

JULY 2025

ACADEMIC INSIDER



DHRHealth
Graduate Medical
Education

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2025 GME Orientation



DHRHealth

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF



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

*We are thrilled to announce that DHR Health has welcomed **40** additional residents to the DHR family, for a total of **111** residents for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year. This exciting development marks a significant milestone in our commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services and training the next generation of medical professionals.*

At DHR Health, we take great pride in our dedication to excellence in patient care, education, and research. The addition of these talented individuals to our team further strengthens our ability to deliver high-quality healthcare services to the residents of the Rio Grande Valley. Thank you for your continued support and trust in DHR Health Graduate Medical Education.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY



Our **DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY** team welcomes three new interns, **Dr. Joseph Barraza**, **Dr. Vanessa Okechuku**, and **Dr. Satvik Vasireddy**!

EMERGENCY MEDICINE



Our **Emergency Medicine** team welcomes seven new interns, **Dr. Adetutu Akinyode**, **Dr. Dawit Bacha**, **Dr. Maikel Falcon**, **Dr. Guillermo Foncerrada**, **Dr. Maria Laboy**, **Dr. Rafael Marita**, and **Dr. Armando Moreno**!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

FAMILY MEDICINE



Our **Family Medicine** team welcomes four new interns, **Dr. Sanjna Jagani, Dr. Nabeel Khan, Dr. Aisha Rehman, and Dr. Bolanle Windapo!**

GENERAL SURGERY



Our **General Surgery** team welcomes four new interns, **Dr. Yahaira Carpio, Dr. Emma Cisneros, Dr. Jesus Herrera, and Dr. Muhammad Khan!**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

INTERNAL MEDICINE



Our **Internal Medicine** team welcomes eleven new interns, **Dr. Hiago Cabral, Dr. Rogelio Flores Salcido, Dr. Alejandro Gonzalez Navarro, Dr. Andrew Gould, Dr. Jagatdeep Kaur, Dr. Javier Lizarazo Mikly, Dr. Muhammad Mubariz, Dr. Benjamin Sanabria Azurduy, Dr. Hector Trejo, Dr. Adrian Vasquez Rioja, and Dr. Ivonne Vega Martinez!**

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY



Our **Obstetrics and Gynecology** team welcomes four new interns, **Dr. Gabriela Briceno Silva, Dr. Lucinda Hinojosa, Dr. Alexandra Rodriguez, and Dr. Claire Sundjaja!**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY



Our **Orthopaedic Surgery** team welcomes four new interns, *Dr. Nathan Delahunty, Dr. Jeremy Dubin, Dr. James Gustafson, and Dr. Cesar Sevilla!*

UROLOGY



Our **Urology** team welcomes one new resident, *Dr. Bernardita Ljubetic!*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

BARIATRICS



Our **Bariatrics** team welcomes one new fellow, ***Dr. Alfred Rene Lopez!***

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE



Our **Surgical Critical Care** team welcomes one new resident, ***Dr. Tadiwa Kusema!***

INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

2025 ALUMNI



In celebration of our 2025 graduates

DHR Health celebrated a significant milestone on June 15, 2024 with its **inaugural Graduate Medical Education (GME) Graduation ceremony**, honoring six graduates from the fields of **Internal Medicine, General Surgery, and Surgical Critical Care**.

The ceremony marked a momentous occasion for the institution as it **recognized the hard work and dedication of these accomplished individuals**. This event not only celebrated the academic achievements of the graduates but also highlighted the commitment of DHR Health to excellence in medical education and patient care in the Rio Grande Valley.



Internal Medicine Residency Program

Rama Bakie, MD

Raised in the United Arab Emirates with roots in Aleppo, Syria, Dr. Rama Bakie earned her medical degree from the University of Sharjah in 2016. Before coming to the U.S., she worked as an Internal Medicine Specialist in the UAE, where she developed a strong interest in Neurocritical Care. As an international medical graduate, Dr. Bakie describes her journey to the U.S. as the opportunity of a lifetime. She found a second home at DHR Health, where the strong GME foundation, diverse pathology, and incredibly supportive faculty made residency not only meaningful but fun. She also credits McAllen's rich culture and the lifelong friendships she's built for making her experience unforgettable. Dr. Bakie has officially matched into Neurocritical Care and will be joining the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine as a fellow.

Internal Medicine Residency Program

Percy Thomas, MD

Dr. Percy Thomas brings a truly global perspective to medicine, having called Muscat (Oman), Kerala (India), and McAllen, Texas home. She earned her medical degree from K.S. Hegde Medical Academy and is currently completing her Internal Medicine residency at DHR Health, where she also serves as Chief Resident. Drawn to Internal Medicine for its breadth and depth, Dr. Thomas views it as the ideal foundation for her ultimate goal: a fellowship in Pulmonology with a focus on Pulmonary Hypertension. She chose DHR Health for its world-class training and close-knit community — and, as she notes, for being just four minutes from home. Dr. Thomas has practiced medicine across four continents and is an avid adventurer. Her experiences range from scuba diving in the English Channel and the Great Barrier Reef to trekking the Salkantay Trail to Machu Picchu — all of which have deepened her appreciation for the freedom of travel and the resilience of humanity.



INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

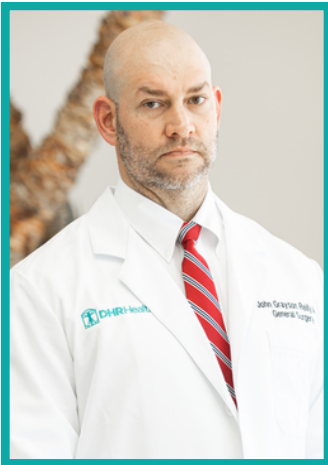
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

2025 ALUMNI

General Surgery Residency Program

Peter Dixon, MD

Dr. Peter Dixon is a dedicated graduate of the General Surgery Residency Program at DHR Health. He earned his undergraduate degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in 2005. He went on to complete two master's degrees, one in Environmental Health Science and another in Biomedical Science as well as a professional certificate in Risk Science and Public Policy, reflecting his strong academic foundation and multidisciplinary approach to healthcare. Drawn to the field of medicine from an early age, Dr. Dixon earned his medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 2012. Throughout his surgical training, he has developed a deep passion for Trauma, Critical Care, and Acute Care Surgery—interests that have continued to shape his professional path. Dr. Dixon has further advanced his training by completing a fellowship in General Surgery and Acute Care Surgery at Queens Hospital Center under the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. He currently holds a faculty position in surgical education at Johns Hopkins University and will be continuing his career in Acute Care Surgery through private practice in Maryland. His commitment to clinical excellence and comprehensive patient care has distinguished him as a skilled and compassionate surgeon.



General Surgery Residency Program

John Reilly, MD

Dr. John Reilly is a committed graduate of the General Surgery Residency Program at DHR Health. Motivated by a strong commitment to the field of medicine, he earned his medical degree from the Texas A&M Health Science Center in 2018. Prior to medical school, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006, followed by a Master of Public Health from the University of Texas in 2010. Throughout his residency, Dr. Reilly has developed a broad clinical expertise across a range of services, including Trauma, Transplant, and General Surgery. In addition to his clinical work, he has been actively involved in research and has consistently demonstrated leadership within the residency program, earning the respect and trust of both faculty and colleagues. Driven by a commitment to lifelong learning and surgical excellence, Dr. Reilly will continue his training as a Hand Surgery Fellow at the University at Buffalo in the upcoming academic year.

Urology Residency Program

Maria Veronica Rodriguez Padron, MD

Dr. Maria Veronica Rodriguez Padron is the Chief Urology Resident and the first graduate of the DHR Health Urology Residency Program, Class of 2025—marking a historic milestone for both herself and the institution. Originally from Maracaibo, Venezuela, she earned her medical degree from the Universidad del Zulia and went on to complete a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Pediatric Urology at the University of Chicago. Driven by a lifelong passion for pediatric urology, Dr. Rodriguez is now preparing to begin her Pediatric Urology Fellowship at Emory University. Her path has been shaped by unwavering resilience, grit, and dedication, as well as the invaluable support of her mentors. Her clinical and research interests focus on the advancement of open and minimally invasive surgical techniques to improve outcomes for pediatric patients. Throughout her training, she has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to patient care and clinical excellence. Outside the operating room, Dr. Rodriguez enjoys traveling with her beloved dog, Eve, staying active through Zumba, and exploring art, culture, and the outdoors.



INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

2025 ALUMNI



Bariatrics Fellowship Program

Maya Paige, MD

Dr. Maya Paige joined DHR Health Bariatric Fellowship Program for a one-year fellowship, as the inaugural fellow. She is board certified by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery. Dr. Paige attended Georgetown University School of Medicine; she continued her residency at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School General Surgery Residency Program and MedStar Health Georgetown / Washington Hospital Center. Dr. Paige's abstract submission to American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, was accepted for a poster presentation during the June 2025, ASMBS Annual Meeting 2025. During Dr. Paige's fellowship, she has gained a deeper understanding of bariatrics, pediatric bariatrics, robotic bariatrics, obesity medicine, behavioral medicine, and gained insights while on a Gastroenterology rotation. Dr. Paige is passionate about her career, family and the bright future.

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Program

Gabriel Toma, MD

Dr. Gabriel Toma is currently completing a Surgical Critical Care fellowship at DHR Health, where he continues to build on his extensive clinical and academic background. He earned his medical degree from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, laying the foundation for a career marked by dedication to global health and trauma care. Following medical school, Dr. Toma completed a Research Fellowship in Global Surgery at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Toma further honed his surgical expertise during three years of General Surgery training at Hackensack Meridian Health/Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen, New Jersey. Driven by a longstanding passion for trauma care, he is committed to acquiring the advanced skills and training necessary to become a highly competent surgical critical care specialist. His ultimate professional goal is to help establish a functional, sustainable, and impactful Surgical Critical Care Program in Nigeria, thereby improving access to life-saving care in his home country. Behind Dr. Toma's achievements is the unwavering support of his wife, Bose, and their three daughters—Mercy, Grace, and Deborah—who inspire and encourage him every step of the way.



INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

INAGURAL GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION CEREMONY



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



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