



General Assembly – July 24, 2026 – Destin, FL

Baton Rouge General Medical Center
Family Medicine Residency Program
Program Director: Desi Valentine, MD

The Baton Rouge General Family Medicine Residency Program continues to demonstrate strength, adaptability, and a deep commitment to preparing residents for independent practice and meaningful service to the Baton Rouge community. Amidst a year of transition, the program has remained stable and positive, with engaged residents, dedicated faculty, and ongoing innovation in both education and clinical training.

Our program currently includes 23 residents across three classes (PGY-1: 8, PGY-2: 7, PGY-3: 8). This year, we will graduate eight residents who are well prepared to enter autonomous practice and pursue advanced training. We successfully filled all residency positions through the Match without entering SOAP and are pleased to welcome a diverse incoming class that includes six J-1 international medical graduates and two U.S. graduates. We are excited to broaden our recruitment scope and welcome these new physicians as future colleagues within the Louisiana workforce.

Faculty engagement and scholarly activity remain program strengths. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Valeria Soegaard-Garcia, a program alumna, who joined the residency as full-time core faculty, bringing both clinical expertise and a deep understanding of our program's mission. Dr. Amber Robins was accepted into the STFM POCUS Educator's Certificate Program and is actively developing the residency's point-of-care ultrasound curriculum. Faculty scholarship has also been active, with panel discussions and poster presentations at regional and national meetings. Program leadership remains engaged at the state level through continued involvement in the Louisiana Residency Network, fostering collaboration and shared learning across family medicine programs.

Our residents continue to distinguish themselves through scholarship and postgraduate placement. Dr. LeaAnn Love presented a poster at the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine annual meeting, and additional team-based poster presentations were shared at local conferences. This year's graduating class achieved strong postgraduate outcomes, with Drs. LeaAnn Love and Kaitlyn Breau matching into the LSU Health Baton Rouge Sports Medicine Fellowship Program and Dr. Katie Fitzgerald matching into a Sleep Medicine Fellowship at SSM Health / Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Graduates not pursuing fellowship have successfully secured employment as family physicians, entering independent practice across a variety of clinical settings.

Educational innovation remains a priority. The program is actively developing an Academic Medicine Pathway for residents interested in clinician-educator careers. In addition, we are implementing a non-traditional 4+1 schedule model designed to improve resident wellness and continuity of care. Residents will complete four weeks of core rotations with weekly clinic exposure, followed by one full week of clinic. As this model is implemented, we will closely monitor continuity metrics, visit volume, and resident satisfaction to ensure educational quality remains strong.

Community engagement continues to be a core part of our mission. Residents partner with local community organizations to identify opportunities for meaningful impact and service. During the Community Health rotation, residents provide care for underserved populations through the Baton Rouge General Mobile Unit, gaining firsthand experience in outreach medicine and population health while strengthening ties within the community we serve.

Looking ahead, the residency remains focused on thoughtful faculty recruitment, continued curricular innovation, and expansion of scholarly and community engagement opportunities. We are proud of the program's resilience, growth, and

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the quality of physicians we are training, and we look forward to continuing to contribute to family medicine education in Louisiana.

Respectfully,

Desi R. Valentine, MD

Program Director

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