matching into Family Medicine at East Jefferson General Hospital. She is passionate about public health and community medicine, especially serving our diverse patient population in New Orleans and the surrounding communities. Outside of medicine, she is an avid musician who enjoys playing the piano at home and church while spending time with her family, including her husband and their dog, Bambi.

The Dr. Robert and Mary Sue Thompson Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is given annually to graduating seniors pursuing careers in Family Medicine.

Awardees: Helen Sholten Trahan and Austin Thomas

Austin Thomas was born and raised in Concord, North Carolina, and will return to his home state for his family medicine training at Wake Forest. During medical school, he completed his third-year clerkship with Dr. Michael Felton in Broussard, and he spent his acting internship month at the LSU Lake Charles Family Medicine program. Both experiences, along with a Hospice and other clinical electives with local family doctors, solidified his calling to FM. His broad interests in medicine include continuity of care, geriatrics and end-of-life care, women's health, sports medicine, and pediatrics — all possible within the FM arena. Outside of the clinic, Austin enjoys spending time with his wife Vanessa and his Frenchie,

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Winston. He loves anything to do with water wherever it's swimming, scuba diving, floating down a lazy river, or taking care of his aquariums. He also loves to bake sourdough, cook, garden, and play disco golf.

Department Leadership & Faculty Updates

- **Dr. Rade Pejic** has returned to the core faculty of the department as our new **Chair**, following the recent retirement of **Dr. Eddie Dennard**. He oversees all aspects of the department's clinical, teaching, and research missions. He maintains a clinical practice at the Tulane-Uptown Square Multispecialty Clinic and advises students and faculty on their career paths. Dr. Pejic aspires to increase the research output of the department and begin training faculty on point-of-care ultrasound.
- Our department is one of the founding departments and permanent member of the executive board of the **South Louisiana Family Medicine Residency Learning Network**. This network is a collaboration of the 8 south Louisiana family medicine residency program and focuses on enhancing education, sharing scholarly activity, and meeting ACGME requirements through shared resources and innovative training models in family medicine.
- Tulane Family Medicine will now serve as the southeast regional hub for the **PRIME POCUS Learning Network** and host hands-on POCUS training workshops.
- Our department is pleased to maintain a strong and growing integration with the **East Jefferson General Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program**, strengthening the program and its partnership with the School of Medicine. We continue to enhance our Family Medicine program with greater incorporation of the residency into our patient care, teaching, and research missions.
- We are also excited to continue our affiliation with **Dr. Coleman Pratt** and **Dr. Thomas Santamaria** in the development of their Family Medicine Residency Program associated with the **DePaul Community Health Center** in New Orleans East and Mid-City. This program is thrilled to be accepting its second class of residents in the **summer** of 2026.
- Our **Family Medicine Clerkship** is strengthened by our shared faculty and continues an ongoing, multi-year review and update of our teaching curriculum and the expansion of our preceptor faculty network—the latter made possible in part by the **Ernest G. DeBakey Rural Education Fund**. Our clerkship remains a favorite among our medical students, and we are grateful for the tireless work of our community preceptors who showcase the joys and potential of Family Medicine to our students day in and day out.
- **Dr. Hannah Williams**, a native of Mississippi, recently joined our faculty and has assumed the role of **Clerkship Director**. She recently completed a fellowship in Academic Family Medicine at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, where she served as an Assistant Clinical Instructor and preceptor for medical students and family medicine residents. We are excited to see the innovative strategies that she will employ to strengthen our program and recruit students to the practice of Family Medicine.
- **Dr. Christopher Van Hise**, a graduate of the East Jefferson Family Medicine Residency Program, has happily joined our department after initially practicing at University Medical Center. He has taken on the role of **Assistant Clerkship Director** and is also the faculty sponsor for the **Tulane Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG)**. He has established a clinical practice at Tulane's Downtown Multispecialty Clinic location.
- **Dr. Kiernan Smith** serves as the department lead for Quality Improvement and has assumed the role as medical director of PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) GNO. He continues as the department's resource for incorporating team-based learning **into** the clerkship didactics and has presented various posters on this teaching method. He teaches differential diagnosis in the clerkship didactic sessions and currently serves as the lead physician at the Tulane-Uptown Square Multispecialty Clinic, where he sees patients and is a regular clerkship mentor.
- **Dr. Ronald Slipman** remains the dedicated **Director of the Foundations in Medicine Program**, which is a longitudinal course for first- and second-year medical students. He continues to serve the clerkship and the department as our preceptor outreach coordinator and as a preceptor himself, in addition to serving as the **Faculty Advisor for the Bridge House Student Volunteer Clinic**. He also sponsors the Tulane chapter of the **Gold**

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Humanism in Medicine Honor Society. He practices at the Tulane-EJ Multispecialty Clinic and at the Tulane Living Well Primary Care Clinic-Downtown.

