

Family Medicine

RESIDENCY PROGRAM AT
Memorial Health

Welcome to the Family Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Health

The Family Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Health is part of the HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education network. HCA Healthcare is the nation's leading provider of quality, patient-centered care. We are also the leader in graduate medical education, all brought together by a single mission:

Above all else, we are committed to the care and improvement of human life.

ACGME ID: 1201211095

Tracks & Positions

Tracks	NRMP #	Available Positions
Categorical	1971120C0	6

Salary

	PGY1	PGY2	PGY3
Salary	\$54,267	\$55,869	\$57,637
On-Call Meals	\$950	\$950	\$950
Total	\$55,217	\$56,819	\$58,587

Program Overview

Our Family Medicine Residency Program is a networked program that strives to develop well-rounded family doctors. We consider ourselves networked instead of “opposed,” because of the unique, collaborative relationship that we share with the other residency programs at Memorial Health University Medical Center.

Our goal is for residents to practice broad-spectrum family medicine in any community, especially in underserved or low-resource areas. Our graduates have chosen careers at health departments, as outpatient providers in private practice, and as hospitalists. Our residents have also done fellowships in sports medicine, geriatrics, global health, and emergency medicine.

The specialists in our program have developed a broad-spectrum family medicine experience for our residents. We have family medicine attending physicians who practice obstetrics, and one who has a CAQ in sports medicine. As the clinical experiences of our residents expand, our department chair has made it a priority to expand the resources available to them.

These experiences have been supplemented by a redesign of our residency education series, which now includes longitudinal didactic sessions on behavioral health, health disparities, sports medicine, point-of-care ultrasound, procedures, and evidence-based medicine/critical appraisal of medical literature.

Our residents and students can experience the full spectrum of care, including morning rounds, busy days in the office, and unpredictable late-night calls to labor and delivery. Our group practice makes all of this possible within the framework of a viable lifestyle that allows you to enjoy living in the city of Savannah.

MHUMC has an affiliation with Mercer University School of Medicine and has been the home of Mercer’s Savannah campus since 2007. Our entire faculty holds academic appointments in the Mercer University School of Medicine and we have a constant presence of medical students who work with us on both inpatient and outpatient medical care.

Our Faculty



Robert Pallay MD

- Robert Pallay, MD, is nationally recognized for his leadership and vision. In addition to being Program Director, he is Professor and Chair of the Family Medicine Department for Mercer University SOM, Savannah Campus. Pallay has worked in private practice for many years and was medical director and vice chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey



Mary Mier DO

- Dr. Mier chose Family Medicine because of her desire to treat the entire family. She is passionate about providing care to the underserved, treating the whole mind, body, and spirit, and advocating for vulnerable populations. Outside of medicine, she spends her time with her three dogs and enjoys traveling.



Ryann Cowart MD

- A native of Savannah, GA, Dr. Cowart recently moved back to join the faculty of Family Medicine Residency Program at Memorial, where she focuses on her special interests in evidence-based medicine, women's health, global health, providing care to disenfranchised populations, and resident and patient education.



Amethyst Wilder MD

- Dr. Wilder is a Southeast Georgia local that never meets a stranger. As a recent graduate of this program, she loves the educational environment and looks forward to teaching residents, medical students and patients. She enjoys getting outdoors and good food. Her career interests are maternity and pediatric care.



Marvin Sineath Jr. MD

- Dr. Sineath's interests include sports medicine, teaching medical students and residents. He and his family enjoy exercising, playing sports, anything involving the water, their local church, and serving in the community. He served in the Air Force for 12 and a half years and is currently in the Air National Guard.



Jeri Miller MD

- Dr. Miller has served on and chaired numerous Medical Staff Committees, and has also held Medical Staff Officer positions. Her career interests include Urgent Care, Emergency Medicine, and teaching. She enjoys shopping for bargains, reading, gardening and spending time with her family.

Our Faculty



Shameka Jones MD

- I enjoy the full scope Family Medicine, but my focus has been outpatient. It is a privilege to be involved in resident education and witness the process of developing amazing physicians. I enjoy traveling, spending time with my husband and three children, photography and fellowship at my church, Compassion Christian.



Meghan Rosenquist DO

- Dr. Rosenquist has been called by her colleagues “a family-centered mom practicing family-centered care”. She has discovered her favorite part of medicine is teaching, but she also practices as a hospitalist in several local hospitals. She is a veteran of the U.S. Army, a wife, and mom to five children.



Richard R. Hightower MD

- Dr. Hightower earned his medical degree from Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, GA, and did his residency training at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. Dr. Hightower is board certified in family medicine.



