

Graduate Medical Education at Physicians Medical Center Carraway

Graduate Medical Education at Physicians

Physicians Medical Center Carraway (PMCC) provides a network of health care services, encompassing preventive medicine to intensive care.

The breadth and scope of this system ensures residents will see a diverse range of patients. It also makes PMCC the perfect environment in which to complete residency training that will prepare you for the great changes taking place in health care delivery.

Physicians Medical Center Carraway

Physicians Medical Center Carraway, a major teaching and referral hospital, is the heart of the Physicians system. Located on a large campus near downtown Birmingham Alabama, the medical center is a strong, vibrant institution with a \$100 million investment in medical technology.

Critical care is a major component of Physicians Medical Center Carraway because of its role as a tertiary care facility. In fact, a significant percentage of operational beds in the medical center are dedicated to critical care use.

Physicians Medical Center Carraway clearly emphasizes cardiology, cardiac surgery and neurosurgery services. In addition, the medical center has several areas of special interest, including:

A hyperbaric medicine unit used to treat conditions such as carbon monoxide poisoning, gangrene and osteomyelitis.

The Physicians Wound Care Center treats problem wounds with advanced biopharmaceutical techniques.

The medical center has been firmly committed to medical education since it created an internship program in 1919. It now offers an accredited transitional postgraduate year, as well as accredited residency programs in family medicine, general surgery and internal medicine.

The medical center maintains a close working relationship with the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM). Medical students from UASOM and other schools regularly participate in assigned and elective rotations at Physicians.

Physicians collaborates with the UASOM residency program in anesthesiology, serving as a training site for residents in that program.

Norwood Clinic

One of the great strengths of the Physicians system is its close working relationship with Norwood Clinic.

Norwood Clinic was founded in 1926 by Dr. C.N. Carraway. Like his friends, Drs. Charles and William Mayo, he envisioned a hospital and neighboring multispecialty clinic working hand-in-hand to provide outstanding patient care. Today, the clinic is owned by the physicians, board-certified in a number of medical specialties, who practice at Norwood Clinic.

The physicians in these and other medical groups serve as full-time attending faculty, and their proximity to the hospital gives residents a wealth of opportunities to manage patients in an ambulatory setting.

A Physicians Residency

There is a truly collegial atmosphere in Physicians residency programs, an atmosphere born of mutual respect between residents and attendings. People are on a first name basis and take time to learn about one another. Attending physicians view themselves as mentors. The emphasis is on sharing information and supporting residents as they develop skills and experience to increasingly take on more responsibility for patient care. Residents have the space to learn and the security of knowing attending physicians are always ready and willing to support them.

A Physicians residency also offers an optimal mix of academic and practical medicine. Residents are exposed to the pragmatic demands of a daily medical practice, but this is only part of the picture. Many physicians in the Physicians system are engaged in significant research projects, and every patient on the campus is available for teaching purposes. This ensures residents see a large number of patients and a wide variety of clinical problems in an environment where bedside manner and the pursuit of knowledge are both valued.

Because Physicians is a dynamic system, rapidly evolving to meet the needs of the future, it offers residents a rare opportunity to learn how to provide quality care in a radically changing delivery system.

Daily Concerns

People learn best in a warm, supportive environment. That is why Physicians devotes so much effort to fostering a collegial relationship between attendings and residents. That is why the residency programs at Physicians strive to maintain an appropriate balance between supervision and independence in patient care.

That is why residents are often allowed to structure their own call schedules. A residency is an exciting time of rapid learning and personal development, a time when the support of family and friends is very important. Developing their call schedules gives residents more flexibility to balance demands of the educational program with other aspects of life.

Unlike many other programs, Physicians does not burden residents with the minutiae of medical care. Allied health professionals perform tasks that are often assigned to physicians in training in other institutions. This frees Physicians residents to care for patients and focus on the goals of the educational program.

Family Medicine Residency

Family Medicine Residency training at Physicians Medical Center Carraway (PMCC) is an exciting, unique experience that allows you to enjoy the best of both academic and private medical practices. With a realistic approach to family medicine, both in the hospital and in the Family Medicine Center, you have an opportunity to attend and participate in academic and practical conferences that complement clinical responsibilities and teach you the total spectrum of family medicine.

Each resident benefits from one-on-one teaching throughout the training program. The participation by medical staff members of PMCC and Norwood Clinic (a large, private

multispecialty clinic) ensures development of expertise in many fields of medicine. Major clinical departments provide inpatient and outpatient experience during specialty rotations. Board-certified family physician faculty members provide unequalled learning experiences in the Family Medicine Center.

