We are a cutting-edge program whose enthusiastic faculty have woven diverse interests and backgrounds into an innovative and dynamic residency program. We offer an excellent ambulatory and inpatient care experience to a culturally diverse population, in a supportive and caring environment.

The Program
Orange County’s Family Medicine Residency Program reflects Kaiser Permanente’s long-standing tradition of providing medical 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. You will also benefit from the exceptional—and exacting—supervision of our board-certified physician faculty.

Family Medicine is a well-respected and integral part of patient care at our Medical Center. Emphasis is on the educational experience, not on menial tasks. We offer faculty with extensive teaching experience.

The Family Medicine residency is the only freestanding residency program in the Medical Center. Under the auspices of a young and enthusiastic faculty eager to share knowledge, you will learn a unique style of ambulatory care—one you may pursue upon completing your residency with us.

Kaiser Permanente is among the nation’s largest and most highly regarded managed care organizations (one in five insured Californians is a Kaiser Permanente Health Plan member). As a member of our residency program, you will learn to practice cost-effective and caring medicine, with extensive use of information technology and chronic disease management. Procedural training is emphasized, providing competence in gynecological procedures, minor surgery, and low-risk obstetrics.
Adult Medicine
Our Family Medicine service is staffed by Family Medicine residents and attending physicians. The 2 teams consist of 2 interns, a second and third-year resident, and an attending physician from Family Medicine and Internal Medicine. The teams each manage an average of 6 patients. A night float system replaced our night call responsibilities.

First-year residents spend four weeks caring for patients in the ICU/CCU, gaining experience in Intensive Care and Coronary Care. Working with staff cardiologists and intensivists, you will assist in the management of critically ill patients.

Third-year residents spend four weeks studying under the tutelage of staff cardiologists and four weeks with staff neurologists. Primary emphasis is on testing and common outpatient problems.

Pediatrics
Your first year includes a 4-week rotation on inpatient pediatrics at Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). In addition, two weeks in the nursery will emphasize normal newborns with part of your time focusing on stabilizing and resuscitating distressed newborns. 2 weeks focus on ambulatory Pediatrics.

First-year residents also spend 2 half-days each month seeing outpatient infants and children for whom they will be directly responsible throughout the three-year residency.

During your second year you will spend two weeks focusing on pediatrics in Kaiser Permanente Pediatric offices and 4 weeks in the Kaiser Permanente inpatient Pediatrics Wards.

Third-year residents obtain further clinical exposure with a 4-week rotation in outpatient general and subspecialty Pediatrics.

Obstetrics and Gynecology
Residents have 2 three-week Ob/Gyn blocks in both the R1 and R2 years. Residents work closely with innovative obstetricians, some of who are actively involved in research. At the end of your rotations, you can expect to have delivered over 40 babies (with more available if desired); in addition, you will have followed at least 3 prenatal patients through delivery.

The Gynecology experience emphasizes ambulatory gynecological problems. Nexplanon, IUD placement, and endometrial biopsies and other gynecology procedures are also taught. High-risk Obstetrics and Gynecology electives are available in your third year.

Surgery
4 weeks in your first year are devoted to inpatient surgery, working with surgical staff faculty. We emphasize pre- and postoperative care, surgical diagnosis, and assisting in the operating room.

In your second year, you spend 4 weeks in the Outpatient Surgery Clinic learning minor surgical procedures, breast lump evaluation, and pre- and postoperative care.

Minor surgery procedural skills are taught and reinforced in the Family Medicine Center’s Minor Surgery Clinic and many other rotations throughout your residency.

Head and Neck Surgery - Urology - Ophthalmology
These 3 rotations are each taught in 1 or 2-week time blocks and may be taken in any year of your residency. They focus primarily on outpatient care; however, operating room time is available for residents seeking inpatient exposure. Residents work closely with attending subspecialists, seeing a wide variety of problems commonly encountered by family physicians.
Human Behavior and Psychiatry
A 2-year longitudinal rotation in Behavioral Medicine on site at the Family Medicine Center allows you to develop essential skills in this area taught by our psychiatrists, psychologists, family physicians, and psychiatric social workers.

