We are located in an academic center with many other residency and fellowship programs, and have won national recognition for the quality of our research in clinical family practice, health screening, and education. In addition, we are nationally recognized for our community service and the quality of our graduate and undergraduate medical education.

The Program

The Residency Training Program in the Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center (LAMC) reflects Kaiser Permanente’s long-standing tradition of providing Family Medicine residents with the skills needed to become accomplished and compassionate physicians. Here you will find the best of all educational worlds, including direct patient responsibility and a large and varied patient base. We build your residency around the concepts of comprehensive, cost-effective, family-oriented care.

Clinical care and procedural skills are emphasized in the Family Medicine Program. Residents take full responsibility for patients needing the full spectrum of treatment, from critical to ambulatory; many of our graduates go on to careers in academic family medicine. Acclaimed for both clinical and research excellence, the Family Medicine Residency Program has received national awards in the past for quality of graduate education and for clinical research. In addition, the program has been the recipient of several national McNeil awards for family practice clinical research.

Kaiser Permanente is among the nation's largest and most highly regarded managed care delivery organizations. As a member of our residency program, you will learn to practice cost-effective, and caring, medicine — an approach indispensable to providing health care in all future medical settings.
Inpatient Service

The Family Medicine inpatient service consists of two teams, each with one attending — an intern and a second-year resident. The census for each team is approximately 6-8 patients per team, with a cap of 10.

Primary care responsibility continues for patients admitted to the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) and surgical subspecialty services. Rotations are four weeks in length. Interns and second-year residents are assigned to the Family Medicine service three times during the year; each second-year resident is assigned three times; and third-year residents serve as chief resident for a 6 week block.

Attending rounds are held everyday. These are teaching rounds and are preceded by resident work rounds. Each Wednesday morning, Chief Resident, Geriatrics, Behavioral Medicine or Program Director rounds are held, and both teams combine to discuss timely topics based upon the hospital census as well as focus on interesting inpatient cases. Interns assigned to the medicine rotation take short call in the emergency room admitting patients. Float interns, PGY-2's and PGY-3's cover the overnight calls taking care of med-surg, ICU, and CCU patients, respectively.

Intensive Care Unit

One month of ICU experience supplements the first-year curriculum in medicine. This affords a concentrated experience in the management of critically ill patients. Interns refine skills in handling critically ill patients with our critical care pulmonologists and fellows.

Coronary Care Unit

One month of CCU experience supplements the second-year curriculum in medicine. This provides an excellent experience in the management of critically ill cardiac patients. PGY2’s refine their skills with our cardiologists and fellows.

Conference Series

Lectures are provided at noon daily each July through September for Family Medicine and Internal Medicine house staff. Interns attend a series of core lectures on emergency care; residents attend a series of core lectures on critical care.

From October through June, Family Medicine lunchtime resident conferences occur daily. Family Medicine geriatric conferences occur the third Wednesday of each month. In addition our residents participate in a monthly journal club.

Second- and third-year residents participate in a monthly procedure/ skills workshop. Third-year residents participate in a monthly board preparation review and a monthly practice management/quality assurance seminar. Other sessions include leadership development, teaching skills, faculty-led SAM sessions, and career development workshops. Cultural competence also provided twice per year.

Emergency Medicine

During the second and third year, two weeks are spent in Emergency Medicine. Prior to the first rotation during the orientation process, all incoming interns are certified in ACLS. All residents are recertified during their training as well. Experience is gained in the management of acutely ill patients. Stabilization and emergency care measures are provided, and histories and physicals are performed in the emergency room. Urgent care visits in the clinic are managed under supervision by attendings and senior residents. Experience is also provided in an outlying clinic emergency area and at the Venice Family Clinic and Saban Community Clinic. Additional experience in the emergency room is provided when taking call on Family Medicine.

Obstetrics and Gynecology (Ob/Gyn)

Obstetrics

Two months of the intern year are spent in an in-depth obstetrical experience. The Medical Center has a fully accredited Ob/Gyn Residency Program and performs more than 300 deliveries a month. Family Medicine interns can expect to deliver approximately 40 infants during the first year of training. Second- and third-year residents can participate in continuity deliveries, even when not assigned to obstetrics. For those desiring additional obstetrical training, an elective in complicated obstetrics is available. We also offer a longitudinal prenatal clinic for 2nd and 3rd year residents in order to facilitate continuity of care for obstetrical patients.

Gynecology

Four weeks of the second year are spent in Ob/Gyn, with an emphasis on Gynecology. High-volume patient care is the hallmark of this experience. Monthly lectures on gynecologic topics are coordinated throughout the residency curriculum by the director of Obstetrics and Gynecology curriculum. The focus during the second year is refinement of procedural skills.

If the resident so chooses, additional ambulatory time may be devoted to obstetrics as well. For those planning to practice Obstetrics, an elective in complicated Obstetrics is available.
Pediatrics

Newborn Nursery
One month in the intern year is spent in the Newborn Nursery under the supervision of staff neonatologists, pediatricians, and our Family Medicine Faculty. Resuscitation of the newborn and newborn examinations are the focus, as well as the care of the critically ill neonate. Call is on a night float system. Interns become familiar with the management of the newborn infant. Duties include daily attending rounds and daily X-ray rounds with the pediatric radiologist. All interns receive NALS certification. One month of the intern call is based on a night float system.

Pediatric Ambulatory Care
Interns spend one half-day per week over a 10-month period in the Pediatric Clinic. This in-depth experience allows the Family Medicine house officer to become comfortable in well-child examinations and sick-child visits during later years of training. During the second and third year, additional time is spent in ambulatory Pediatrics and Pediatrics Urgent Care to refine those skills. Residents also staff a 48 hour new born well child visit, to assist with breast feeding mothers as a part of Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles being a “Baby Friendly” certified hospital.

