Personalized Career Pathway

An individualized approach to training in Internal Medicine.
Personalized Career Pathway
An individualized approach to training in Internal Medicine.

4 Ambulatory Primary Care
Track Coordinator: Albert Lee, MD, Nina Mingioni, MD
Jason Ojeda, MD

5 Hospitalist
Track Coordinator: Gretchen Diemer, MD, Emily Stewart, MD

6 Subspecialty/Fellowship
Track Coordinator: Srikanth Nagalla, MD

7 Research (2-2-2)
Track Coordinators: Paul Bray, MD, Ross Summer, MD

7 Masters in Clinical Investigation
Track Coordinator: Walter Kraft, MD

8 MBA/MPH/Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar
Track Coordinator: David Nash, MD, MBA

9 Medical Education and Leadership
Track Coordinators: Gretchen Diemer, MD, Emily Stewart, MD

A Message from the Program Director

Welcome to the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. We have created a Personalized Career Pathway option that is designed to enhance a variety of potential career choices. The Pathways add another layer of mentoring for interested residents. Specific paths could include careers as a Hospitalist, Primary Care Physician, Educator, Clinical Researcher, Physician Scientist, Health Policy expert or Medical Sub-specialist.

Whether your career goal is Academic Medicine or Clinical Practice in General Internal Medicine or one of the Subspecialties you will find the training experiences and education at Jefferson outstanding preparation for your future career and the Personalized Career Pathway a valuable method of enhancing your particular area of interest.

Additionally, the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Thomas Jefferson University offers residents the flexibility to tailor their training towards their individual career goals and plans. We hope that you will take a look at the various Pathways to investigate whether one of them might be right for you.

Gretchen Diemer, MD
Professor of Medicine
Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency
Department of Medicine
Program Introduction

Welcome to the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program and our Personalized Career Pathways. Internal Medicine is a wonderful residency choice because of the variety of exciting and rewarding careers that such training supports. Specific paths could include careers as a Hospitalist, Primary Care Physician, Educator, Clinical Researcher, Physician Scientist, Health Policy expert, or Medical Sub-specialist. Education in internal medicine should be geared towards allowing the trainee to transition seamlessly to their ultimate career plan by customizing their training experience throughout the three years. To accomplish this we provide multiple opportunities for career tracks in multiple disciplines. It is our hope that by selecting a specific career path a trainee will be able to matriculate more smoothly into their ultimate ideal job.

Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of serving as a training program director is the opportunity to watch our trainees move on to a number of successful and rewarding careers in diverse arenas. These careers may involve working in public health or public administration, basic science research, clinical trials, or traditional roles of the medical educator in the medical school setting.

Whatever your career interest, we believe Jefferson can offer you an opportunity to customize your education to realize your dreams. In the coming pages, you will see details of a variety of career tracks that can allow you to achieve your goals. Please utilize this guide as a broad overview and feel free to discuss your specific interests with us as you plan for your residency training.

The world of internal medicine is evolving and Jefferson is evolving with it to provide state of the art Internal Medicine education through a variety of exciting career paths. Join us to start your own path toward a rewarding career in Internal Medicine.

Gregory C. Kane, MD
Professor of Medicine
Interim Chairman, Department of Medicine

There are 7 areas that are recognized as the most common career choices of our residents, but the design of our personalized career pathway allows for additional choices. The recognized areas include:

- Ambulatory Primary Care
- Hospitalist
- Subspecialty/Fellowship
- Research (2-2-2)
- Masters in Clinical Investigation
- MBA/MPH/RWJ Clinical Scholars
- Medical Education and Leadership

Each track has a dedicated track coordinator who is available for mentoring and guidance throughout a resident’s career planning.
Ambulatory Primary Care
Track Coordinator: Albert Lee, MD, Nina Mingioni, MD, Jason Ojeda, MD

With increasing pressures of time, many physicians prefer to see primarily outpatients in a continuity clinic setting. Residents experience this in their own continuity clinics each week, but the majority of a traditional residency is spent in the hospital. A resident interested in pursuing a career in ambulatory primary care would focus on electives in the third year to further gain outpatient expertise in Pulmonary Diseases, Dermatology, Women’s Health, Cardiology, HIV management. Additional sessions in billing, malpractice and telephone medicine are offered as well as an advanced experience in a primary care.

