

MARCH 2025

ACADEMIC INSIDER



DHRHealth

Graduate Medical
Education

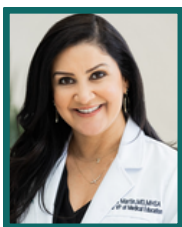
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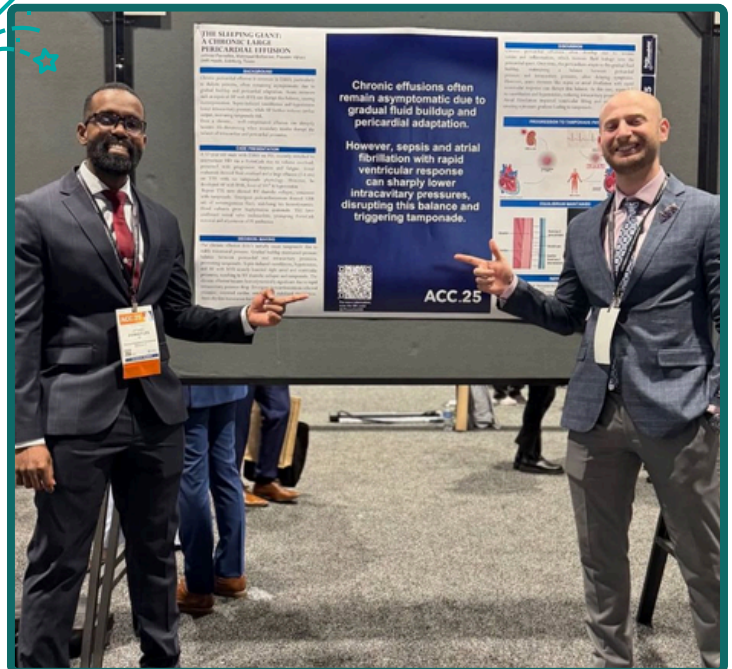
DHRHealth

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF



Jessica Martin, MD, MHA
Senior Vice President of Medical Education
Designated Institutional Official

Congratulations to Internal Medicine PGY-2 Residents, Dr. Panneflek & Dr. Barbarawi!



We are proud to recognize **Dr. Jathniel Panneflek** and **Dr. Mahmoud Barbarawi**, our outstanding **PGY-2 residents**, for presenting their scholarly display at American College of Cardiology 2025. Their work, titled **“The Sleeping Giant: A Chronic Large Pericardial Effusion,”** exemplifies clinical insight and academic excellence.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY



In celebration of the Smart Sippin' competition, part of our Resident Forum GME Subcommittee, the **DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY** team took the opportunity to share samples of the winning smoothies creation with colleagues and visitors alike.

The **Smart Sippin' competition**, which took place earlier in the month of March, was a lighthearted and fun event designed to encourage departments across the organization to develop innovative, nutritious, and delicious beverage creations. *Each team was tasked with incorporating health-conscious ingredients, aiming not only to satisfy the taste buds but also to promote well-being and nutritional awareness among participants.*

EMERGENCY MEDICINE



EMERGENCY MEDICINE resident, **Andre Roman** participated in the, Levitan/Rezaie Practical Airway Course in Bulverde TX, a course by **Dr. Levitan and Dr. Rezaie on crisis performance, oxygenation, airway anatomy, laryngoscopy, endoscopy, pediatrics, rescue oxygenation techniques and critical care.**

As part of our ongoing commitment to resident well-being, the Emergency Medicine department organized a Wellness Saturday event, where residents and their families were invited to attend a Vipers game.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

