

Baton Rouge General Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program

Residency Director: Vincent Shaw, MD

The 2017-2018 academic year has come and gone very quickly. We are proud to announce another strong graduating class with 100% board passage rate! Four of our eight graduating residents will continue on into several fellowship programs across the country. On June 16 we graduated 8 residents at Boudreaux's Reception Center here in Baton Rouge. The name of the residents and their future plans are as follows:

- Michelle Becnel, MD – Oschner Health System, Baton Rouge, LA
- Audrey Billeaud, MD – Global Health Fellowship in South Carolina
- Brian Callihan, MD – Private practice in Amite, LA
- Monali Pandya, MD – Private practice in Ohio
- Andrew Parks, Sr., MD – Sports Medicine Fellow at Baton Rouge General
- Katherine Whittaker, MD – FMOL/Lake Physicians Group, Baton Rouge, LA
- Carita Winn, MD – Emergency Medicine Fellowship in Los Angeles, CA
- Roxanne Varnell, MD – Obstetrics and Gynecology Fellowship in Memphis, TN

With the conclusion of one academic year we transition to the start of a new year and new group of interns. The residents have just begun their journey into the world of Family Medicine and are taking on this challenge with lots of enthusiasm. 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:

- Ubaid Abbasi, MD from Saba University School of Medicine
- Mohammad Bashir, MD from St. George's University School of Medicine
- Michael Dougherty, MD from American University of the Caribbean
- Samuel Grimmer, MD from American University of the Caribbean
- Nathan Hensler, DO from University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Ellin Hossain, MD from the American University of the Caribbean
- Christopher Leiker, MD from the American University of the Caribbean
- Lauren Tillery, MD from LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans School of Medicine

Over the past year, both our faculty and residents, in combination with several students, have worked feverishly to increase our presence in the community. We have actively participated with the state legislature on behalf of Family Medicine, as well as hosting a booth during White Coat Day at the capitol. Our residents are assisting with sports physicals at high schools and universities in the area, in addition to participating in various educational programs in our local public school system.

This past year our program has worked in conjunction with Ochsner Health systems, LSU- Lafayette Family Medicine Residency program and the LAFP to continue providing a very strong regional Grand Rounds series 3-4 times per year. These Grand Rounds presentation are designed to bolster a sense of collegiality among the various members of the groups in attendance while at the same time offering a venue for scholarly activity for residents and members of the entire medical community. Several of our residents have presented at these events. We certainly look forward to more joint ventures with these groups and appreciate all the participation of the sponsoring entities as well as the community as a whole.

Family Medicine Department Reports, continued

Our program is also preparing for the beginning of recruiting. We plan to attend several recruitment fairs and are actively working to attract many medical students to our program. Expectations for the classes continue to rise, and this upcoming year will be no different. We look forward to trying to obtain the best and brightest residents in order to help further the practice of Family Medicine, both here in Louisiana and across the region.

We would also like to recognize our Sports Medicine Fellowship which continues to do well and will be graduating our 10th class on July 19th. This year's graduates are Matthew Bumgardner, MD and Daniel Naul, MD. We also want to welcome our new class of fellows- Andrew "Drew" Parks, Sr. MD and Ankur Verma, DO.

Respectfully,
Vincent Shaw, MD, FAAFP
Program Director