Second- and third-year residents participate in a bimonthly Behavioral Medicine/Psychiatry afternoon clinic, which includes small group seminars on specific psychiatric or psychosocial issues as well as counseling of adults and children. Residents also have the opportunity to participate as co-therapists during their regular clinics. Here they may work in partnership with a Behavioral Medicine specialist, who has extensive background in family, couple, and adolescent counseling as well as eating disorders.

As a third-year resident, you will spend two weeks working with the Chemical Dependency Recovery and Rehabilitation Programs as well as with other areas of Psychiatry. Electives in child or adolescent Psychiatry or inpatient Psychiatry are available.

Orthopedics
Residents have a 2-week rotation in Orthopedics during their first year and another 4-week rotation during their second or third year. Residents work one-on-one with an orthopedic surgeon, with emphasis on ambulatory care. You also devote time to seeing patients in our Sports Medicine Clinic as well as other locations. Opportunities are available to work with a high school team physician.

Physical Medicine/Sports Medicine
You spend 4 weeks working with Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation, and Pain Management specialists. You gain exposure to a large variety of musculoskeletal problems, chronic pain, testing procedures, and treatments, and spend time on inpatient rehabilitation.

Community Medicine
Our program has a Community Medicine Junior Faculty Fellow assisting our faculty in providing an outstanding Community Medicine teaching experience. Residents spend 1 week with CAST (Child Abuse Services Team for Orange County). Starting in the second year, they also have a 2-week rotation in both the second and third years of training. In addition, residents spend time on a longitudinal basis in partnership with Latino Health Access, Lestonnac Clinic, and working with the homeless via the Illumination Foundation. Our residents and teaching faculty work along with lay health workers to provide essential medical services, including home visits when needed. Residents also participate in our new mental health clinic for uninsured individuals. These rotations provide invaluable education in use of community resources for those who have no medical care “home.” Our program has received multiple local and national Kaiser Permanente community service awards for these efforts, as well as over $1 million grant funding from the State of California to help our uninsured neighbors.

Electives
There are numerous opportunities for personalized electives within our health care system. During your second and third years, a total of over 4 months of electives can be used to complement your education. Many residents participate in international rotation experiences.
Family Medicine Center
Throughout your residency, you will spend a significant amount of time in our off-site, culturally diverse, outpatient Family Medicine Center, under the supervision of a teaching staff of more than 25 full-time, board-certified family physicians.

In your first year, you spend 2 half-days each week in the Family Medicine Center; in your second year, 3 half-days each week; and in your third year, four-half days each week. At least one faculty member is assigned to supervise and teach at all times.

Our residents are assigned a group of patients whom they follow throughout training, in both outpatient and inpatient settings, with the outpatient experience providing a spectrum of acute and chronic diagnoses. Preventive health care, prenatal obstetrical care and minor surgical and dermatologic procedures are also emphasized. Laboratory and radiology services, patient education programs, and consultations with various specialties are readily available.

Our residency is affiliated with UCI School of Medicine and is a training site for many medical students from UCI, Western University for Health Sciences, and others. Our program is looking forward to working with the new Kaiser Permanente Bernard J Tyson School of Medicine opening in Pasadena, CA in Fall 2020.

Conferences
Third-year residents assist our faculty in planning conferences covering the core curriculum in Family Medicine. Residents also exercise a leadership role in conference presentation.

All residents are expected to provide input regarding the educational content of the conference series and are encouraged to submit topic ideas, speakers, or case-based information.

In addition to the required daily noon conference schedule, annual symposia, hosted jointly by Kaiser Permanente specialty departments from throughout Southern California, are available.

The Faculty
The Family Medicine Department in Orange County consists of more than 300 family physicians, the largest in the U.S.

The Family Medicine Residency Program has full accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Principal faculty for the academic year consists of more than 25 excellent family physicians, all of whom are board-certified and may hold university faculty appointments at local medical schools. A number of our faculty have received prestigious teaching and clinical awards in recent years.

Many other physicians provide additional support. The cultural and ethnic makeup of our family physicians reflects the diversity of the Orange County community we serve.

Visit residency-scal-kaiserpermanente.org to learn more about how to apply, our faculty & residents, available clerkships & electives, and benefits & salary