

Saint Joseph Hospital Family Medicine Residency

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Curriculum

PGY 1

- FM Inpatient Service (FMS) approx. 6 weeks
- Internal Medicine 1 month
- Intensive Care Unit 1 month
- Obstetrics 2 months
- Pediatric EM @ Denver Health 1 month
- Pediatrics - Inpatient @ Children's Hospital 1 month
- Newborn 1 month
- Geriatrics 1 month
- General Surgery (Outpatient) 2 weeks
- Emergency Medicine 2 weeks
- Behavioral Health 2 weeks
- Clinic orientation 2 weeks
- Elective 1 month
- 1-3 half days per week of continuity clinic
- Longitudinal Curriculum: Community Medicine, Medical Spanish, Long term nursing home care

PGY 2

- Career Development Selective 1 month
- FM Inpatient Service approx. 6 weeks
- FM - Night Float Two 2-week blocks
- Internal Medicine 1 month

- Intensive Care Unit 1 month
- Obstetrics 1 month
- Orthopedics 2 weeks
- Pediatrics - ambulatory subspecialty 1 month
- Rural Medicine 1 month
- Surgical Procedures 1 month
- Elective 1 month
- Emergency Medicine 2 weeks
- Clinic Intensive 2 weeks
- 2-4 half days per week of continuity clinic
- Longitudinal Curriculum: Community Medicine, Medical Spanish, Long term nursing home care

PGY 3

- Dermatology 1 month
- Trauma 1 month
- FM Inpatient Service approx. 6 weeks
- FM - Night Float 2 weeks
- Clinic Intensive 1 month
- Gynecology 1 month
- Management of Health Systems 2 weeks
- Pediatric Outpatient 1 month
- Sports Medicine 1 month
- Electives 3.5 months
- 4-5 half days per week of continuity clinic
- Longitudinal Curriculum: Community Medicine, Medical Spanish, Long term nursing home care

Our curriculum is designed to fully prepare residents for any setting after graduation. Our rotations and training represent a balance of foundational family medicine, including outpatient, inpatient, obstetrics, pediatrics, geriatrics, and procedures.

Saint Joe's is a particularly excellent program for those considering full-spectrum practice in the future. Our more intense rotations, while challenging, will expand your knowledge and skills. In comparison, other rotations are more relaxed and allow for more decompression and personal time. All rotations are structured to maximize learning opportunities and respect the resident's time and efforts. Lastly, our ample flexibility and elective opportunities allow residents to cater training to their specific interests and goals.



Collaborative Training

Saint Joseph Hospital hosts four residency programs: FM, IM, OB/GYN and General Surgery. While it may not be true everywhere, at Saint Joe's we strongly value this collaborative training. We work and play well together; benefit and learn from each other. Residents rotate with the other specialties which creates meaningful relationships and deeper understanding. The hospital and residency clinics are teaching institutions to the core, which means residents enjoy consistent autonomy from patients, attendings, specialists and staff. As a busy hospital, there are plenty of patients and procedures for all of us. Lastly, we support each other on all levels, from the residents to the highest levels of leadership.

Select Rotation Information

- **Family Medicine Service (FMS):** Full-spectrum (newborns, OB, adult, ICU) family medicine inpatient service at Saint Joseph hospital staffed by our residency faculty. Internal Medicine: Work with internal medicine residents on an adult inpatient service at Saint Joseph Hospital.
- **Intensive Care Unit (ICU):** Work with internal medicine residents on a multidisciplinary team in the ICU at Saint Joseph Hospital staffed by critical care intensivists.
- **Obstetrics:** High-risk and low-risk labor and delivery, triage, and postpartum experience.
- **General Surgery:** Hybrid inpatient/outpatient rotation in which residents work with surgery residents doing consults, operations, and pre-op/post-op visits. Residents also work with FM faculty doing outpatient procedures such as skin biopsies and vasectomies.
- **Rural:** Spend a month of 2nd year in rural Colorado (housing provided) learning rural medicine.
- **Career Development:** Work with a mentor to design a 2-week elective for self-exploration, goals and values identification and to try out different career possibilities.
- **Acute Care Orthopedics/Trauma:** Spend 2-4 weeks at Winter Park or Snowmass Mountain clinics learning high altitude medicine and how to take care of acute orthopedic injuries.



Community Medicine Curriculum

- During PGY1, residents have protected time to orient themselves to the community we serve. Highly motivated residents may find time to establish and continue a partnership into PGY2 with a community organization of their choice.
- Third year residents have approximately one half-day per month blocked to work with one of our community partners. Some of our partners:
 - Urban Peak Youth Shelter Clinic: work with one of our faculty providing clinical care to homeless teens and young adults
 - Career Coach Mentoring: mentor 10th or 11th grade students at a local high school who are interested in health careers
 - Metro Caring: assist in keeping shelves stocked or participate in food and education projects at a local hunger prevention organization
 - Lardon Hall: provide care for a patient population with developmental and intellectual disabilities

Spanish Language Training

This training improves Spanish proficiency among providers and staff at all levels to improve patient care and interactions for our large Spanish-speaking population. Training includes:

- Monthly 90-minute multilevel Medical Spanish classes for all residents
- Four-day pre-orientation intensive Medical Spanish course for new interns
- Optional: Spanish language acquisition and immersion! Residents may apply for funding to take a two-week medical Spanish immersion in Guatemala or Costa Rica (or do virtual classes if travel restricted)

Electives

In addition to the wide range of existing elective rotations, residents can create their own rotations tailored to meet their educational needs. Some examples include international and rural rotations as well as integrative medicine. Residents have progressively more time for electives each year of training with a great deal of flexibility in their third year.