Stroke Service
As PGY-2’s, residents spend two weeks on the Stroke service learning to recognize, evaluate and treat acute strokes, with our Neurology-Stroke Team.

General Surgery
One month of the intern year is spent as part of a general Surgery team. The team consists of a surgical attending and surgical residents and the Family Medicine intern.

Responsibilities include surgical consultations, preoperative assessment, operative experience, postoperative care, and clinic responsibilities. Also, during the first year, time is spent in the multidisciplinary surgical clinics attended by surgical subspecialists, subspecialty interns, and radiation oncologists. During the second year, four weeks are spent in Family Medicine Surgical Services, which provide a high volume of exposure to ambulatory surgical problems such as abscesses, infected cysts, ingrown toenails, fractures, sprains, lacerations and hemorrhoids.

Orthopedics

Over 120 hours are dedicated to Orthopedics in the third year of the curriculum. This is in addition to Orthopedic exposure in the Urgent Care/Surgical Services in the third year as well as six weeks of Sports Medicine exposure in the third year. As PGY-3’s, experience includes Sports Clinics with our Sports Medicine Faculty, orthopedic fracture clinics in Orthopedics, Pain Clinic and Physical Therapy Clinic.

Urology

A one week rotation during the third year is spent in Urology, with time devoted primarily to ambulatory Urology. Teaching is provided by Urology faculty and residents.

Otolaryngology

One week in the third year is spent in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, with the focus on ambulatory problems, including the management of epistaxis, and allergic problems. Facility in using the diagnostic and therapeutic tools of the otolaryngologist is emphasized.

Ophthalmology

One week of the third year is spent in Ophthalmology, under the tutelage of ophthalmologists. Facility in ophthalmoscopic examination and use of the slit lamp and tonometer are emphasized.

Behavioral Science

During the first year of the curriculum, behavioral scientists provide a lecture every month in the Family Medicine Clinic and also provide on-site consultation and supervision for interns.

During the first year, the intern learns about family systems and psychosocial elements of health care.

Periodic workshops are given throughout the curriculum to better develop skills in mental health. Monthly lectures are also provided by the Behavioral Health Department to provide more detailed didactic material as part of the regular resident noon lecture series.

During the third year, residents spend one month in the Mental Health Clinics, including Addiction Medicine. The experience includes working with family counselors, adult and child psychiatrists, and clinical psychologists experienced in behavior modification for problems such as stress reduction and smoking cessation.

Community Medicine

A Community Medicine rotation is provided throughout all three years. Working with the Venice Family Clinic, Los Angeles Free Clinic, UCLA Mobile Homeless Clinic, and the two LAUSD High School clinics—Belmont and Marshall High Schools, residents gain experience in caring for the medically underserved. Third-year residents also spend one half-day a week during the six-week block in the HIV Clinic. Exposure is also provided to the home health service and the Hospice Program.
Practice Management
Throughout the curriculum, didactic presentations and case discussion time occur in various clinic half-days. Topics covered include professionalism, practice management, risk management, personal finances, marketing, contracts, billing, and patient panel management.

Diagnostic and Imaging Modalities
Interns spend 2 weeks rotating in Radiology Dept. LAMC has the world’s largest computerized clinical laboratory and does the largest volume of mammographies for a single medical center in the country. The MRI Unit and Sonography and likewise, among the busiest in the country for a single hospital. The Urodynamics Laboratory is among only one-half dozen of such facilities in the country. Throughout the three year curriculum, time is allotted to become intimately familiar with these resources as well as spending time in the extensive radiology teaching file.

Geriatrics
During the family medicine rotation, there is a monthly geriatric case conference. Additionally, second- and third-year residents have a monthly geriatrics lecture and a monthly convalescent-care case conference. Second and third-year residents assume primary responsibility for a group of patients at a nearby convalescent hospital, and care for them over the course of the year.

Sports Medicine
During the second year, residents spend two weeks in Sports Clinic with our Sports Medicine faculty. During the third year there is an additional six weeks of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine spent in Sports Clinic, taking care of athletes at local colleges and high school via pre-participation physicals and sideline coverage of football and basketball games. Residents also have an opportunity to volunteer in the medical tents of the California Ironman 70.3 Triathlon. Residents are also exposed to musculoskeletal ultrasound.

Family Medicine Clinic
The majority of outpatient skills are acquired and refined in the Family Medicine Clinic, where continuity care and urgent care experiences, closely mentored by faculty, are provided in high volume. First- and second-year residents begin their half day in clinic with a “chalk talk” mini-didactic session. Second-year residents also have “chalk talk” sessions in their half day clinics; additionally, third-year residents have a case management conference every two months. All outpatient clinics have a dedicated FM attending mentor(s). Direct observation and coaching is provided by faculty.

Electives
Residents have a total of 12 weeks elective time. Four weeks in the second year and eight weeks in the third year are provided for the resident to devote those areas that would most benefit the resident’s future plans. This is arranged in the latter part of the curriculum to assure a broad exposure to the full scope of Family Medicine before the resident chooses elective opportunities.

Educational Opportunities
Numerous other educational premiums and benefits are available, including an ongoing monthly Medical Center Grand Rounds Program and an annual Family Medicine symposium, featuring outstanding speakers from across the country. There are conferences daily in numerous other disciplines as a result of the multiple other training programs at the Medical Center. The third-year residents have a one week board study period just prior to their graduation.

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