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General Assembly – July 26, 2024 – Destin, FL

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## **St. Tammany Health / Ochsner Family Medicine Residency Program**

Program Director: Lisa Casey, MD

What a year of growth for this program! After earning accreditation last year, we hit the ground running to achieve our mission of training a diverse group of physicians to provide comprehensive care to the community we serve. To do this, we focused on resident recruitment, faculty recruitment and development, curriculum development, and completion of our clinic facilities. I am happy to report success on all fronts!

With great pride, I introduce to you the Class of 2027 – the inaugural class of the St. Tammany Health/Ochsner Family Medicine Residency Program:

- Meghan Castillo, DO – Lincoln Memorial DeBusk
- Madison Lambert Dronet, DO – VCOM Monroe
- Marlie Giardina, DO – VCOM Monroe
- Mary Grimmet, DO – William Carey
- Ashlin Hinojosa, MD – LSUHSC New Orleans
- Mohamed Hussein, MD – University of Cairo

Recruiting efforts for the next Match cycle are already underway including residency fairs, procedure workshops, guest lecture series and, of course, acting internships for fourth year students with the addition of third-year clerkship spots later in the year. Please schedule a visit if you are interested!

Faculty is the foundation of any residency. Our core Family Medicine faculty possesses a unique combination of interests, experience, and infectious enthusiasm. They include Dr. Chris Foret, Dr. Gabrielle Givens, Dr. Catherine Pechon, and Dr. Eleanor Cook Smith. Along with the core faculty, Dr. Katie Cooper will lead our dedicated Family Medicine inpatient service. Dr. Patrick O’Callaghan rounds out the team by providing clinical psychology services and education in the Family Medicine Practice. The Family Medicine faculty have been busily preparing for the arrival of learners by attending AAFP residency learning summit and the STFM faculty development certification program. Our specialist faculty, including obstetricians, pediatricians, surgeons, psychiatrists, intensivists, emergency medicine physicians, and orthopedists, are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of the residents. This is certainly a team that fosters the creation of excellent Family Medicine Physicians.

With our curriculum, learners in our program will have the time and opportunity to become equally adept in both the inpatient and ambulatory setting. They will also complete the Lifestyle Medicine curriculum which will give them additional tools to treat the most stubborn and prevalent ailments in our population. The curriculum will also have a focus on community outreach and population health. Through participation in Healthier Northshore, the program aims to make residents and Family Medicine physicians integral parts of the local healthcare system and pillars in the health of the community.

The hub of all these fantastic learning opportunities is our Family Medicine Residency office and clinic. The highly anticipated opening of the clinic occurred serendipitously on Match Day, when faculty began seeing the first patients there. Between the clinical space and the dedicated educational space, along with the sheer scale of the building, there is truly no ground more fertile for learning. A formal ribbon cutting was held on April 26 and was attended by the Covington mayor, a Washington parish councilman, St. Tammany Health System CEO Joan Coffman, Ochsner Northshore CEO and fellow Family Medicine physician Dr. Tim Riddell, St. Tammany CMO Dr. Patrick Torcson, and Ochsner DIO Dr.

## Family Medicine Residency Program Director Reports, continued

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Rajiv Gala along with many other Directors from both institutions. The event and sentiments shared there were a testament to St. Tammany Health System's, Ochsner's, and the community's commitment to the success of the residency program and the vibrant future it holds.

Looking forward to an exciting and successful inaugural year,

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lisa Casey, MD**

**Program Director**