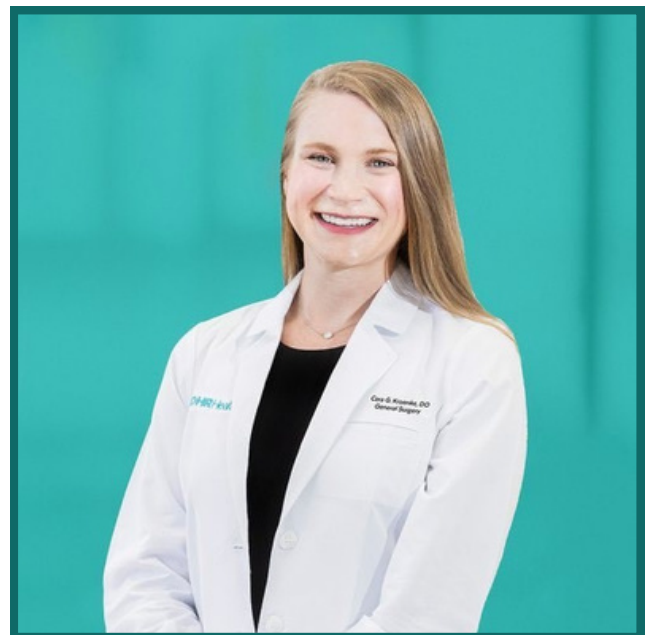
FAMILY MEDICINE

The **FAMILY MEDICINE** Program Director, **Dr. D' Acolatse** hosted TAFP President **Dr. Lindsay Botsford** for a breakfast meet-and-greet with the DHR Family Medicine Residency Program. As a TAFP Valley Chapter Board member, **Dr. D' Acolatse** aimed to provide **Dr. Botsford** with insights into the community, local medical schools, and residency programs. The Family Medicine residents also shared their experiences and perspectives from their time at DHR, giving **Dr. Botsford** a deeper understanding of the impact TAFP makes in the Rio Grande Valley.



Dr. Cera Kroenke, a member of our **GENERAL SURGERY** core faculty, recently took the lead in facilitating a **Well-Being Grand Rounds** session aimed at promoting resident wellness and mental health. Acknowledging the high levels of stress and fatigue that often accompany the rigorous demands of surgical training, **Dr. Kroenke** thoughtfully curated a session specifically designed to help residents pause, recharge, and reconnect with themselves. *The event featured guided meditation exercises, mindfulness techniques, and a supportive environment that encouraged participants to temporarily step away from their professional responsibilities and focus on self-care.* The session left residents feeling not only relaxed and refreshed but also better equipped to handle the upcoming challenges of their demanding schedules with a renewed sense of clarity, energy, and enthusiasm.

GENERAL SURGERY



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

INTERNAL MEDICINE

The **INTERNAL MEDICINE** residency program recently underwent an ACGME site visit as part of its ongoing accreditation and quality assurance process. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the program's strengths, highlight recent improvements, and engage in constructive dialogue with the review team. ***Faculty, residents, and staff participated actively, reflecting the program's strong sense of collaboration and commitment to excellence.*** We look forward to receiving the final report and continuing to advance the quality of our training program.



Our **UROLOGY** Residency Program is proud to spotlight a significant milestone in our department's history. **Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Aguilar** recently performed ***DHR Health's very first robotic ureteroplasty with appendiceal interposition***—a highly complex and innovative procedure. This accomplishment reflects the growing surgical expertise within our program and underscores our commitment to advancing patient care through cutting-edge technology. We are especially grateful for the unwavering mentorship and guidance of our dedicated faculty, whose commitment to education and surgical excellence continues to inspire and shape the next generation of urologists. Moments like these highlight the strength of our training program and the collaborative spirit that drives us forward.

UROLOGY



FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

In March, **BARIATRIC SURGERY** Fellow, **Dr. Maya Paige**, completed an Obesity Medicine Rotation with Dr. Michelle Cordoba-Kissee, focusing on the benefits of bariatric surgery within a multidisciplinary approach. This teamwork enhances outcomes by addressing obesity-related comorbidities like type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and sleep apnea.

*"Initially focused on surgical aspects, my time with Dr. Cordoba-Kissee broadened my perspective, emphasizing the importance of treating the whole patient. **Each day brought new challenges and learning opportunities that encouraged me to explore the reasoning behind clinical decisions.** This experience has deepened my approach to patient care, providing valuable insights to carry forward in my practice."* - Dr. Maya Paige

BARIATRIC SURGERY



SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

Our **SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE FELLOWSHIP** is proud to recognize and celebrate the outstanding work of our **Program Director, Dr. Jeffrey Skubic**, who recently had the distinguished honor of presenting at the prestigious Congreso de Cirugía in Monterrey, Mexico. **Representing our program on an international stage, Dr. Skubic delivered an insightful and impactful presentation titled "Trauma Surgery and Acute Care: Rapid Response and Evolving Strategies."**

We are incredibly proud of Dr. Skubic's leadership, expertise, and continued commitment to advancing the field through both education and innovation.

INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Match Day

Graduate Medical Education (GME) proudly celebrates **Match Day**, a momentous occasion that marks the official welcome of the newest incoming residents to our medical community. This highly anticipated day is the culmination of years of academic dedication and clinical preparation, and it represents a transformative milestone in the lives of future physicians.

