



### **July-Aug 2021 Residency Times**

Faculty Spotlight: Eleanor King, Family Medicine (FM) Program Director  
Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

GME is pleased to announce the promotion of FM Associate Program Director Eleanor King to Program Director, effective July 1. Dr. King has been a highly valued member of the FM faculty since joining as Clinical Assistant Professor in 2018. She is the Medical Director of the Rochester Academic Family Medicine Clinic and with this promotion will also direct MIDOCS, a state-funded program designed to recruit and retain primary-care physicians in underserved areas of Michigan.

### **RT: Where are you from, and where did you grow up?**

**EK:** Cheboygan, Michigan. Best kept secret in Michigan!! I received a degree in biology from Alma College, and my medical degree from WSUSOM in 2015. I completed my residency training in Family Medicine at Crittenton, now called Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital.

### **When did you decide to pursue medicine as a profession?**

Not until my junior year of college. I realized I didn't want to stop going to school and my mom gave me the brilliant idea that medicine was a great way to stay in school and I totally fell for it. Thanks, mom!

### **Why did you choose Family Medicine and primary care?**

My beloved hometown, Cheboygan, is like something out of a Hallmark movie. We boast true family doctors who take care of everyone. One physician, Dr. Mark Drogowski, took care of my whole family. He delivered my siblings, helped my grandparents, did my school physicals—the works. I genuinely did not know that there were specialties when I started med school. I thought everyone finishes residency as a GP and then if they want to specialize, they do an “apprenticeship.” I have no idea where I got this idea, but it may have stemmed from watching *Doc Martin*. In retrospect, it seems that everything I knew about American medicine came from a British television show. I just thought the only doctors I knew (Dr. Drogowski and Doc Martin), had to be what being a doctor was. I still think FM is the best representation of medicine, and in a perfect world all doctors would be like my two idols.

During medical school I really focused on appreciating urban living. I had never really spent much time in a big city and that preoccupied my 4 years of medical school. I studied, had a few friends, and enjoyed the city. I didn't have a car or even a driver's license when I moved to Detroit. I remember biking to Eastern Market on Saturday for groceries and reveling in this metropolitan life I was living.

**Do you have a philosophy of leadership in medicine?**

Being a leader is stepping in when you're needed. At WSUSOM I was surrounded by academic superstars, PhD candidates and engineers. I didn't feel like my services were necessarily needed in a leadership capacity. After my residency training, things changed. I saw gaps I could fill in and I did. I saw patients with needs and nobody else trying to serve them. I saw supplies that needed to be inventoried, curricula that needed to be developed, policies that didn't exist. My philosophy is that leadership is serving a real need rather than creating a need just to be a leader. In many ways, I feel like more of a leader doing an inventory of forceps than I do being on a subcommittee.

**What are your current research interests? Does your research inform your clinical teaching?**

I struggle with research because I like instant gratification. I like to see a problem, fix it, and move to the next. Research is seeing a problem, drafting an abstract of the problem and proposed solution, obtaining IRB approval, collecting data, reviewing data . . . The scientific method takes too long for someone like me! But on the flip side, I love to read other people's research and scholarship and apply it to my teaching and clinical decision-making. I just do not have the patience to be the creator.

**Could you describe your approach to clinical teaching?**

My philosophy is that we as physician educators need to learn *with* our students. We need to see a patient, acknowledge what we don't know and find the answer together. Those create the most impactful teaching moments that last a lifetime.

**What was the best book you've read recently?**

The smartest book I recently read was *Educated: A Memoir*, by Tara Westover. However, I would be lying if I didn't tell you that for every "smart" book I read, I read five sci-fi, fantasy or romance novels.