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VISION STATEMENT
To achieve international standards of excellence in our educational and research programs in order to provide exemplary contributions to the health of the current and future generations we serve.
What are you looking specifically in an impressive candidate?

Our program is seeking collegial applicants with clearly demonstrated strong interpersonal and team skills. We are looking for enthusiastic, well-rounded applicants who have had a variety of experiences not only in Medicine but in the arts, team sports, and community service.

We want leaders and applicants with a true passion for Medicine as evidenced by an eclectic mix of electives which may include Obstetrics and Gynecology, Anesthesia, Rural Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine and/or its subspecialties, etc.

How is your residency program organized?

First year - primarily hospital ward based in multiple subspecialties including 4 months of GIM, 1 month each of inpatient Pulmonary, Hematology, Nephrology, Cardiology, CCU, and Gastroenterology. 2 months of selective time (to be chosen from an approved list).

Second year - 2 months of ICU, 1 month of Neurology, 3 months of clinics and consult medicine in either Pulmonary, Gastroenterology, Nephrology, or Hematology, 2 weeks in multidisciplinary clinical teams, 2 weeks night float/evenings in General Internal Medicine, 1 month ED consults, 2 months of elective (may be done outside Edmonton), 2 months of selective or research time.

Third year - 6 months of senior medicine, senior consultants and Ambulatory Care, 3.5 months selective rotations, 1 month elective, and 2 weeks CanMEDS rotation.

4th, 5th, 6th year consist of a sub-specialty residency program. General Internal Medicine residency can be completed in the fourth year (4th year is optional for GIM), while some specialties require a sixth year (Cardiology), or further training after fifth year such as Pulmonary Transplant fellowships, ICU fellowship, or Interventional Cardiology.

Our focus is on providing a wide range of experiences for residents to prepare them for their future careers, what-ever the path may be.

What is your residency program orientation and focus?

We encourage and support research for those who wish to pursue it, while providing ample opportunity for rural community based training, and international health experiences.

We provide strong in-patient training in acute care medicine and many sub-specialties so that graduates are comfortable with critically ill patients.

We are expanding our ambulatory care focus (primarily in the third year) to increase exposure to outpatient clinics.

What is the availability of experiences in sub-specialty areas during training?

All sub-specialties are available at the U of A, with the exception of Allergy and Immunology, Clinical Pharmacology, Women's Health, and Adult Genetics.

Excellent sub-specialty training with great teaching.

What is the resident satisfaction?

Most residents are very happy with the program at U of A. Morale is high as our Program Director, Admin Team and Chief Residents actively support the residents and continue to respond to resident feedback. It is definitely a program with a solid foundation, yet always seeking to make positive changes.

Are there sufficient elective opportunities during the training to explore your special interests?

Yes, residents get 2 months of elective time in 2nd year and 1 month in third year which can be used for almost any rotation, including travel to other Canadian or overseas locations, as well as several months of selective time which can be used in any of the Internal Medicine sub-specialties.

What is the on-call schedule during each of the residency years?

1st Year: 1 in 4 or less for the majority of core rotations (approximately 8-9 months of the year). Selectives may have home call (I.D., Rheumatology, etc.).

2nd Year: 1 in 4 or less during the Critical Care and consult rotations (7-8 months), electives and selectives.

3rd Year: Call is approximately 1 in 5 on both Senior UAH and RAH Rotations.

What distinguishes U of A from other programs?

Very well structured with adequate supervision in the early years and graded responsibility in the more senior years.

Exceptional program director - willing to make changes and a true resident advocate.

Excellent teaching with morning and noon sessions and a well-structured academic half-day, with protected time for academic sessions.

Ample opportunity for rural selectives and electives and international electives.

Clinical teachers are beyond comparison!

Ample research opportunity and support for residents interested in research.

Exposure to transplant medicine; and a large catchment area makes for interesting and rare cases.

This is one of the strongest Internal Medicine programs in the country. We have a "night float" and shift system at the University and Royal Alexandra Hospitals for the senior medicine rotations that has almost never been disrupted.

Who can we contact for more information or to set up electives?

For program information, contact the Chief Residents: chiefres@ualberta.ca

For information on electives, contact the subspecialty's Program Administrator.

How competitive is it to get in, and then to succeed in your field?

In 2016 we accepted 24 Canadian PGY-1 residents per year, 4 Gulf State residents and 4 international medical graduates from Alberta (AIMG).

We have, on average, 300(+/-) applications for the CaRMS spots.

Most applicants who choose Internal Medicine will match successfully, however they may not match to their first choice of location - there is no preference given in the R1 match to local U of A candidates.

To increase your chances of matching to Internal Medicine we encourage you to apply to a number of programs across the country.

Is there an active and/or required research in your residency program?

a.) Some form of scholarly activity is strongly encouraged, but the form this takes is very flexible. A one month research elective is also strongly encouraged, and more time may be granted if it is applied for, and approved by the research committee. Elective time may also be used for research.

Research can take the form of clinical or laboratory-based research and is approved and supported by the Resident Research Sub-Committee.

A month of “scholarly activity” may be substituted for research, and this can include activities such as creating a case series, a literature review, research in ethics or the history of medicine, etc. This too is flexible but must be approved by the program.

b.) What role does research play in your career?

Research plays a large role - (as much as 90% of your time), or a very minimal role, but internists must have a reasonable understanding of how to interpret the literature in order to keep up to date with their future practices.