Residency training actively combines the latest medical advances with concern and understanding for patients with illnesses affecting the individual, his/her family and community. In addition, utilization of health resources available in the community through social services enhances patient management.

Educational goals and objectives of the Physicians Family Medicine Residency Program prepare graduates for the American Board of Family Practice certifying examination and for competent management of the patients encountered in your private practice.

The Family Medicine Center, where each resident develops a case load of approximately 200 families during residency training, contains resident and faculty offices, treatment rooms, a conference room, library, laboratory and x-ray facilities. The occupational health clinic, located on the second floor, provides medical services for a number of employers in the Birmingham area. The Family Medicine Center, located at 3001 North 27th Street, is a five-minute drive from the hospital and provides care for all socioeconomic groups.

Physicians' Family Medicine Residency is affiliated with the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM) and participates in training medical students serving a family medicine clerkship. Medical students also serve other clinical rotations, acting internships and electives at Physicians. A comprehensive conference schedule covers topics encompassing all aspects of family medicine. Speakers from Physicians, UASOM and other institutions provide timely, state-of-the-art instruction. Elective rotations are scheduled at UASOM and other Birmingham facilities. UASOM faculty members actively participate in teaching activities sponsored by the parent hospital.

Physicians' Family Medicine Residency Program is oriented to provide a holistic approach to patient care. Psychological instruction and care are provided in the Family Medicine Center, where emotional and physical aspects of illnesses are discussed and treated. Community and public health issues are emphasized throughout the training program, as are health screening and maintenance, community outreach programs and school sports-health programs. A strong geriatric experience is provided through evaluation and treatment of patients in the Family Medicine Center, the hospital, a nursing home and other extended-care facilities. The two-month family medicine block offers an intensive experience in geriatrics, behavioral science and primary medical care. A one-month inpatient experience at Children's Hospital provides exposure to sick and injured patients in a specialized pediatric hospital.

Program graduates are trained to practice family medicine effectively in either an urban or rural environment. Seventy percent of our graduates practice in Alabama, with approximately 50 percent serving in a rural area. Special attention is provided in tailoring training to the individual resident's needs and interests, within the guidelines allowed by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Family medicine residents work closely with residents from other specialties within the hospital. A sense of mutual respect aids in the establishment of good rapport and optimal patient care. The variety and volume of patients ensure exposure to most aspects of medical care. Specialty back-up is available 24 hours-a-day, and critical care experience is outstanding. We invite you to consider Physicians as the site for your residency training and hope to hear from you in the near future.

CURRICULUM

1st Year: Family Medicine	2 months
Internal Medicine	4 months
Emergency Medicine	2 months
General Surgery	2 months
Pediatrics (Children's Hospital inpatient)	1 month
Pediatrics (outpatient)	1 month
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2nd Year: Family Medicine	2 months
Gastroenterology	1 month
Neonatology	1 month
Obstetrics/Gynecology (UAB)	2 months
Pediatrics (Children's Hospital Emergency Department)	1 month
Orthopedics	1 month
Gynecology	1 month
Cardiology	1 month
Dermatology	1 month
Ophthalmology	1/2 month
Sports Medicine	1/2 month
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3rd Year: Family Medicine	2 months
Pulmonary Medicine	1 month
Infectious Diseases	1 month
Neurology	1 month
Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)	1 month
Urology	1 month
Electives	5 months

Longitudinal experiences are offered in Behavioral Sciences/Psychiatry, Practice Management, Community Medicine, Geriatrics and Occupational Health.

Elective rotations are available in: Radiology/Nuclear Medicine, Adolescent Medicine, Outpatient Pediatrics, Advanced Obstetrics, Cardiology, Dermatology, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Otorhinolaryngology, Urology, Pathology, Psychiatry, Substance Abuse, Geriatric Medicine, Rehabilitation Medicine, Hematology/Oncology, Allergy, Rheumatology, Occupational

Health, Plastic Surgery, Rural Family Medicine, Gastroenterology, Endocrinology, Anesthesiology, Pulmonary Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Public Health, Family Medicine, Sports Medicine and Practice Management.

Didactic lectures are provided in all specialties and subspecialties. In addition, structured multidisciplinary teaching is provided in the Family Medicine Center, the hospital, volunteer agencies and extended care facilities.

