

Baton Rouge General Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program

Program Director: Derek Anderson, MD

The 2014-2015 academic year has come to a close, and we are proud to announce that this graduating class helped us achieve a four year passage rate greater than 90% as required by the ACGME. On June 27th, we graduated 7 residents at the Lod Cook Alumni Center here in Baton Rouge. The name of the residents and their future plans are listed below.

- Brian Benson, MD- Opening a Clinic in Baton Rouge or Northshore, LA
- Matthew Blanchard, MD- Baton Rouge General Oak Grove Primary Care Clinic, Prairieville, LA
- Shavaun Cotton, MD- Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Clinic, Baton Rouge, LA
- Kristen Ducote, MD- Baton Rouge General Oak Grove Primary Care Clinic, Prairieville, LA
- Jovana Kakish, MD- Kaiser Permanente in Vallejo, California
- Lacy Knowles, DO- Sports Medicine Fellow at Baton Rouge General
- Amanda Watts, MD- Family Health Clinic, Baton Rouge, LA

Another year has begun for the interns at Baton Rouge General, and already they are doing a fantastic job. Their understanding of teamwork and cohesiveness is obvious, and we are excited to see what this year will bring with such a great group. Our new class includes:

- Michelle Becnel, MD from St. George's University
- Audrey Billeaud, MD from Louisiana State University in New Orleans
- Brian Callihan, MD from Louisiana State University in New Orleans
- Monali Pandya, MD from American University of the Caribbean
- Andrew Parks, MD from Louisiana State University in Shreveport
- Roxanne Varnell, MD from Louisiana State University in New Orleans
- Katherine R. Whittaker, MD from American University of Antigua
- Carita Winn, MD from University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

We kicked off the year with our annual 'Taste of Louisiana' Welcome Party at the home of our director, Dr. Derek Anderson. We had lots of good food, drinks, and great company! With the wonderful family atmosphere, it was no surprise that everyone felt at home right away. This is only the beginning of several fun gatherings throughout the year, including tailgating at LSU football games, a resident-faculty retreat, a cozy Christmas party in December, and a MATCH Party in the spring.

We are striving to give back to our community and actively participate with the state legislature; therefore, we are looking forward to several events this year. Our program hosts a monthly lecture series for People's Health, a Medicare provider that allows us an opportunity to educate our local geriatric population. Our residents are also assisting with sports physicals at high schools and universities in the area, in addition to participating in Tar Wars. This year, our program gave the most presentations in the state of Louisiana for Tar Wars. Also, a majority of our residents participated in the LAFP Physician of the Day at the Capitol, as well as White Coat Day.

We would also like to congratulate one of our faculty members, Brian Harrell, M.D., CAQSM, who graduated from a year-long fellowship with the National Institute for Program Director Development (NIPDD). This professional development program is operated by the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) and is designed to help program directors learn the "ins and outs" of their profession. It is geared toward newer PD's, or up-and-coming PD's, associate PD's, etc. This program places an emphasis on how the overall medical education scheme works from

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the federal, state, and local levels, as well as how the program director role fits within the grand scheme of the ACGME. As part of the NIPDD program, Dr. Harrell completed three projects- Procedure Tracking in a Primary Care Residency Program: A True Cultural Shift, a year-end annual report of the BRG Family Medicine Residency Program, and a comprehensive financial report on the BRG Family Medicine Residency Program.

Our program is also preparing for another great year of recruiting. We are headed out to several recruitment fairs and are attracting many medical students to our program. Each year, expectations grow, and this upcoming year will be no different. We wish the best to all programs during recruiting season as we strive to find the best Family Physicians.

We would also like to recognize our Sports Medicine Fellowship which continues to do well and graduated their 7th class on July 23rd. This year's graduates are Jacques Courseault, MD and Marisa Formica, MD. We also want to welcome our new class of fellows- Lacy Knowles, DO and Donald Carson, DO.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Derek Anderson, MD
Program Director**