Current Residents



Ashley Blasi, DO
Campbell Univ School of
Osteopathic Medicine
PGY-3



Sophia Elias, MD
Mercer University School
of Medicine
PGY-3



Ashley Hawes, MD
Mercer University School of
Medicine
PGY-3



Zachary McGalliard, MD
Mercer University School of
Medicine
PGY-3



Khaja Mohiuddin, MD
American University of Integrative
Sciences School of Medicine
PGY-3



Nicole Oberfoell, MD
University of Queensland
PGY-3



Alexis Brown, DO
Philadelphia College of
Osteopathic Medicine
PGY-2



Megan Dannemiller, MD
Mercer University School
of Medicine
PGY-2



Victoria Mazzella, MD
University of Medicine and
Health Sciences, St. Kitts
PGY-2



Kayla Suma, MD
University of Kentucky
College of Medicine
PGY-2



Logan Proffitt, DO
Lincoln Mem Univ, Debusk
College of Osteopathic Medicine
PGY-2



Catherine Waldron, MD
Mercer University School
of Medicine
PGY-2



Ashley Delaney, DO
Pacific Northwest University
of Health Sciences
PGY-2



Sydney Koenig, MD
Mercer University School
of Medicine
PGY-1



Alexander Duggan, MD
Mercer University School
of Medicine
PGY-1



Chandler Brandenburg, MD
Mercer University School
of Medicine
PGY-1



Alexandra Ranski, MD
Oakland Univ, William Beaumont
School of Medicine
PGY-1



Algimantas Simpson, MD
University of South Carolina
School of Medicine
PGY-1



Erik Shaw, DO
Arizona College of
Osteopathic Medicine
PGY-1

About the Program

Rotation Schedule

Clinic First

Memorial Family Medicine is proud to be a part of the latest cohort Family Medicine residencies across the country to be chosen to initiate a “Clinic First” model in their training.

Though there is not a set or correct way of implementing this initiative, the goal is to improve primary care ambulatory residency training for residents. In order to continue to train our residents to be able to practice the kind of medicine they wish to by the time they graduate, we have adopted a split four-week rotation model.

That is, we have 13 blocks within the academic year and within each block, the residents will spend two weeks in the clinic and two weeks solely on the rotation they are assigned.

The following is a sample of resident rotations:

PGY1

- Orientation
- Inpatient x5
- Emergency Medicine
- Inpatient Pediatrics
- Outpatient Pediatrics
- Night Float
- Newborn Nursery
- Ortho
- ICU
- OB

PGY2

- Inpatient x4
- Night Float x2
- ENT
- OB
- Inpatient Pediatrics
- Rural Medicine
- Emergency Medicine
- General Surgery
- GYN

PGY3

- Inpatient x4
- Night Float x2
- Dermatology
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine
- Selective x2
- Elective x3

Other electives can be approved by the program director after goals and objectives are submitted for consideration.

Teaching Opportunities

The Family Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Health University Medical Center is proud to offer a number of teaching opportunities. Remember the hard-working residents who helped you when you were a med student? This is your chance to pay it forward and share your passion for Family Medicine with new students.

Memorial Health University Medical Center is a 612-bed academic medical center dedicated to education and discovery. As a Family Medicine resident, you will have the opportunity to work with and provide one-on-one teaching to students.

The Savannah campus of Mercer University School of Medicine is located on the Memorial University Medical Center campus. Residents work with Mercer's second, third, and fourth-year medical students, including the Family Medicine Accelerated Curriculum Track (FM-ACT) students.

About the Program

At Memorial University Medical Center, we strongly believe that your own Family Medicine training is greatly enhanced through teaching others.

Alumni/ Resident Testimonials

Ashley Blasi, MD

Memorial Health is a large academic center that allows you to see high acuity and rare pathology while learning from many specialists. There's a strong culture of support and encouragement. This innovative program has endless opportunities to suit your areas of interest in family medicine. All of these elements combined in one program made Memorial an easy choice for me.

Kamal Mohiuddin, MD

I did a research year at Memorial Health, so I knew it would be great fit for me. The program has a well-balanced curriculum and provides excellent full-scope training in family medicine. The faculty has a genuine passion for teaching and producing well-trained physicians. The residents are tightly bonded and extremely supportive. I'm so thankful that I made the right choice.

Why Physicians Choose Savannah

The city of Savannah has a style all its own. Founded in 1733, Savannah's renowned historic district includes 1,100 buildings of historic or architectural significance. Savannah has grown into a major international port city with a regional population of more than 300,000.

Savannah is also home to several colleges and universities, a lively music scene, the Savannah Bananas baseball team and many museums, concerts and festivals. Every March, Savannah hosts the second largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the country.



Mission Statement

The Memorial Health University Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program's mission is to educate and prepare our residents to become the physicians that their communities need. The program is designed to challenge residents to continue to grow and mature in a supportive and educational environment. Residents will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and seek out additional learning in specific areas, if they desire, while solidifying their proficiency in the essentials of broad-spectrum Family Medicine. Our faculty is committed to ensuring residents' clinical experience and educational needs are fulfilled while expanding their perspectives to be inclusive of cultures, values, and ideals.

