



**May-June 2021 *Residency Times*  
From Your DIO**

Our hospital partners maintain their strong commitment to improvements in the clinical learning environment. Once again, Ascension Providence residents' active engagement in quality improvement and patient safety research (since 2016, 100% of all residents have participated) was a highlight. GME collaborated with the Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, and Transitional Year programs to hold a virtual [QI Research Day](#) in May, attended by more than 80 people. Across the year, residents' research has been showcased in local conferences such as Southeast Michigan Continuing Medical Education's QIPS Summit and Research Forum as well as state and national meetings such as SGIM, ACP-Michigan, ATS, and CHEST. One team in Internal Medicine achieved national recognition for its research on COVID and twins (see the March-April edition of *Residency Times*). Our residents and faculty were active participants in the WSUSOM's 2nd Annual Medical Education and Research Innovation conference, held as virtual event on Dec. 8, as well as the 5th Annual Dept. of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences [Research Day](#), held on April 21.

GME encourages resident scholarly activity via its Seed Grant program, which can be used to support QI and research projects and achieve robust study designs and outcomes. In 2020-21, residents and faculty have taken advantage of this incentive; this past year, all available funding was awarded via competitive application. We will begin to accept Seed Grant [applications](#) for 2021-22 starting in late summer.

In 2021, WSUGME's established wellness initiative was more relevant than ever. Our [Resident](#)

[Wellness Scale](#) has provided us with useful information on wellness indicators and outcomes, and the 2021 GME survey included questions specific to the pandemic situation. An [update](#) on our wellness initiative was published in the *Ochsner Journal* this spring. GME continues its commitment to medical education research, with several manuscripts currently under review.

The Resident Council accomplished several of its goals for 2020-21, most notably organizing and hosting a virtual [Annual Professional Development Symposium](#) on the theme “Leadership in Medicine: Past, Present, and Future,” held on April 13. Panelists included Sheryl Wissman, MD, the Chief Medical Officer of Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital; Steven Daveluy, MD, Dermatology Residency Program Director; Ijeoma Opara, MD, Asst. Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine; and Caleb Sokolowski and Peter Dimitrion, WSUSOM students who co-founded *Leading the Rounds*, a podcast on leadership in medicine.

We look forward to welcoming our incoming class of 44 interns via a virtual New Resident Orientation to be held on June 29. Dean of the WSU School of Medicine Dr. Mark Schweitzer is scheduled to provide welcoming remarks once again. Nearly 23% of our new residents received their medical degrees from the WSU School of Medicine, and the incoming class includes 3 residents in the Family Medicine-Urban Track and 2 residents in the Preventive Medicine program, both supported under the auspices of [MIDOCs](#) (Michigan Doctors). Designed to create a pipeline for physicians committed to providing primary care in rural and underserved areas in the state of Michigan, MIDOCs-sponsored residents are eligible for partial educational loan repayment. During July and August, GME will carry out another virtual OSCE, with interns and PGY1s participating in four simulated-patient encounters as a means to assess and improve our residents’ clinical communication skills.

WSUSOM residents and faculty are deeply committed to reducing health disparities and improving

patients' lives. The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority populations has made the challenge of achieving health equity more critical than ever. In the summer of 2020, GME established a Health Disparities Task Force comprising faculty, residents, and GME staff to assist our residency programs incorporate HD training as a permanent curricular component. I encourage all residency program leadership to explore options for achieving this, albeit in accord with the opportunities and requirements specific to their specialty. The HD Task Force developed a list of recommendations, suggested components, and a comprehensive resource site on Canvas.

As we move toward the end of the 2020-21 academic year, the GME staff and I look forward to continuing productive collaborations with program leadership and residents on all aspects of our educational mission.

*Anne*

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