Physicians Medical Center Carraway
Family Medicine Residency
3001 North 27th Street
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Internal Medicine Residency

Goals

The Internal Medicine Residency at Physicians Medical Center Carraway (PMCC) is designed to train residents to become effective state-of-the-art general internists and provide them with skills necessary for primary care practice, hospitalist careers or fellowship training. The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and offers six positions at each level of training.

The program provides a learning experience based on well-supervised patient care responsibility, exposure to academic medicine and clinical research, and an understanding of professional ethics and human behavior. Our affiliation with the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham provides our residents with the flexibility of taking some rotations at the university.

Internal medicine is changing. As health care evolves, health maintenance organizations and group practices will often define the role of internists. We feel that training in the setting of large private multispecialty group practices that are actively positioning themselves to effectively deal with the current changes in health care provides the resident with the best opportunity to develop the broad knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in this evolving environment.

The program encourages the acceptance of patient care responsibility while providing daily interaction with experienced, dedicated attending physicians, including general internists and specialists in virtually every subspecialty of internal medicine.

Since we are a relatively small program, one of our main strengths is the close working relationship and camaraderie between our attendings and residents. Our philosophy is to regard residents as colleagues, working together in a congenial and academic atmosphere, while providing our patients state of the art health care.

Inpatient Activities

The program is centered at the PMCC campus, which includes the Physicians Hospital, Norwood Clinic (NC), and other group practices physically adjacent to PMCC. General internists and subspecialists in the PMCC Department of Medicine serve as the principal teaching attendings for the program. All patients on the PMCC campus are available for teaching purposes. These patients are derived from the attending physicians' private practices, residents' continuity clinics,

emergency department admissions and referrals from outside physicians. This results in exposure to a broad spectrum of clinical pathology from common general medical problems to critical care.

During the first postgraduate year, each resident spends six months on the general internal medicine teaching services, three months on internal medicine subspecialty rotations, one month each in Critical Care, Emergency Department, and a non-medicine elective rotation.

During the second and third postgraduate years, emphasis is placed on subspecialty rotations on the Physicians campus and the University of Alabama (UAB) Medical Center, while continuing to offer experience in general internal medicine as the supervising resident. Depending on their career goals, residents have the flexibility of concentrating on inpatient rotations or ambulatory rotations, including interdisciplinary non-medicine electives.

Electives include Dermatology, Adolescent Medicine, Psychiatry, GYN-Urology-STD, ENT-Ophthalmology-Allergy, Sports Medicine, Research and other fields of interest.

On each rotation, the resident works closely with other residents, medical students and the attending physician. A typical general medicine service consists of an attending, an upper-level resident, two or three first-year residents and possibly a third-year medical student. Each first-year resident is responsible for eight to 12 patients. A subspecialty service usually consists of one resident and one attending. Residents are expected to assume patient care responsibility appropriate for their level of training.

Residents actively participate in teaching medical students on general and subspecialty medicine rotations. Since PMCC does not have subspecialty fellows, residents have a greater opportunity to become proficient in a variety of procedures, including Swan-Ganz catheters, central venous lines, thoracenteses, arthrocenteses, etc.

Residents are allowed considerable flexibility in scheduling their own call, which averages every fifth night for first year residents and sixth and seventh night for upper level residents. While on call, first-year residents work closely with senior residents. At all times, general internists and medical subspecialists provide additional back-up. Morning report is held several times each week for residents and students on call.

Ambulatory Medicine

Residents at all levels of training attend the Internal Medicine Community Care Clinic each week. Each resident develops his/her own ambulatory practice and follows these patients until completion of training, having primary responsibility for their care. A clinic patient who requires hospitalization is admitted to the service to which his/her resident is assigned at the time. A full-time attending physician, based at the Community Care Clinic is present during each session to supervise and teach the residents.

In addition, residents take full-month block rotations at the Norwood Clinic, and other surrounding practice settings. These rotations are devoted to ambulatory general medicine and subspecialty care in cardiology, pulmonary medicine, and HIV. Ambulatory experiences are integrated into the Gastroenterology and Hematology-Oncology rotations. Patients with general medical and subspecialty problems are seen and managed by the resident under attending supervision. During these rotations residents have an opportunity to become proficient in ambulatory procedures such as GXTs, echocardiography, pulmonary function testing, flexible sigmoidoscopy, skin biopsies, and joint injections.

