

MAY 2025

# ACADEMIC INSIDER



**DHRHealth**  
Graduate Medical  
Education

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- FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
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**DHRHealth**

## UNDER THE DIRECTION OF



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

## Congratulations to our Urology PGY-5 Resident, Dr. Maria Veronica Rodriguez Padron!



*We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Maria Veronica Rodriguez Padron, our esteemed UROLOGY Chief, has been awarded the prestigious Grand Prize for Excellence in Scholarship at the 2nd Annual 2025 DHR Health GME Discovery Day. This recognition highlights Dr. Rodriguez Padron's outstanding scholarly research contributions and dedication to advancing urology. Her receipt of this award showcases her commitment to excellence and the high standards of our Urology Residency Program. Dr. Rodriguez Padron's passion for discovery has left a lasting impact, and we are proud to see her achievements acknowledged at this prestigious event.*

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

### DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY



Huge congratulations to our amazing **DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY** interns, **Dr. Carlos Orfanos**, **Dr. Noel Garza**, and **Dr. Sehar Farooq**, on officially promoting into their R-1 year!

This marks a major milestone in your journey — a testament to your resilience, dedication, and commitment to excellence in patient care and medical imaging. From mastering the fundamentals to stepping into the reading room, you've already shown incredible growth, and the best is yet to come.

*We are so proud to have you as part of our residency family and can't wait to see the impact you'll make as full-fledged R-1s. Here's to a year of learning, leadership, and leveling up!*



During the **2nd Annual 2025 DHR Health GME Discovery Day**, **Dr. Abdul Hakim (PGY-2)**, **EMERGENCY MEDICINE** resident, achieved first place in the **Original Investigation category** for his outstanding poster presentation titled "Ultrasound Use during Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)." Following we are delighted to announce that our esteemed **Chief Resident, Dr. Roman, (PGY-2)** has secured second place in the **case report category** for his outstanding poster presentation titled "Hidden Trauma: Spinal Cord Contusion After a Ground-Level Fall in an Elderly Patient." These remarkable accomplishments highlight Dr. Hakim's and Dr. Roman's dedication to advancing medical knowledge and their commitment to excellence in the field of Emergency Medicine.

### EMERGENCY MEDICINE





# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

We are proud to share that our two outstanding **FAMILY MEDICINE** chief residents, **Dr. Rincon and Dr. Reynier, (PGY-2)** recently completed the **AAFP Chief Resident Leadership Development Program in Kansas City**. This invaluable experience was designed to further cultivate their leadership, communication, and team-building skills as they step into their vital roles within our residency program.

The conference not only provided them with cutting-edge strategies and practical tools for success but also offered opportunities to connect with fellow chief residents from across the country, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose.

*We are excited to watch them grow into their leadership roles with confidence, compassion, and integrity.* Their dedication and passion for medicine and mentorship will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on their peers and the program as a whole. *Here's to a year of meaningful growth, collaboration, and memorable moments under their leadership!*

## FAMILY MEDICINE



The DHR Health **GENERAL SURGERY** Program is excited to share that **Dr. Isabel Dos Santos, one of our PGY-4 residents,** recently represented our program at the **American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego, California**. Dr. Dos Santos presented a poster highlighting a complex case titled "En Bloc Pancreaticoduodenectomy and Right Colectomy in a Community Hospital at the Southern Border," showcasing the advanced surgical care delivered in our community-based setting.

## GENERAL SURGERY

Session: ePoster: Colon and Colorectal Cancer  
20 (Tue8)

(EP943) En Bloc  
Pancreaticoduodenectomy and Right  
Colectomy in a Community Hospital at the  
Southern border



ePoster Presenter:  
Isabel dos Santos Marques, MD (she/her/hers)  
DHR



Additionally, the program is proud to recognize chief residents, **Dr. John Reilly and Dr. Peter Dixon, (PGY-5),** for their outstanding presentation at the recent **GME Grand Rounds on fatigue mitigation strategies**. Their talk focused on promoting resident well-being by offering practical guidance on managing fatigue and maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Their presentation was both engaging and impactful—an excellent contribution to supporting a culture of wellness in medical training.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

We extend our sincere congratulations to all of the resident physicians who participated in this year's **Discovery Day**. The event was a remarkable showcase of the academic dedication, clinical insight, and scholarly contributions of our **INTERNAL MEDICINE** residents.

A special commendation goes to **Dr. Barbarawi (PGY-2)**, who earned **1st Place in the Case Report category**, and **Dr. Velez Jerves (PGY-2)**, who was awarded **3rd Place in the same category**.

Their work reflects the high caliber of research being cultivated within our program.