- **Dr. Stephen Hanson** continues as the Director of Graduate Studies in our department's Master's Degree Program in Medical Ethics and Human Values. Dr. Hanson works with the rest of the department to **strengthen** the program in medical ethics, both at the master's degree level and for our medical students.
- **Dr. Nicole Nash** is fellowship-trained in sports medicine and sees patients at the Tulane-EJ Multispecialty Clinic. She assists with the educational mission of our department.
- **Dr. Timothy "Tip" Rugile** continues to see primary care patients at the Tulane-Uptown Square Multispecialty Clinic. He continues his role as **Director of the Community Health rotation**, which is a required, non-clinical experience for medical students during their fourth year. He has assumed the role of **Director for the Global Health** rotations as well. He also routinely precepts medical students and assists with our shared clinical, educational, and research missions within the department.

All of our faculty members remain active across the department's scholarly, teaching, and clinical missions.

Featured Programs & Curriculum Projects

Ernest G. DeBakey Rural Education Fund

We continue to work on expanding the department's preceptor network in rural Louisiana through a generous gift that established the Ernest G. DeBakey Rural Education Fund. This fund assists in paying for housing and internet access to allow more Tulane medical students to experience the rewards of primary care practice in rural communities of the Gulf South. In the coming year, we will be using the fifth of five annual cycles of enhanced funding to expand our most successful rural sites.

Tulane Program in Medical Ethics and Human Values

The master's degree program continues to grow, attracting a diverse student body and graduating nine students this year. Faculty members in the program are also active in providing bioethical training for medical students across all four years of their medical school training.

Third-Year Clerkship and Electives

In the 2025–2026 academic year, the clerkship continued its revised curriculum with an emphasis on hands-on and interactive learning formats. We also continue to coordinate global health electives and have reinvigorated our hospice, rural Montana, and Alaska opportunities.

Faculty Development and Professional Activities

We have been pleased in recent months to welcome multiple visiting faculty to our campus to provide faculty development workshops, including Dr. Nikki Gentile, a Tulane SOM graduate and current faculty at the University of Washington, and Dr. Alexander Krist, a faculty at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and member of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). Further, our faculty have recently led scholarly roundtable discussions at the STFM Annual Conference 2026 in New Orleans, as well as presented posters on multiple academic topics.

Acknowledgments and Institutional Support

Our department and school owe a special **debt of gratitude to our Family Medicine preceptors** in communities throughout Louisiana, coastal Mississippi, and Alabama. In addition, we extend our sincere thanks to our affiliated residencies—the Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Residency and the East Jefferson General Hospital Family Medicine Residency—for their vital assistance with many aspects of our teaching mission in the School of Medicine.

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Faculty, fellows, and residents have generously donated both time and energy to assist with interactive teaching in musculoskeletal examinations, knot-tying and suturing workshops, and communication seminars. They have also assisted with our Career Day activities and the FMIG Residency Match Panel for students interested in matching into Family Medicine residencies.

Owl Club Awards

The Owl Club is a student-run organization that evaluates medical school courses, faculty, and staff based on student feedback from the clerkship and teaching throughout the four-year curriculum of the School of Medicine. At this year’s award ceremony, the department was honored with the following recognitions:

Award Category	Recipient
Best Family Medicine Preceptor	Louis McCormick, MD
Best Clerkship	Family Medicine / Dr. Hannah Williams and Adam Peltz

Looking Ahead

The recent leadership transitions and faculty additions, alongside our evolving clinical partnerships, have brought a clear sense of renewal and youthful vigor to the department. While we remain anchored in our established commitment to community care and medical education, these updates provide a stable foundation and a refreshed perspective for the years ahead. With this new momentum, the future of Family Medicine at Tulane looks bright.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ronald A. Slipman, MD, FAAFP
Assistant Professor

Rade N. Pejic, MD, MMM
Associate Professor and Chair