Learning into the Future

The tradition of training the future of medicine at Kettering Medical Center lives on in 2020. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created barriers to medical training and education across the country, Kettering Medical Center currently has 56 physicians enrolled in residency and fellowship programs. These graduates of medical schools have come to Kettering to learn through hands-on experience under the careful instruction and guidance of the medical education faculty. Of these 56 physicians in training, 33 of them are in the Internal Medicine program, 11 are Transitional Year residents, who will move into specialized programs following their year here, nine are Cardiovascular fellows, one Interventional Cardiovascular fellow, and new this year, two Hematology/Oncology fellows.

The reputation of Kettering Medical Center has continued to rise in medical education and is increasingly sought out by high ranking graduates. It is noted for its welcoming culture, friendly medical staff— who are generous with their time and willing to teach, and the high quality of faculty and attending physician staff. We appreciate program directors, Lyndi Schwartz, MD; John Shrader, MD, associate director; Andrew Moren, MD; and core faculty Krisalyn Swayze, MD, for their leadership.

As the 2020 year of medical education has begun, I am reminded how important this program is to the culture and energy of our organization. These young physicians in training contribute to patient care in many ways, but most importantly, they drive us all to be lifelong learners, growing and increasing our skill set and competency, seeking to be world-class health care providers. They also represent a sight line into the future. These are the providers who will lead and develop tomorrow’s medicine. History indicates that many will either stay within the Kettering orbit or practice close by. That knowledge gives me great confidence, as I have come to know the character and quality of these individuals. In your own way, you are participating in their experience and education. You set the tone, create the environment for learning, guide and assist in finding supplies, open opportunities, and share your knowledge. It takes a whole health care community to help educate a new physician. Thank you for providing that smile and taking the time. Together we are learning into the future.

Walter Sackett
President
Kettering Medical Center
Medical Education Department History

Kettering Medical Center has a long and rich history in medical education. The founding president, George Nelson, and the Ketterings decided that this would be a teaching hospital and included medical education in the articles of incorporation. The Internal Medicine residency, founded in 1971, became the second full residency developed at Kettering, General Surgery being the first. It would be the only Seventh-day Adventist institution in North America outside of Loma Linda to have a wide array of residency programs. The Internal Medicine residency program has been an integral part of the patient care experience for almost fifty years. Over its lifespan, well over 100 graduates from the program have remained to become part of the Kettering Health Network medical staff. The Sycamore Primary Care Center, located on the campus of Sycamore Medical Center, opened in 1998 and serves as the ambulatory training site for the residency. There are three fellowships associated with the parent Internal Medicine program: Cardiovascular, Interventional Cardiovascular, and Hematology/Oncology, which started July 1, 2020. The Internal Medicine program accepts eleven first-year residents each July for training, which lasts three years. In addition, the Transitional Year residency program provides one year of clinical training for physicians entering specialties such as dermatology, physical medicine & rehabilitation, and radiology and collaborates to create a robust teaching experience for all residents and fellows at Kettering Medical Center.

Elvin Hedrick, MD, was the visionary pioneer of what is now the Medical Education Department and became the first director of Medical Education. Albert Brust, MD, a cardiologist who admitted the first patient to Charles F. Kettering Memorial Hospital on March 4, 1964, served as the first program director, until he retired in 1988. John Shrader, MD, took the reins of both the Internal Medicine and Transitional Year residency programs until January 1990, when Stephen McDonald, MD, took over as program director for the Internal Medicine program, and Lyndi Schwartz, MD, began serving as associate program director. Dr. Schwartz then became the fourth program director for the Internal Medicine program in 2013.

Medical Education Department

Medical Education at Kettering Medical Center provides the infrastructure to make running the residencies and fellowships possible. Kettering is the educational site for several other residency programs in the city. Medical Education also manages Continuing Medical Education (CME) throughout the network. The CME program was the first in the state to receive their current accreditation status as exemplary from the Ohio State Medical Association. The department supervises the education of medical students from both Wright State University and Loma Linda University, as well as other regional medical schools. The department also provides oversight of the Medical Library, which is a vital resource for resident education as well as resident and faculty/medical staff scholarly activities. Dr. Shrader, in addition to serving as the program director for the Transitional Year residency program, is the director of Medical Education for Kettering’s Medical Education Department, and Amy Hoeffel is the administrative director of Medical Education.
Medical Residents/Fellowships

Jaree Naqvi, MD – Transitional Year Resident
Starting my transitional year of residency at Kettering Health Network has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my career thus far. As a resident, I feel energized by the positive work culture, empowered by the autonomy that I am given to make decisions regarding patient care, and humbled by the trust that patients place in me to take care of them. Every day is filled with learning opportunities that make me a better physician for my current and future patients.

Erik Poldemann, MD – Third-year Cardiology Fellow
Choosing the right residency program can be exceptionally difficult and after many interviews, programs start to blend together. What really set Kettering apart from the rest during my residency interviews was that it was faith-based. This was readily apparent in the dedication of the faculty and staff to the patients, as well as the collegiality and respect given to each person who walks through the door, regardless of their background, religion, race, gender, or age. Over the last six years, I’ve had the opportunity to see a wide range of complex disease processes and have been able to manage some of the sickest patients. I’ve also had the honor of working alongside some of the most...
Medical Residents/Fellowships (continued)

passionate attending physicians who are truly invested in my education and well-being. Reflecting back on my time at Kettering for both Internal Medicine Residency and Cardiology Fellowship, I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to train with such a remarkable group of people and be part of a program that fosters learning, teaching and collaboration.

Alex Erskine, MD - Third-year Internal Medicine Resident and Chief

Being a resident is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling jobs I have ever had. It is also one of the hardest and most emotionally and physically exhausting jobs I have ever had. The variation between residency programs even within the same specialty is enormous. The hours can be very long, with 28-hour shifts being part of almost every residency program. I am a third-year resident, which entails managing interns on teaching teams and making sure that patients receive the highest possible level of care. This is a unique aspect of teaching services where there are three different doctors who look over each case: the intern, senior resident, and attending physician. Having personally worked in two different teaching hospitals I can say without doubt that Kettering Health Network cares for their residents like a family. While residency inherently is stressful and challenging, they are always there for you and support you in every way possible. I would 100% choose to come to Kettering for residency again.