



Sept-Oct 2020 Residency Times
From Your DIO (continued)

WSUGME's ongoing wellness initiative is particularly relevant given the events of the past 10 months.

Our [Resident Wellness Scale](#) has provided us with much useful data on wellness indicators and outcomes, and the 2020 GME survey contained questions specific to the effect of the pandemic on residents' psychological and physical well-being. In addition to an update on our wellness initiative to be published in the *Ochsner Journal* shortly, WSUGME will disseminate our research on the impact of COVID-19 on our programs' culture of wellness next year.

Our incoming class of 46 residents was introduced to graduate medical training via a successful virtual Orientation, which included a heartfelt and enthusiastic welcome from the new Dean of the WSU School of Medicine Dr. Mark Schweitzer. This would seem an especially difficult time to begin residency training, but it is also true that the pandemic offers opportunities for the development of clinical expertise in the realities of treating infectious disease in the 21st century.

In that class of 46 were 4 new residents destined for the Family Medicine-Urban Track and 2 inaugural residents in the new Preventive Medicine program, both supported under the auspices of [MIDOCs](#) (Michigan Doctors). (See the *Resident Spotlight* in this issue for an interview with incoming FM-UT resident and MIDOCS Advisory Council member Dr. Haria Henry.) Designed to increase the number of primary-care residency positions and create a pipeline for physicians committed to practicing in rural and underserved areas in our state, MIDOCS-sponsored residents are eligible for partial educational loan repayment and also receive graduate training in public health.

GME completed another year of OSCE training, with 83 residents participating in 4 simulated-patient encounters conducted entirely as virtual exercises last summer. Our preliminary data analysis revealed some interesting and timely results that we believe will have implications for the anticipated routinization of telehealth as the duration of the pandemic extends beyond 2020.

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 standout. These residents' research has been accepted by local, state, and national conferences as virtual presentations, and several projects are moving into publication. Although Ascension's Quality Improvement Research Day -- originally scheduled for May -- was ultimately cancelled, GME collaborated with the Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, and Transitional Year programs to produce a [compendium](#) detailing the residents' outstanding projects.

The 2019-20 Seed Grant awardees are now posted on the GME website. On average, 82% of residents in all our programs engage in quality improvement initiatives, and a Seed Grant can be used to fund aspects of projects to achieve robust study designs and outcomes. We are now accepting Seed Grant [applications](#) for 2020-21.

Despite the upheavals and uncertainties of 2020, I am gratified to affirm that our clinical partners, faculty, resident and fellow trainees, and administrative support staff maintained the highest standard of professionalism and dedication to achieving the best in clinical education and patient care.

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