Conferences

Medical conferences are conducted daily. These include Morning Report, Medical Grand Rounds,

Professor's Rounds, and Subspecialty conferences. Teaching Rounds are held at least three times a week. Journal clubs, morbidity and mortality, and research conferences are conducted monthly. All resident conferences focus on practical aspects of medical practice, professional development, quality assurance, and medical legal issues. Resident education is also enhanced by local and national meeting attendance, Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program subscriptions and opportunities for research. Residents have access to computers for medical database searches, research and graphic capabilities.

Evaluation

As recommended by the American Board of Internal Medicine, the clinical performance of each resident is evaluated throughout the program. Private conferences are held with each resident at six-month intervals to discuss progress and performance. The resident also evaluates his/her experiences in the program regularly.

Vacation

Each year, in addition to usual holidays, residents receive two weeks of vacation, one week off during the Christmas/New Year period, and up to five days of personal or professional leave.

Summary

The PMCC Internal Medicine residency provides ideal training in clinical and academic medicine by a faculty committed to maintaining high standards of educational quality. Graduates of our program have enjoyed highly successful professional careers in private and academic medicine.

Physicians Medical Center Carraway
Internal Medicine Residency Program
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Surgery Residency

The Educational Program in Surgery at Physicians Medical Center Carraway (PMCC) combines the strengths of an academic medical center with the practical advantages of a community hospital. The surgical resident reaps the rewards of an intense surgical experience, weighted toward early operative skill development and guided by close faculty level supervision. This philosophy permeates the residency program and leads to close interactions among residents as well as between residents and faculty.

The early emphasis on operative skill development is carried forward in the context of an intellectual continuum, beginning with the preoperative assessment of the patient and following through to the patient's postoperative and convalescent care. Believing the dictum that a resident learns more by managing the patient upon whom he/she operates, pre and postoperative care are emphasized early in the educational program. Each resident develops keen awareness and expertise in recognition of preoperative risk factors and care of postoperative complications. Responsibility in the operating room requires preparation and dexterity, and the level of operative complexity depends on the individual. The program is non-pyramidal; it is the intention to finish all who are accepted and strive to achieve excellence.

Goal

The Educational Program in Surgery has one purpose: to prepare the resident to become a

superior clinical surgeon. The means to attain this goal are multifaceted. Success is customarily measured by performance on the qualifying and certifying examinations of the American Board of Surgery, but emphasis is also placed on the humanistic side of surgery and the intangible concept of surgical judgment. The descriptions of the Educational Program in Surgery which follow serve to underscore the breadth of exposure the surgical resident has to the technical, didactic and scholarly aspects of surgery.

Graded Responsibility

The initial years of the surgical residency emphasize preoperative and postoperative care and mastery of operative skills, in order to prepare for a career in general surgery or a surgical specialty. Developing empathy for surgical patients and their families and determining operative risk and benefit are stressed. Each resident receives extensive operative experience as first assistant and by performing, under supervision, a variety of surgical procedures commensurate with his or her level of ability.

During the first two years, the resident gains experience in the broad field of general surgery, as well as vascular surgery, emergency medicine, plastic surgery, neurosurgery and anesthesia. Additional elective rotations are available in orthopedics, urology, and otolaryngology.

Off-site rotations include transplantation and pediatric surgery. Nonetheless, the resident is fortunate to spend most of his/her residency at PMCC under the watchful eye of full time surgical faculty.

Those continuing in the general surgery program receive progressive responsibility leading to the opportunity to independently manage complex surgical problems and prioritize care of the critically ill. The resident is challenged at all times to make and justify decisions which affect the patient's care and outcome. Junior residents participate in overall care of patients suffering from both acute and chronic surgical illness. Endoscopic experience in the GI clinic vastly exceeds the minimum required caseload. The fourth year is a concentrated clinical year and includes experience as Senior Resident on the trauma service at DCH Medical Center, one of Alabama's busiest emergency facilities, as well as continued exposure to vascular and general surgery. The fifth and final year is spent as Chief Resident on the two general surgical services and on the vascular service.

Conferences

The conference schedule is an active one, which balances the need for didactic education with the demands of a busy clinical schedule. Resident attendance is expected at the following weekly sessions:

- > Multidisciplinary Resident Conference
- > Basic Science Conference
- > Mortality & Morbidity Conference
- > Surgical Textbook review

The Multidisciplinary Resident Conference addresses curriculum issues common to residents in all disciplines, and, in rotation, a Cancer Conference that includes all specialties which deal with the diagnosis and treatment of malignancies. The surgical resident learns from discussions by both surgical and non-surgical faculty. The Basic Science Conference is resident-led, and presentations originate from a defined list of topics covering the entire spectrum of basic science as it relates to surgical care. The Mortality & Morbidity Conference involves presentations by the operating surgical resident who describes events leading to a complication or death; discussion is led by surgical faculty. This conference is the backbone of the teaching program and follows the supposition that it is best to learn from adverse experience of others.