We are also proud to recognize **Dr. Reyes Uribe (PGY-2)** and **Dr. Hernandez Llamas (PGY-2)** for presenting their poster titled **"Abstract 348: Breast Cancer in the Rio Grande Valley – Telemedicine as a Solution in the Disruption of Breast Cancer Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic"** at the 2025 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting. Their participation at this prestigious national conference underscores the impact our residents are making on both a regional and national level. **We celebrate all of our residents' achievements and look forward to their continued success.**

## INTERNAL MEDICINE



This month, Dr. Maya Paige had the privilege of participating in the **2nd Annual Discovery Day** event as the inaugural **BARIATRIC SURGERY** fellow. **Dr. Paige presented the work on a multi-feature visual liver assessment tool developed to identify patients with evidence of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) without the need for liver biopsy.**

We are fortunate to have our inaugural fellow's work accepted for the national conference. As we begin wrapping up the academic year, we look forward to the program completion. **We extend a big thank you to Manish Singh, MD; Tomasz Rogula, MD; Robert Forse, MD; Javier Malcom Barney, MD; and Shruthishree Aravind, MD for their participation with the research project.**

## BARIATRICS





# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

We are delighted to share the exciting news that our esteemed **UROLOGY** Chief, **Dr. Maria Veronica Rodriguez Padron (PGY-5)**, has been awarded the prestigious **Grand Prize for Excellence in Scholarship** at the 2nd Annual 2025 DHR Health GME Discovery Day. This remarkable achievement recognizes Dr. Rodriguez Padron's exceptional contributions to scholarly research and her unwavering dedication to advancing the field of urology.

*Dr. Rodriguez Padron's receipt of this esteemed award not only underscores her intellectual curiosity and commitment but also underscores the high standard of excellence that we uphold within our Urology Residency Program.* Her tireless efforts, determination, and enthusiasm for discovery have made a lasting impact, and we are thrilled to see her accomplishments recognized at such a distinguished event.

*We have full confidence that Dr. Rodriguez Padron will continue to make significant advancements in the field of urology, and we eagerly anticipate her continued success as she progresses in her career.* Her achievements serve as a testament to the exceptional talent and dedication within our program, and we are immensely proud to have her as a part of our team.

## UROLOGY



## SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

Throughout the course of this month, **Dr. Toma (FEL 1)** has exhibited an outstanding record of presentations, highlighting his expertise on various esteemed platforms. His engagements included a presentation at the TRAC-V Healthcare Symposium in South Padre Island, where he shared valuable insights on ventilator weaning during our **SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE** didactics, and a standout presentation at the 2nd Annual 2025 DHR Health GME Discovery Day. *It is noteworthy that Dr. Toma's presentation at the latter event earned him the 2nd place prize for the Original Investigation Award.*

*We take immense pride in Dr. Toma's exceptional accomplishments and the significant impact he continues to make in our field.* His dedication to advancing knowledge and sharing insights is truly commendable, and we look forward to witnessing his continued success and contributions in the future.



# INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

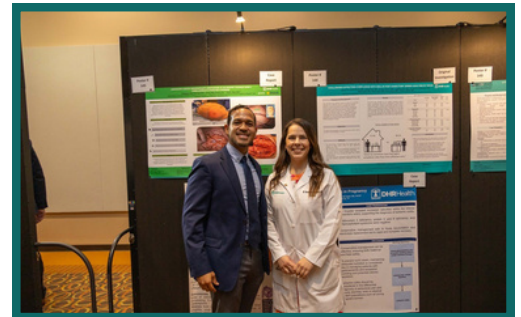
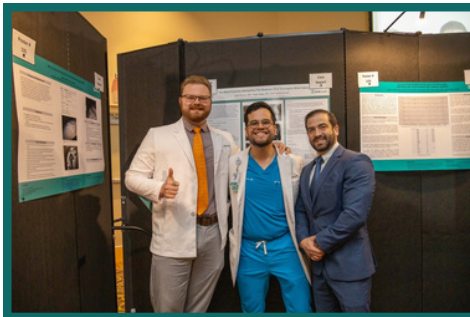
## GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Discovery Day

**DHR Health GME** Celebrates Innovation and Learning at 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Discovery Day, a vibrant showcase of cutting-edge research conducted by our dedicated residents and medical students. The event brought together aspiring physician and healthcare professionals to present original research- spanning clinical studies, quality improvement projects, and case reports.

*This year's Discovery Day highlighted the growing commitment of DHR Health's Graduate Medical Education programs to academic excellence and innovation in patient care.* Faculty members, mentors, and medical leaders from across the system engaged in rich dialogue with presenters, fostering a spirit of collaboration and curiosity.

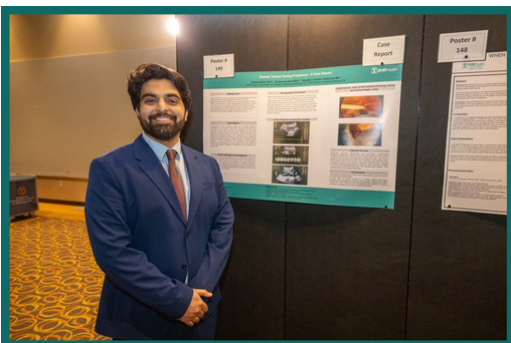
Discovery Day served as a platform to recognize the hard work, creativity, and scholarly contributions of the next generation of medical professionals.





# INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

## GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:EmployeeHealth@dhr-rgv.com)



## 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](mailto:lcalles@dhr-rgv.com)