About HCA Healthcare GME

HCA Healthcare is a comprehensive healthcare network with over 275,000 colleagues across more than 2,000 care facilities all committed to creating a positive impact every day. We continually invest in our colleagues and facilities to better serve our patients and local communities. The Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs seek to inspire tomorrow's physicians to care for and improve human life by focusing on patient-centered approaches to practicing the latest evidence-based medicine.

To learn more about the benefits and expectations of training with an HCA Healthcare program, view our [Resident and Fellow Manual](#).



● HCA Healthcare Hospital



Size

HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education is the largest sponsor of residency and fellowship programs across the nation.

4,637
residents

289
fellows

218
specialty programs (residencies)

79
sub-specialty programs
(fellowships)



Scholarly Activity

HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education provides a critical link between vigorous scholarly activity and real-world patient care from a sophisticated data repository of more than 32 million patient encounters each year.

2,500+ HCA Healthcare GME scholarly activities in 2020-21.



Clinical Training

Each year approximately five percent of all U.S. hospital services happen at an HCA Healthcare facility, including:

32+ million patient encounters
7.4 million emergency room visits
215,000+ babies delivered

HCA Healthcare Graduate Medical Education is a leader in clinical experience.

- Nationally known physician expertise across the country
- Investments in facilities allowing the advancement of patient care
- High emphasis on simulation results and low patient incidents
- Higher patient touch than academic facilities
- Annual collaborative mass casualty event team training

A commitment to scholarly activity

Based on more than 32 million patient encounters each year, our scholarly activity bridges the gap between compelling evidence and exceptional patient care.



Our experiential learning is rooted in evidence-based medicine that leads to innovative, **real-world patient health solutions**.

Merging the rigor of **ACGME** accreditation with high patient touch, our residents and fellows deliver evidence-based care that demonstrates our mission to care for and improve human life.

We offer **National Grand Rounds** that leverage accomplished clinical expertise from across HCA Healthcare, bringing the nation's leading medical experts to our residency and fellowship programs.

Notable Publications

- *JAMA Internal Medicine*
- *Annals of Surgical Oncology*
- *CHEST Journal*
- *American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine*
- *Obstetrics & Gynecology*

Notable Presentations

- American College of Cardiology
- Society of Critical Care Medicine
- American College of Physicians
- Society of Hospital Medicine
- American College of Surgeons

Influential Collaboration

HCA Healthcare residents and fellows have access to talented, highly skilled teams of faculty, industry experts and dedicated researchers to guide them through their journey. Residents and fellows produce evidence that drives future practice by leveraging HCA Healthcare's national clinical data warehouse – the heart of our data ecosystem.

HCA Healthcare Scholarly Commons is a platform to collect, share and publish the variety of academic work created by the Graduate Medical Education community. During 2020, readership of those works eclipsed the 25,000 mark. Included on this platform is the **HCA Healthcare Journal of Medicine**, a peer reviewed scientific periodical focused on innovation, enhanced quality and developing new knowledge in clinical care and medical education for the benefit of all patients. In its first year of publication, the journal disseminated 86 articles in six issues as well as a seventh special issue on the COVID-19 pandemic.



About HCA Healthcare

HCA Healthcare is one of the nation's leading providers of healthcare services and is comprised of 186 hospitals and more than 2,000 sites of care including surgery centers, freestanding ERs, urgent care centers, diagnostic and imaging centers, walk-in clinics and physician clinics in 20 states and the United Kingdom. With its founding in 1968, Nashville-based HCA Healthcare created a new model for hospital care in the United States.



*Hospital locations as of March 31, 2021

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Size

275,000
colleagues

93,000+
registered nurses

47,000^
active and affiliated physicians



Patient Care

HCA Healthcare's U.S. hospitals provide approximately 5% of all inpatient hospital services in the country.

In 2020:

32+ million
patient encounters

7.4 million
emergency room visits

215,000
babies delivered

View the **HCA Healthcare Community Impact Report** to learn more about our award-winning programs, technology advances and partnerships with community organizations to fulfill our commitment to the care and improvement of human life.



Giving Back

\$3.4+ billion
estimated 2020 cost for the delivery of charity care, uninsured discounts and other uncompensated care

\$45 million
in charitable cash contributions provided across the enterprise in 2020

We are committed to expanding our relationships with our communities by investing **\$10 million** over the next three years in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) across our footprint.*

*Starting in 2021



Industry Leader

Sarah Cannon, the Cancer Institute of HCA Healthcare, provides **state-of-the-art cancer care** close to home for hundreds of thousands of patients, a number unmatched by any single cancer center.

HCA Healthcare affiliates deliver healthcare services in **more than 150 languages and dialects**.

HCA Healthcare has treated more COVID-19 inpatients than any other health system in the U.S.

^Approximate