In a series of coordinated announcements, each Program Director and Program Coordinator formally introduce their matched residents, sharing the exciting news with faculty, current residents, and staff. *The day is filled with a spirit of celebration, unity, and pride, as institutions come together to recognize the exceptional achievements of these individuals and to highlight the strength and diversity of their residency programs.*


Through festive gatherings, speeches, and meaningful ceremonial moments, Match Day not only honors the accomplishments of **incoming residents** but also reinforces the vital role of GME in shaping the next generation of healthcare leaders.

2025-2026





WE MATCHED!Obstetrics-Gynecology




Lucinda Hinojosa, MD University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, USA
Carlos Mondragon, MD Universidad Americana Nicaragua
Claire Sundjaja, MD University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio, USA
Bartosz Witczak, MD Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

2025-2026




WE MATCHED!General Surgery




Yahaira Carpio Colmenares, MD Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia Facultad de Medicina Alberto Hurtado, Peru
Emma Cisneros, DO University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine, USA
Jesus Herrera Gonzalez, MB Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen Medizinische Fakultät, Germany
Muhammad Khan, MD Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, USA

2025-2026




WE MATCHED!Emergency Medicine



Adetutu Akinyode, MD Saint James School of Medicine St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Dawit Bacha, MD St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia
Maikel Falcon, MD Universidad de Ciencias Médicas de la Habana, Cuba

2025-2026

WE MATCHED!Emergency Medicine



Guillermo Focerrada, MD Universidad de la Salle Facultad Mexicana de Medicina, Mexico
Maria Laboy, MD Ross University School of Medicine, Barbados
Armando Moreno, DO University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine, USA

2025-2026

WE MATCHED!Bariatric Surgery

Alfredo Rene Lopez, MD
University of Texas Medical Branch
School of Medicine, USA

INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

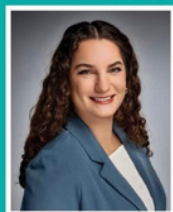
Match Day



WE MATCHED!

2025-2026

Urology



Bernardita Ljubetic, MD

Universidad de Los Andes Facultad de Medicina, Chile



WE MATCHED!

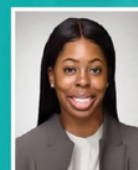
2025-2026

Diagnostic Radiology



Joseph Barraza, DO

Sam Houston State University
College of Osteopathic Medicine, USA



Vanessa Okechuku, MD

Meharry Medical
College, USA



Satvik Vasireddy, DO

Touro University Nevada College
of Osteopathic Medicine, USA



WE MATCHED!

2025-2026

Orthopaedic Surgery



Nathan Delahunty, MD

University of South Carolina
School of Medicine



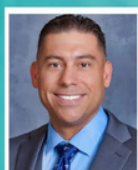
Jeremy Dubin, MD

Sackler School of Medicine
New York State American



James Gustafson, MD

University of Illinois
College of Medicine



Cesar Sevilla, Jr., MD

University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley



WE MATCHED!

2025-2026

Internal Medicine



Khalifa Augi, MD

University of Jordan
Faculty of Medicine, Jordan



Hiago Cabral, MD

Universidade do Estado do
Rio de Janeiro (UERJ)
Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Brazil



**Rogelio Flores
Salcido, MD**

Universidad de Monterrey
Facultad de Medicina, Mexico



**Alejandro Gonzalez
Navarro, MD**

Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León
Facultad de Medicina, Mexico



WE MATCHED!

2025-2026

Surgical Critical Care



Escar Kusema, MD

Dartmouth Geisel School of
Medicine, USA



WE MATCHED!

2025-2026

Internal Medicine



Andrew Gould, MD
Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara
Facultad de Medicina Guadalajara
Mexico



**Jagatdeep
Kaur, M.B.,B.S.**
Christian Medical College
India



**Javier Lizarazo
Mikly, MD**
Universidad de Ciencias Médicas
Andrés Bello Guzmán Escuela de Medicina
Costa Rica



**Muhammad Mubariz
M.B.,B.S.**
Akhtar Saeed Medical &
Dental College, Pakistan



WE MATCHED!

2025-2026

Family Medicine



Sanjna Jagani, M.B.,B.S.
Liaquat National Hospital and
Medical College, Pakistan



Nabeel Khan, MD
Escuela Latinoamericana
de Medicina, Cuba



Aisha Rehman, M.B.,B.S.
King Edward Medical
University, Pakistan



**Bolanie Windapo
M.B.,B.S.**
University of Lagos College
of Medicine, Nigeria



WE MATCHED!

