



General Assembly – July 26, 2024 – Destin, FL

East Jefferson General Hospital/Tulane Family Medicine Residency Program Program Director: Rade N. Pejic, M.D., M.M.M.

In January, Tulane Medical Center integrated with East Jefferson General Hospital to become Tulane’s primary academic medical center. As anticipated, this integration brought with it many changes and disruptions—some positive and some negative. The hospital has been renovated and updated. Residents and faculty now have new work and lounge spaces. Our emergency department has expanded and most of the floors of the hospital have been refurbished. EJGH now has many new subspecialty service lines and expanded patient access for outpatient appointments. However, cultural and organizational integration remains a challenge.

With respect to the family medicine residency program, internally not much has changed, but externally much has changed which affects us. Namely, we have changed from being an unopposed, community-based family medicine residency program to an opposed program housed within a large academic medical center. EJGH-LCMC Health remains our sponsoring institution, however we are now surrounded by Tulane students, residents, and fellows. Hospital policies, call schedules, consultants, etc. have changed prompting much anxiety.

Nonetheless, I’m proud to report that our family medicine residency remains strong, and our faculty and residents remain leaders throughout the hospital. We continue to operate a busy outpatient residency clinic, as well as a robust inpatient service. As always, we continue to serve as a primary clinical site for both Tulane and LSU medical students completing their third-year family medicine clerkship and their fourth-year acting internship.

In addition to the changes noted above, we have some faculty changes. Notably, our staff psychologist, **Patrick O’Callaghan, PhD**, resigned to be closer to his parents, but we were fortunate to recruit **Amy Sandridge, LCSW, PhD**, to fill his vacancy. This June, two of our founding faculty, **Drs. Robert Ryan and J. Kevin Russ** will retire after 26 years on the faculty. **Dr. Louis Strauss** has been hired as faculty and will begin January 1, 2025. Our remaining core faculty are **Drs. Lamia AbiSamra, Richard Bridges, Amy Galiano, Jessica Gilbert-Slipman, and Brittany Tav.**

Since opening in 1998, we have produced 143 family physicians, many of whom have remained in the region. We will celebrate the graduation of 6 more residents at a reception and ceremony at the Cannery on June 22, 2024. The graduates are:

Cody Bushyhead, MD **Prabhdeep Khunkhun, MD** **Jay Napolitano, DO**
Andrew Oracz, MD **Natasha Rezvani, MD** **Steven Vo, MD**

We are excited to welcome the **Class of 2027**:

Will Boles, MD (LSU-NO)
Anthony De Felice, MD (Tulane)
Beau Kalan, MD (Medical College of South Carolina)
John Lacey, MD (LSU-NO)
Karen Liao, MD (LSU-NO)
Cammi Sacco, MD (Ross University)

The following comprise the remainder of our resident complement:

Family Medicine Residency Program Director Reports, continued

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PGY-2 (Class of 2026):

Austin Adomitis, MD
Thorkell Einarsson, MD
Caila Knighton, MD
Alyssa Ross, DO
James Vu, MD
Chandler Young, DO

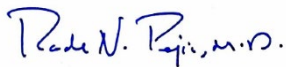
PGY-3 (Class of 2024):

Joseph Caravella, DO
Jordan Coffey, DO
Marcus Davis, MD
Hannah Day, MD
Jackson Weaver, MD
Joby “JJ” Westmoreland, MD, PhD

Our chief resident for the 2024-2025 academic year is **Dr. Jackson Weaver**.

In closing, I anticipate ongoing challenges with both the physical and cultural integration of our two systems, but I am hopeful that the union between Tulane and EJGH will result in a more financially stable, academically rigorous, center of excellence for the citizens of the greater metro area.

Respectfully submitted,



Rade N. Pejic, MD, MMM
Program Director
EJGH Family Medicine Residency Program