Additional learning experiences include Textbook Review and Journal Club. The textbook review program provides each resident with one of the authoritative surgical textbooks, which is purchased by the Program, and assigns chapter readings each week. A weekly written quiz is given to confirm resident reading. A prize is awarded each year for the best scores on the textbook review. This emphasis on core surgical knowledge is complemented by a monthly Journal Club which has its emphasis on the surgical literature. Journal Club is an educational experience and also an opportunity to interact socially with colleagues. Articles are assigned from contemporary literature and presented over dinner at local restaurants. Faculty members provide insightful comments.

Meetings and Vacations

To further the educational value of the residency years, each resident in the senior program is provided a stipend to attend a scientific surgical conference. The meeting may be selected by the resident, subject to the approval of the program director. In addition, residents are encouraged to submit abstracts for presentation and, if accepted, their meeting expenses are covered by the program.

Total vacation time approaches three weeks, with two weeks traditional vacation and an additional week allocated during the Holiday Season.

Research

Residents who participate in meritorious research gain greatly in knowledge, clinical insight and self-confidence. Although program emphasis is on clinical surgery, each resident is expected to engage in a meaningful research activity. Presentations are encouraged at the annual Physicians Education and Research Day, a forum which provides an opportunity to showcase research activities at PMCC and offers awards for best papers. Residents are encouraged to participate with faculty in pursuing clinical studies. Presentations and publications in collaboration with faculty constitute the mainstay of scholarly activity within the program, and both basic science and clinical research are available.

Surgeons as Physicians First

Through curriculum innovation and new approaches to learning, the program strengthens the role of the surgeon as a compassionate and caring physician. Enhancement of communication skills, participation in hospital performance improvement programs, and an emphasis on the role of colleagues and cost sensitive patient care are stressed throughout the program. Upon completion of the program, the resident will be qualified to take his/her place among other practitioners and interact in a collegial and effective manner.

Evaluation

Residents are evaluated at the completion of each clinical rotation. These evaluations are available for review by the resident and are discussed periodically by faculty at meetings of the Surgery Program Advisory Committee. The resident is expected to prepare for and take the American Board of Surgery In-Training Examination (ABSITE). Semi-annual meetings occur between the individual resident and the Program Director, in order to review resident performance and provide constructive recommendations. Such meetings may occur more frequently if remediation is necessary. It is the intent of the program to finish all residents who are accepted into categorical positions, provided the resident's performance warrants such support. The faculty is also annually evaluated by residents, and these evaluations are reviewed with individual faculty members by the program director in order to stimulate teaching excellence among faculty.

Faculty

A residency program is only as good as its faculty and the quality of the residents it attracts. Physicians is fortunate in having an excellent geographically based full time teaching staff dedicated to the surgical residency program. Each faculty member is skilled in general surgery

and complements his general surgery expertise with an area of special interest. Current areas of special interest include vascular surgery, non-cardiac thoracic surgery, minimally invasive surgery, trauma/surgical critical care, complicated wound management, bariatric surgery, colon and rectal surgery, breast disease management, and endocrine surgery. In addition, surgical specialists are geographically full time in urology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, cardiac surgery and anesthesia. Since there are no specialty residents, experience in the surgical specialties is more meaningful and the operative experience is excellent.

Defined Category Report

	SS&B	H&N	ALTR	AB	LV	PANC	VASC	ENDO
REQUIRED	25	24	72	65	4	3	44	8
2003 CHIEFS	52	54	136	90	11	6	151	18

	TRAUM	THOR	PED	PLA	LAP-B	ENDSY	LAP-C	TTL Maj
REQUIRED	30	15	20	5	34	29	0	500
2003 CHIEFS	48	16	26	34	61	151	74	937

Resident Recruitment

Physicians Medical Center Carraway participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). The surgical residency is five years in duration, and three PG-1 categorical positions are offered. It is expected that these three individuals will continue through the five years of the program. Additional positions are offered to resident applicants who want one or two years of surgical training prior to entering a related field. The Educational Program in Surgery welcomes inquiries from qualified applicants.