2025-2026

Internal Medicine



**Benjamin Sanabria
Azurduy, MC**
Universidad Privada del Valle
Escuela de Ciencias de la Salud, Bolivia



Hector Trejo, MD
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
School of Medicine, USA



**Adrian Vasquez
Rioja, MD**
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia
Facultad de Medicina Alberto Hurtado, Peru



**Ivonné Vega
Martínez, MC**
Universidad Privada del Valle
Escuela de Ciencias de la Salud, Bolivia

GME GRAND ROUNDS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



Graduate Medical Education Grand Rounds

GME Grand Rounds Wednesdays Noon
DHR Health, South Tower, 2nd floor Classroom

April 2025



University of Houston Tilman J. Fertitta
College of Medicine - How to give effective feedback
Virtual Wednesdays @ 5:30pm

April 2, 2025

Dr. Suzan Skef
Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship Director,
Department of Clinical Sciences



Public Health
Shield or New Armor? DoxyPEP Use in Vulnerable Patient
Populations

April 9, 2025

Sarah Garcia-Plouch, PharmD
DHR Health PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident



QI/PS
Post ICU syndrome and outpatient ECMO

April 23, 2025

Andrew Phillips, MD, MEd, FAAEM
Chief for Quality, DHR Health



Texas Medical Association, TMA
Transitioning from Training to Practice

April 30, 2025

Teri Deabler, CMPE, COE
Texas Medical Association

DHR Health GME Well-being Services

We at GME Cares are now offering well-being support services for those in Graduate Medical Education. Our **GME Behavioral Health Specialist, Dr. Jennifer L. Ortega**, is available for all GME Residents, Fellows, Faculty, and Staff who are in need of support and guidance.

GME CARES hopes that Dr. Ortega can be your **first line of support** when dealing with mental, emotional, and professional concerns. However, should you need further specialized care, Dr. Ortega will refer you to our Comprehensive Behavioral Health Care partners or other support services for further assistance.

Dr. Ortega is available **Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm** for in-person and virtual support sessions.

All support services with Dr. Jennifer L. Ortega are **confidential**.

Support Services Offered:

- Individual and Group Support Sessions
- Consultation & Life Coaching
- Didactics
- Wellness Retreats & Workshops
- Grand Rounds
- Balint Group



"Dr. Ortega is an exemplary mental health therapist, knowledgeable educator and a beacon for compassionate care. Her graduate medical education wellbeing services enhanced my residency experience by promoting resilience through insightful lessons and activities. Her work rejuvenated my mind through reflections, group bonding activities, deep discussions and self-care tasks that taught me adaptive coping strategies and skills to approach patient care. I highly recommend her support services because she is one of the best I know." - Morayo Ejiofor, MD

For More Information or To Schedule an Appointment:

Email: jennifer.ortega@dhr-rgv.com

Cell: 956-358-4895

WELLNESS SUPPORT

The Comprehensive Behavioral Health (CBH) Department at DHR Health provides free, confidential mental health support, resources, and access to appropriate tools for self-screening for every resident. Counseling services provided to residents and faculty are available Monday - Friday from 8 AM - 8 PM and on weekends from 9 AM - 6 PM.

Call **956-362-2732** or the 24/7 registration department at **956-362-2755** to schedule an appointment.

White Coat Dry Cleaning

- Alternate Fridays - Drop off/Pickup

"DM the DIO" DROP BOXES:

- Located in classrooms and call rooms; encouraged to drop any confidential messages

DHR WORKPLACE SAFETY:

- <https://app.convercent.com/enus/Anonymous/IssueIntake/LandingPage/Oc318ea9-5439-ea11-a972-000d3ab9f062>

RLDATIX SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT:

- <https://srm.rldatix.com/landing/DHR/>

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING PORTAL:

- <https://www.dhrhealth.com/education/graduate-medical-education/confidential-reporting/>

SECURITY PHONE NUMBER: **956-739-0717**

- ACGME IR: III.B.7.d).(5) - safety and security measures appropriate to the clinical learning environment site

COVID-19/SICK-DAY PROTOCOL: All staff shall notify Employee Health as soon as they receive a positive test result or request a sick day. Staff may may not return to work until cleared by Employee Health.

Clearance includes submission of your "Medical Clearance Certificate" to your program coordinator.

- Phone: **(956) 362-3655**
- Email: EmployeeHealth@dhr-rgv.com



Quality Improvement Form

DHR Health - Institute for Research and Development IRB Office

Human Subject Research or Quality Improvement Project:
One-on-One Sessions

- QIP
- Case Report / Case Series
- Research Protocol Development
- IRB Submission



SCAN TO SCHEDULE

For more information, please
call/email Liz Elias-Calles Cabanillas

Phone: 956-362-2379
Email: lcalles@dhr-rgv.com