

September 26, 2019
2017-2018 Annual Report to the GAFFP

The Medical Center of Central Georgia/Mercer University School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program had a productive academic year.

We are working with Mercer School of medicine to increase Family Medicine doctors in underserved Georgia by accelerating select students through medical school in three years in a compact and robust curriculum that includes being integrated in the residency program that the student will transition to at the end of the three years of medical school. Upon completion of residency training these doctors will practice in an underserved area in Georgia.

We received a grant from the Navicent Foundation for a community outreach program Walk With A Doctor. This program is designed to promote physical activity for community dwelling people. A resident or faculty member presents a health-related topic and then there is a 45-minute walk in the park with the participants and the physicians. Healthy snacks are served and information on having a primary care doctor is shared. The objectives are to develop a relationship with the community for the residency program and to provide an opportunity to increase physical activity for the community members. The event is free and open to the public.

The program continues to have a 100% American Board of Family Medicine take and pass rate of the accreditation examination. The program also has a 100% take and pass rate for the USMLE Step 3 exam by the end of the PGY 2 year. We matched 7 of 7 positions in the Matched and filled one of our positions with the ACT student from Mercer that I described earlier. Of our seven 2019 residency graduates, four are practicing outpatient medicine in Georgia, one is in the geriatric fellowship we sponsor, and two are practicing outside of Georgia. Over the last five years 77% of our graduates remained in Georgia.

We continue to have very active and productive fellowships with Geriatrics, Hospice and Palliative Medicine. We graduated our first fellow from our non-accredited Addiction Medicine Fellowship. We are actively looking to recruit a fellow for this experience this year.

Issues facing our training program include but are not limited to the following:

- Increasing the patient population of children under the age of 10 years
- The need for more talented, committed, and passionate Residency faculty as two of our faculty members will be retiring June 2020.
- Negotiating salaries for faculty and staff that is competitive for the market

Respectfully submitted,

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