Physicians Medical Center Carraway
 Surgical Residency Program
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Transitional Year Residency

Goals

The Physicians Transitional Year provides a broad, flexible year of graduate medical education to assist undecided physicians in selecting a specialty and to offer a preparatory year to those physicians who want one prior to entering a specialty.

The program offers an optimal balance of well-supervised patient care responsibility and didactic educational activity to enhance the resident's clinical maturity. The physician gains experience through rotations, individualized according to needs and interests. The clinical rotations are educationally structured and offer intensive interaction with attending physicians and specialty residents.

The transitional residency is sponsored by the Departments of Internal Medicine, Surgery and Family Medicine. The Transitional Year Residency Committee, including the program director and representatives of the above departments, oversees the program.

Curriculum and Responsibilities

The curriculum includes an assignment to the emergency department, four months of internal medicine and one month of ambulatory care experience. The remainder of the year is spent on selective rotations and electives, jointly planned by the program director and transitional resident. Rotations are one to two months long. Experience in almost any specialty or subspecialty is available.

Transitional residents enjoy a status and level of responsibility equivalent to that of specialty residents with comparable experience and training. On each assigned service, the transitional resident actively participates in medical care for a patient population representing a wide range of clinical pathology. Patients are derived from the attending physician's practice, residents' ambulatory clinics, emergency department admissions and referrals from physicians throughout the state and region.

With guidance from senior residents and the attending physician, the resident performs a history and physical examination, constructs a problem list, develops a plan of management, writes orders and daily problem-oriented progress notes and dictates a discharge summary for each assigned patient. Clinical responsibility and experience in surgical and technical procedures are commensurate with the resident's level of training and background.

Transitional residents participate actively in conferences, medical student education, and night and weekend call schedules on assigned services. Call averages every fifth night and weekend day, with supervision provided by senior specialty residents and attending physicians.

Evaluation

The transitional resident's clinical performance is evaluated on each assigned service. Clinical evaluations, strengths and weaknesses, and plans to correct observed deficiencies are discussed privately by the program director with each transitional resident at least three times a year. Additionally, residents provide evaluations of their rotations and the educational program to the program director.

Summary

The PMCC Transitional Year contains an outstanding exposure to practical and academic medicine and provides an ongoing stimulus for the physician to assume responsibility in patient care, while being assured of effective supervision. This program is excellent preparation for

further specialty training at our hospital or elsewhere. If additional training is desired at PMCC, application must be made to the appropriate specialty residency program early in the transitional year.

Physicians Medical Center Carraway
Transitional Year Residency Program
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Visiting Student Clerkship

Physicians Medical Center Carraway (PMCC) invites students to apply for the elective clinical clerkships offered by our institution. Physicians has demonstrated a continuing commitment to medical education since 1919, when our first internship program was developed. Thousands of medical students have received a portion of their clinical education at our hospital over the ensuing decades. Students from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham regularly participate in assigned and elective clerkships in a variety of specialties at Physicians.

As a visiting student you will be an active and important member of the medical team. You will work closely with your attending physician and specialty residents each day. On inpatient rotations you will have extensive direct contact with your attending physician at the bedside daily. You will be encouraged to exercise your initiative and to assume responsibility for patient care, within the limits of your experience and with appropriate supervision. You will interview patients, perform physical examinations and assist with surgical and technical procedures. You will participate fully in teaching rounds, conferences and other departmental activities.

Visiting medical students have ready access to the many services and facilities offered by PMCC's outstanding medical library, including on-line resources. Students also enjoy the assistance and respect of hospital support staff, who relieve physicians and students of the burden of performing many routine tasks. Clerkship participants are provided meals and parking at no charge while on duty.

There is no application fee or tuition for visiting medical students. Clerkships are offered to third and fourth year students and may vary from two to eight weeks in length. A prerequisite for appointment to a clerkship at Physicians is a written statement from your dean of student affairs, documenting that the rotation is approved by your school and describing the professional liability and health insurance coverage provided for you by your school while you are assigned here. If professional liability insurance is not provided by your school, it may be possible to arrange coverage through our affiliation with the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Certain clerkship opportunities do require specific prerequisite clinical experience.

We hope you are interested in participating in a visiting clerkship at Physicians. If you are, or if you would like additional information, please contact the Department of Academic Affairs. Visiting medical student clerkships are offered in the specialties listed.