Health Equity and Social Justice

We recognize that our diverse patient population is at risk for poor health outcomes secondary to inequities in our health care system and systemic racism in the world. We also recognize the opportunity to address health equity as a core part of our residency curriculum. Included in this is our program's approach to teaching and practicing anti-racism, our intention to promote and become a more diverse and inclusive community, and our work in leadership and advocacy. Our work in the realm of social justice and health equity encompasses five broad categories:

1. Population and patient panel management, with a particular focus on addressing health disparities

- Introduction to concepts of population health and panel management, and learning to use population health tools available in the electronic health record
- Identifying and addressing disparities in care among various patient groups on panels (i.e. African American patients, Latino patients, older adults, etc.)
- Using a team-based approach to address care gaps and health disparities
- Regularly incorporating how health disparities have large downstream effects in daily didactic teaching
- Reinforcing and teaching skills that help to prevent burnout and promote our residents to work in low resource settings post-residency

2. Advocacy and Leadership

- Introduction to different forms of advocacy in medicine starting first year that continues into a longitudinal community medicine curriculum
- Directly engaging in graduate medical education changes that affect all 4 residencies at an annual institution review
- Learning how to advocate on a larger scale (i.e. writing a letter to local legislators, testifying on bills)
- Partnering with the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians in their Doc of the Day Program to provide medical services and learn advocacy during the legislative session

3. Community Engagement

- Orienting our new residents to the communities we serve via intentional dedicated time to observe and experience some of the cultures in the community
- Partnering with different programs and institutions (i.e. foodbanks, high schools with high percentages of BIPOC students, and nurse partnerships that support first time mothers) in the surrounding communities with a longitudinal experience beginning in the first year of residency
 - Highly motivated residents may find time or utilize elective time to engage further with the community partner of their choice in PGY2
 - PGY3 residents have approximately one-half day per month blocked to work with one of our community partners

4. Addressing Diversity and Inclusion within our residency program and in the clinic

- Continually striving to recruit and retain residents and faculty with diverse perspectives and experiences
- Annually dedicate an academic half-day on Implicit/unconscious bias training for resident and faculty physicians
- Partnering with community organizations to encourage URM youth to consider and pursue health careers to better serve communities in the future
- Participating in the SJH GME residency-wide physician mentoring program for BIPOC residents

5. Curriculum

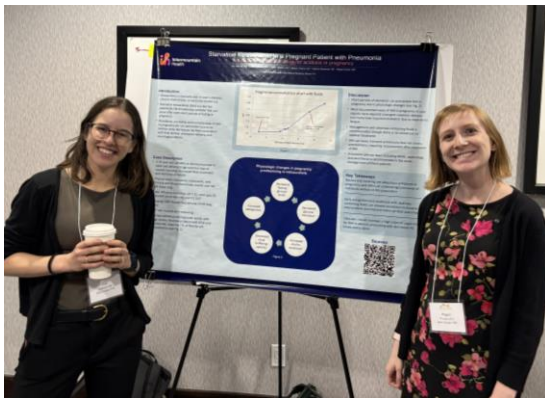
- Our longitudinal didactic curriculum includes exposure to the following topics: anti-racism and anti-sexism in medicine, care management and community health workers, care for the LGBTQ+ community, immigrant care, public health, and global health
- Promoting our providers to constantly improve their Spanish language proficiency and utilization of interpreter services in a patient centered manner. This consists of:
 - Monthly medical Spanish classes
 - Four-day intensive medical Spanish course during orientation for all incoming PGY1 residents of any speaking proficiency level
 - Financially supported Spanish language acquisition and immersion. Residents may apply to take a two-week medical Spanish immersion experience in another country, or locally if desired
 - Feedback from intermittent direct faculty observation on patient-centered communication skills while using interpreter systems

Quality Improvement

At Bruner Family Medicine, we are committed to being a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH). This requires us to routinely evaluate ourselves and continuously improve in the areas of quality of patient care, quality of patient communication, and team-based care practices. We believe that this structure of primary care is a model for the future and really puts the patient at the center of everything we do.



RMRF 2026



As a physician at Bruner Family Medicine, you will learn about PCMH principles and have the opportunity to practice team-based quality improvement (QI) from the first days in clinic. You will participate in our team meetings, which are focused on various QI projects as they relate to preventive medicine and chronic disease management for our patients.

Your first year is primarily focused on learning QI tools and processes used in the clinic. During your second and third year, you will be encouraged to take on a leadership role and help direct the team through project

creation, developing SMART goals, and implementing successive Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles. You will have the opportunity to present your QI work as one of the required scholarly activities for residency and have a working knowledge of QI that can be applied in your future career no matter where you find yourself practicing medicine.

Examples of quality improvement projects that residents have presented at various conferences:

- Sandhu S., Sorenson L., Bonner A., Demaestri S., Rosenbaum S., Nolan M., Berg C., Pruett K., Cardwell A., Munger E., Herrera A., Harper M. (2025, April 4). IUD Pain Management: Bridging Knowledge Gaps and Streamlining Workflow in Resident Training [Poster presented]. Rocky Mountain Research Forum.
- Peterson R., Martinez S., Akerson J., Savadel S., Rosenbaum S., Herrera A., Sandhu S., Burdick J., Montes X. (2024, May 10). The BenefIT of Instrucciones por Todos: A QI Initiative to

Increase Rates of FIT Testing Completion within a Spanish-Speaking Clinic Population
[Poster Presented]. Rocky Mountain Research Forum.

- Sandhu, S., Rosencrans, A., Chu, J., Wang, M., Demaestri, S., Cardwell, A., (March 2026).
Impact of Standardized Pediatric Well Visit Documentation on Recommended Screening
Intervention. Poster presentation at Rocky Mountain Research Forum.