



Cortney Cole, MD

Family Medicine Residency Program graduate, 2020

As a recent graduate from WSUSOM's Family Medicine Residency program, I am very grateful to my attendings, peers, and all APRH staff who fostered a diverse and welcoming environment. As residents, we all have the opportunity to discuss advance care planning, complex ethical issues, and terminal illness with patients and their families. Being the first physician in my family, I never would have predicted my career would lead me to a one-year fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) at the University of Michigan in July 2021. Hospice and Palliative Medicine focuses on the patient and provides comfort in times of dire circumstances, while also assisting the patient and family to understand their prognosis and medical goals. Through personal tragedy and several patient encounters during residency, my appreciation and passion for hospice care grew. Although accredited and in increasing demand, HPM still remains highly stigmatized in the perception of the public and even in medical education. According to the NRMP Match data for 2020, there were 381 available positions with 159 programs nationwide. At U of M, I'll have diverse patient exposure from rotations at the VA, Arbor Hospice, University Hospital, and Mott Children's Hospital. If you are interested in HPM, please visit AAHPM, reach out to a mentor or alumni who completed an HPM fellowship, or contact me at beepermail15@gmail.com. I am truly honored to be a part of the U of M HPM holistic team in Ann Arbor, Michigan. After the HPM fellowship, I plan to pursue Hospice medicine with the possibility of continuing to provide primary care part-time.