Internal Medicine (Inpatient or Ambulatory)
Infectious Diseases
Cardiology
Pulmonary Medicine

Gastroenterology
Nephrology
Hematology/Oncology
Family Medicine
General Surgery
Vascular Surgery
Neurosurgery
Plastic Surgery
Urology
Emergency Medicine
Orthopedics
Pathology

Housestaff Benefits

Annual Stipends:

First Postgraduate Year	\$41,059
Second Postgraduate Year	\$42,266
Third Postgraduate Year	\$43,549
Fourth Postgraduate Year	\$45,174
Fifth Postgraduate Year	\$46,497

Relocation / Education Allowance - \$1,000 supplementary taxable income for each entering PGY-1 resident. Education allowance for passing USMLE Step 3 exams up to \$60.

Reimbursement Allowance - Each upper level resident is granted a reimbursement allowance of \$1,500 to support attendance at a continuing medical education meeting, purchase of books, specialty board examination preparation or fees, and other educational expenses.

Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program - At the beginning of the second year, each resident is furnished with a current copy of the ACP Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program at no charge. Residents maintain their own membership in the College in order to receive their free copy of the MKSAP Program.

Advanced Cardiac Life Support Courses - First year residents are provided with an ACLS course free of charge. Subsequent re-certification during training is provided to residents at the cost of materials only.

Teaching DVD's and Files - A current copy of the Mayo Clinic Board Review DVD's are available for checkout from the Chief Medical Resident's Office. The Cardiology Department has available for residents use the Texas Heart Institute videotape series entitled, Bedside Cardiology. The Radiology Department has available for resident use, a CD-ROM x-ray Teaching File.

Computer Access - Residents have 24-hour computer access with MedLine Search capabilities (Grateful Med) and CD-ROM Medical programs - EBSCO and Scientific America Medicine.

Teaching Opportunities - Residents have the opportunity to participate in the training of 3rd and 4th year medical students on rotation from the University of Alabama - Birmingham and other medical schools.

Research - Residents are required to participate in research projects of their own choosing. Expenses for research papers presented at regional or national meetings will be reimbursed.

Alabama Chapter - American College of Physicians Meeting - Each year one resident is selected to present a clinical vignette at the Alabama Chapter of the ACP in Perdido Beach Florida. Expenses are funded for the resident's attendance. Stipends and gifts are provided for participating residents as well as reimbursed expenses.

Fitness Facility - State-of-the-Art Fitness Center on campus.

Life Insurance - \$50,000 term policy provided by hospital for duration of residency.

Health and Major Medical Insurance - Provided for each resident. Additional coverage available for family members at group rates.

Disability Insurance - \$2,000 monthly benefit. Designed for residents – special HIV language – convertible upon completion of training.

Professional Liability Coverage - Occurrence type-provided for duties performed within the residency program.

Pension Plan - Residents have the opportunity to participate in an employee pension plan.

Medical Library - Full-time librarian and on-line resources.

Professional/Educational Leave - Up to five working days annually with pay for residents at PGY-II level and above.

Vacation and Personal Days - Three weeks annually with pay. Additional week off with pay during Christmas/New Year holidays.

Medical Leave - Up to two weeks paid leave annually.

Meals - No charge while on duty (value \$2,000 - \$3,000 annually).

Parking - Ample parking provided free of charge.

Uniforms - Three lab coats provided annually, including laundry.

Frequently Asked Questions

Family Medicine - FAQ

What types of educational conferences are available?

There are a number of educational conferences during the week. And while residents attend conferences in their disciplines, they are also welcome to attend any other conferences they find interesting. A typical family practice conference schedule would be:

- > Monday - meetings and board review with family practice faculty.
- > Tuesday - a combined Internal Medicine/Family Practice conference in grand rounds format.
- > Wednesday - conferences at family practice center focusing on topics of special interest to family medicine.
- > Thursday - core curriculum/cancer conferences
- > Friday - no conference.

What facilities are available to residents when they are on call?

Each discipline has its own call rooms. These rooms are allocated so that every resident has his/her own room while on call. There is a common recreation area with a pool table, ping pong table, television, microwave and refrigerator.

How often do family practice residents take call?

