
General Assembly – July 31, 2020 – Destin, FL

LSU Health School of Medicine
Department of Family Medicine & Comprehensive Care
Ochsner LSU Health
Shreveport, LA
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The LSU Health's Department of Family Medicine & Comprehensive Care is in a period of transition and growth. Dr. Michael Harper will retire on June 30th and as such, I was recruited to attempt to fill his very large shoes. I began my duties as Department Chair on May 18, 2020 and have the privilege of building on the solid foundation that Dr. Harper has created over his illustrious career. We will forever be thankful for the countless number of medical students and residents that he trained.

Our partnership with Ochsner has afforded the opportunity to expand our Family Medicine department, and we are actively recruiting faculty for our residency programs in Shreveport, Alexandria, Monroe, and Vivian as well as community practices throughout Northern Louisiana. As part of that expansion, Dr. E.J. Mayeaux has returned to his home state as Associate Vice-Chancellor for Clinical Affairs and Senior Associate Dean for Primary Care and Population Health. We are excited to have him back with LSU Health Family Medicine.

In undergraduate medical education, Drs. Charles Baxter and Jan Hood are leading changes in our curriculum which model the true spirit of family medicine with team-based, holistic care. This will inspire more students to enter family medicine and help us reach the goal of 25% by 2030. Ochsner is further encouraging students to choose family medicine by offering primary care scholarships to 30 medical students per year. Yet, clerkship evaluations have consistently demonstrated that the biggest factor in specialty choice is the relationship developed in our community and faculty practices with preceptors. As such, we are eternally grateful to our volunteer faculty who faithfully mentor and teach our students in the midst of their busy practices.

Resident education remains strong with all programs filling in this year's Match. The residencies will be further bolstered through the creation of fellowship programs on the Shreveport campus. The first will be Primary Care Sports Medicine, which is projected to launch July 2021.

Of our current family medicine residency graduates, 10 of 24 will be practicing in Louisiana and two additional individuals will be pursuing fellowship programs within our state. This time of year is filled with mixed emotions as we are both proud and sad to see them enter the next phase of their careers. Yet, we are excited to welcome them as family medicine colleagues and enthusiastically await the arrival of our new class of residents.

Respectfully submitted,

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