



General Assembly – July 24, 2026 – Destin, FL

LSU Health New Orleans at Lake Charles

Family Medicine Residency Program

Program Director: Danette Null, MD, FAAFP

Family Medicine Residency Annual Update

Spring in Louisiana always feels a bit symbolic. The days stretch longer, things that looked dormant suddenly show signs of life, and we're reminded that growth—both planned and unexpected—is a constant in family medicine training. This year has been no exception for our residency program, and we're delighted to share a snapshot of what's been sprouting and blooming.

New Beginnings

We are excited to welcome an outstanding incoming class of interns who will be joining us this summer. Welcome Drs. David Aghado, MD, from Houston, Texas (University of Texas School of Medicine – Galveston); Sylvester Bote, MD, from Innisfill, Ontario (American University of the Caribbean); Hannah Canter, DO, from Holmwood, Louisiana (Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Monroe); Gabriel LeBeouf, MD, from Kaplan, Louisiana (Louisiana State University School of Medicine – Shreveport); Javier Retamales, MD, from Bellaire, Texas (Universidad de Chile Facultad de Medicina); Elise Thibodeaux, MD, from Moss Bluff, Louisiana (Louisiana State University School of Medicine – Shreveport); and Sufian Zahid, MD, from Edmonton, Alberta (Sargodha Medical College). They bring fresh energy and curiosity to rejuvenate us in our care of others. Our faculty and senior residents are looking forward to supporting them as they begin building skills that will serve them and their patients for a lifetime.

We also pause to say farewell to our graduating senior residents and our Behavioral Health faculty, Reverend David DeWitt, D.Div, who leave behind strong roots and an even stronger legacy. Meanwhile, we remain actively engaged in recruiting a Behavioral Health faculty member to continue strengthening integrated care within our program. Holler if you know of a good fit for us!

Life Happens (Even During Residency)

If spring represents new life, this year truly embraced the theme. We were thrilled to celebrate SIX residency babies (and one more on the way)—each one joyfully welcomed and already mastering the art of disrupting sleep schedules. Add to that an engagement, and it's fair to say our program has been practicing family medicine both in clinic and at home.

A Productive Season

Over the past year, our residency continued to broaden its impact through education, community outreach, and clinical innovation:

- We hosted suturing workshops for local high school students, introducing future healthcare professionals to hands-on learning early.
- Our sports medicine affiliation with McNeese State University continues to expand and we welcomed Dr. Logan Soileau back to our community and sports medicine teaching faculty.
- Our free cervical cancer screening clinic remained an important avenue for preventive care in the community.
- Our Community Advisory Committee—made up of resident, patient, and community leader members—discussed the unique healthcare needs of our community, available resources, and how the residency can be even more engaged in the community.
- Longstanding traditions continued, including our annual gumbo potluck, which once again demonstrated that residency morale improves significantly when roux is involved.

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- In collaboration with AHEC, we supported suture clinics for medical students and participated in Windows to Healthcare, encouraging local students to envision careers in medicine.
- Residents provided health education to local industry employees and provided health screening opportunities for Calcasieu Parish Sheriff employees.
- Faculty and residents continue to help lead a five-parish pre-participation sports physical clinic, promoting the safety of young athletes across the region.
- We carved out time for reflection and wellness during our residency retreat at Camp Pearl and a Winter Respite Retreat for interns.
- Our POCUS curriculum is going strong and expanding into our outpatient areas.

Reflections from the Season

Spring also invites reflection—a reminder that steady attention matters. Whether nurturing new interns, expanding programs, or balancing life outside the hospital, growth depends on showing up consistently and taking care of what matters. This is at the forefront of my mind as our youngest child leaves our nest for university life.

As we move toward summer, we're proud of our residents, grateful for our faculty, and energized by what lies ahead. Family medicine remains grounded in relationships, adaptability, and resilience—and this year reminded us how well those values apply both professionally and personally.

Here's to another year of meaningful growth, shared milestones, and compassionate care.

Blessings,

Danette Null, MD, FAAFP
Program Director