Education at URMC – Program Features

Program: Internal Medicine-Pediatrics
Program Director: Brett Robbins, MD
Program Coordinator: Betty Aman
Current Resident Members: 32
Current Faculty Members: 7 full time and 15 community based Med-Peds faculty
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About the Program

Since 1967, the Departments of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Rochester have offered a four-year postdoctoral residency training program in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Graduates of the program, who become board eligible in both specialties, have pursued careers in primary care, subspecialty practices, academia, and international or public health.

The fundamental goal of the Internal Medicine-Pediatrics (Med-Peds) program is to educate physicians who wish to provide health care for people of all ages. The rigorous curriculum prepares graduates to provide direct patient care, pursue further study in a subspecialty, and to participate in worldwide health care delivery. Above all, each graduate of the Med-Peds program becomes a competent, thorough physician with an in-depth knowledge of both specialties.
Facilities

Med-Peds residents rotate through three participating hospitals during their four years of training. The majority of pediatric rotations are at Strong Memorial Hospital, the primary teaching hospital of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Strong Memorial Hospital has a total of 710 inpatient beds with 110 pediatric beds and bassinets, including neonatal and pediatric intensive care units.

When on Pediatric rotations, residents spend 20% of their time at Rochester General Hospital, a 526-bed full-service major teaching affiliate of the University of Rochester. Rochester General is located in the northern sector of the city of Rochester, it has 24 pediatric beds, 40 bassinets, a Level II intensive care nursery, and a full-service pediatric emergency department and ambulatory unit.

Internal Medicine rotations for Med-Peds residents include experiences at Strong Memorial Hospital and Highland Hospital. Residents spend 80-90% of their time in Internal Medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital. The remaining 10-20% of time is spent on rotations at Highland Hospital on inpatient units, in the emergency department, and on overnight rotations. Each hospital has full-time university-appointed subspecialty and general medicine faculty with responsibility for education of both residents and medical students.

Curriculum

Med-Peds residents rotate through both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics venues over their four years, making the switch every three months as an intern. Second and third year residents switch every four months to give them exposure to seasonal diseases, and fourth year residents switch every 3-6 months depending on their career paths.

We have two community-based ambulatory training sites for the residents’ continuity clinics, both staffed by Med-Peds faculty at the University of Rochester. Interns spend one half-day per week and residents spend two half-days per week in these sites with their own panel of patients and consistent preceptors. Didactic education at these sites includes health maintenance and common ambulatory problems of adults and children, women’s health, office orthopedics, nutrition, and board review.

Research

We offer a research track for residents to pursue mentored scholarly work during their second, third, and fourth years of training. The primary goal of the research track is to provide structured mentorship to complete a research project and develop the skills necessary for future academic and/or subspecialty careers. Projects are designed to align with individual career or fellowship goals. Mentorship is provided to assist with project design, methodology, and implementation. Residents in the track meet on a regular basis to discuss their ongoing projects with their peers and mentors. The research experience culminates with a peer and faculty reviewed project that is presented at a research seminar. With successful completion of this track, residents receive “Distinction in Research” upon graduation.
What makes us Unique?

Global Health Track
The Global Health Track (GHT) is designed to provide 8 weeks of time over the course of the residency to pursue involvement in Global Health activities. Maximum flexibility is afforded to allow for the development of individual interests. A project is required to complete participation in the GHT. Although research is encouraged, the project may be training based, community based, and/or result in publication/presentation. Mentorship will be provided to help design projects, identify overseas opportunities, choose among opportunities, and steer GHT activities towards individual career goals. The GHT track will include every-other month presentations/seminars from Global Health professionals as well as quarterly Global Health Seminars. All didactic activities will be scheduled to accommodate GHT resident schedules. GHT residents will be encouraged to participate in Global Health activities that are sponsored by other departments and schools at the University of Rochester. With successful completion of this track, residents receive “Distinction in Global Health” upon graduation.

Community Advocacy Track
In 2000, the Pediatrics Residency Program and the Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong were awarded a grant from the national Dyson Foundation which allowed the program to expand resident education to include the Child Advocacy Resident Education Track (CARE). The CARE Track has facilitated additional partnerships between second, third, and fourth year residents and the community, developing critical skills for residents while also benefiting children in the Rochester area as each resident works on a two or three-year longitudinal project. The CARE Track includes a two-week intensive training block for senior residents and subsequent monthly seminars in public health policy, project development, implementation and evaluation, cultural competency, and leadership, along with mentoring from both community experts and academic faculty. Since the CARE Track was implemented, there have been 67 resident participants whose project areas have reflected a wide variety of child health issues and a growing number of community partners.

Combined Electives
We offer six combined electives where the resident spends one month rotating in both the adult and pediatric components of a subspecialty. These include hematology-oncology, neurology, rheumatology, gastroenterology, pulmonary, and endocrine. Other combined electives may be created to suit individual learning needs.

Longevity and Synthesis
We have been educating residents for careers in the care of both adults and children since 1967. Over these decades we have become quite familiar with the logistics of Med-Peds training and made improvements with the input of the current residents and graduates. The program now provides a seamless educational experience in two strong and supportive residency programs of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.