The call schedule for interns depends entirely upon the service to which the intern is assigned. Typically, it would be as follows:

- > Two months are spent on the inpatient family practice service. During this service interns schedule their own call, usually five or six nights per month. One - and possibly two - of these will consist of 24-hour call on a weekend.
- > Four months are spent on the in-patient internal medicine service where interns can expect to be on call every fourth night. Interns can expect two free weekends during each month on this service.
- > Two months are spent in the emergency department, and there is no call during this service.
- > One month is spent doing an inpatient pediatric rotation at The Children's Hospital of Alabama where interns have call every fourth night.
- > On general surgery, call averages every third to fourth night.
- > For the remaining months, interns schedule their own call, which averages four to five nights a month. Second and third year residents take call three or four times per month, except during the UAB OB/GYN rotation when call averages every fifth to sixth night.

What type of opportunities do Physicians residents have to learn about pediatrics and OB/GYN?

PMCC interns spend one month on an inpatient service at The Children's Hospital of Alabama, one of the nation's leading pediatric institutions. They share the same opportunities and responsibilities as pediatric interns while on this service. PMCC interns also spend a month in outpatient pediatrics at the PMCC Family Medicine Center in North Birmingham or with a private pediatrician. Elective opportunities include pediatric emergency care and other areas of pediatrics.

For OB/GYN experience, PMCC residents have a rare opportunity to spend three months with the UAB OB/GYN team at Cooper Green Hospital.

Internal Medicine - FAQ

What are the benefits of training in internal medicine at PMCC?

At PMCC residents receive state-of-the-art clinical training in skills necessary for primary care practice, hospitalist careers or fellowship training. This is accomplished in an environment that is friendly, personal and academic. Our affiliation with several on-campus group practices, as well as our close working relationship with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, allows our residents to develop expertise in managing a broad spectrum of clinical disorders from the critically ill to common, general medical problems. At PMCC and affiliated clinics, all patients are utilized for teaching. Residents have primary responsibility for their patients, and there are no fellows to compete with for procedures.

What is the call schedule like?

All residents meet monthly with the chief medical residents to schedule their call. First year residents take in-house call on average every fifth night. Second and third year residents usually take in-house call every sixth night. Overall call ranges from every fourth to seventh night. Residents on all rotations have at least two, and frequently three, weekends off each month.

How many residents get fellowships and where?

The majority of our residents who seek fellowships attain them and in highly qualified programs. For example, four of our six graduating residents in 2007 acquired fellowships at UAB, University of Texas Galveston, and Texas A&M University. Of the residents seeking fellowships, more than 90 percent attain competitive fellowships at prestigious institutions, such as, UAB, Vanderbilt, University of Virginia, and California Pacific Medical Center, among others.

Where are recent graduates practicing?

Of our recent graduates who elected not to pursue fellowships, more than 75 percent are practicing medicine in Alabama. Most are in private, primary care group practices with many continuing their affiliation with PMCC. Recently, a growing number are working as hospitalists in the Birmingham area, while others are employed as emergency department physicians.

How much flexibility do I have in tailoring my schedule and electives to meet my special interests and needs?

Our curriculum is designed to allow residents to concentrate on hospitalist rotations, ambulatory primary care skills or the more traditional mix. This is accomplished by utilizing a flexible elective format.

Transitional Year - FAQ

What makes the PMCC residency programs special?

PMCC has a rich educational heritage. We have sponsored graduate medical education programs longer than any other teaching hospital in Alabama. We started a formal internship in 1919, the year such programs were first recognized by the American Medical Association, and PMCC developed the first surgery residency in Alabama in 1939. PMCC places the highest priority on educational excellence and the needs of residents. It offers a very comfortable and collegial learning environment.

How do duties and responsibilities of transitional year residents compare to those of categorical specialty residents?

Transitional year residents have the same status, responsibilities and privileges as first year

categorical specialty residents at PMCC. They are readily accepted on all specialty and subspecialty assignments and are encouraged to take initiative in patient care, while enjoying effective backup and support by dedicated faculty members and senior specialty residents. There is an excellent balance of academic activities and clinical experience.

How much input and flexibility do PMCC transitional year residents have in developing their assigned schedules?

This is one of the strongest features of the program. Requests that are compatible with applicable accreditation standards are virtually always granted. Residents have six months of selective and elective choices in the PMCC Transitional Year program, and the schedule for each resident is designed to meet his or her personal needs and interests.

How do transitional year residents relate to residents in other disciplines at PMCC?

There is a high level of camaraderie among residents in PMCC programs. Everyone supports one another, and there is a tremendous degree of mutual respect among residents in all disciplines. The atmosphere is extremely comfortable and friendly. It is fun to come to work every day!