Hospitalist
Track Coordinator: Gretchen Diemer, MD, Emily Stewart, MD

In one of the most rapidly growing areas of internal medicine, hospitalists take care of acutely ill, hospitalized patients. They have additional expertise in consultative medicine and often assist in the care of perioperative patients. Residents work side by side with our dedicated hospitalist attendings during their residency. A third year resident may request to do his/her inpatient block on the general medicine service and then focus on expanding inpatient knowledge and management by rotating through pulmonary and cardiology consults, pre-operative evaluation clinics and a radiology rotation. The Hospitalist elective exposes participants to other management models, palliative care and preoperative clinic. An important experience also includes time on the Medical Consult service seeing patients with medical issues who are hospitalized on the surgical, neurological, and obstetrical services. A resident pursuing this career may also elect to participate in a research project on use of computer technology to improve care or outcomes measures with one of the hospitalist faculty.
Jefferson residents are very successful at acquiring fellowship positions in all subspecialty fields. Enjoying the opportunity to train with many leaders in their respective subspecialty fields while on service in the hospital, residents gain from these experiences and often identify mentors early in their residency training. Many residents apply for fellowship in the second year. Early identification of a specialty allows the resident to spend the third year further honing the required skills prior to starting their fellowship. This does not mean that a resident pursuing a fellowship in Cardiology would select only Cardiology electives, but rather that he/she would choose from a broad array of electives that complement the specialty. For example, the resident going into Cardiology may choose to do inpatient pulmonary and renal electives to improve knowledge and management of common comorbid disorders, participate in the outpatient Lipid Management Clinic, and then use an elective block to complete a research project. A resident interested in pursuing a fellowship in Infectious Disease may choose to do an HIV elective and take advantage of our medical exchange elective in the Philippines. A Gastroenterology elective can help the resident pursuing an Infectious Disease career to become more familiar with the treatment options for viral hepatitis.

The flexibility of the training experience at Jefferson and the availability of training experiences with national leaders in all disciplines make Jefferson an attractive residency program regardless of which specialty the resident might desire. While many of our top residents stay on at Jefferson, others match to the most competitive programs in the nation. We offer guidance through the match process from thinking about getting started to CV preparation to guiding you through the application process, and developing a strategy to maximize the specialty match. If you are interested in a subspecialty of medicine, Jefferson offers a great way to launch your career!

This is a formal pathway for those residents interested in pursuing a career in basic or translational research. Interested applicants should make their intent known in the intern year. If accepted, they spend two years in residency completing the core rotations, two in laboratory research, and then return to the clinical environment for two years in fellowship training. There are multiple opportunities for basic and clinical research training through the Center for Translational Medicine, the Diabetes Research Program, the Cardeza Center for Hematologic Research, the Division of Rheumatology, the Kimmel Cancer Center, and the Department of Clinical Pharmacology. Candidates become Board eligible in Internal Medicine during the first year of their fellowship training.

This pathway is available for those residents interested in a career involving clinical or translational research. Thomas Jefferson University offers a Masters in Human Investigation for clinicians who are interested in a career in human investigation or conducting clinical trials. This program requires a multi-year commitment and applicants should make their interest known in the second year of training, typically after acceptance into a fellowship program. Candidates participate in a conference and lecture series concurrent with their residency and fellowship training schedule and are required to finish a clinical research project to receive this degree. Candidates in this program are from the broad spectrum of medical disciplines and have completed projects from basic molecular bench research to exclusively clinical projects. Interested applicants should contact Dr. Walter Kraft for more information.
MBA/MPH/Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar
Track Coordinator: David Nash, MD, MBA

There are increasing opportunities to pursue medical careers in the non-traditional venues of business or health policy. We feel that a strong clinical background in internal medicine is invaluable for those careers and we are excited to have superb clinicians fill these roles. Residents wishing to take a year of leave for advanced study during residency to pursue one of these degrees should discuss this with the Program Director as early as possible. While there is no salary granted during this time, the residency position is held for the participant until his or her return. Several of our residents have found completing such experiences during residency (typically between the second and third year) opened doors for their future endeavors. The resident is responsible for application and acceptance into one of these programs. Residents could pursue an MPH at Jefferson or seek training elsewhere to suit their aspirations. The final result is that Jefferson has helped form professionals who have core clinical skills and a commitment to patient care move into leadership roles in the complex and evolving healthcare market. There are certificate options available.

Residents are urged to see Dr. David Nash as early as possible to outline a plan of study leading to either the MBA in Health Administration or the MPH.

Medical Education and Leadership
Track Coordinators: Gretchen Diemer, MD, Emily Stewart, MD

The future of academic medicine relies on strong teachers and leaders. There are few places where a resident can gain formal education in learning theory, effective teaching techniques, and leadership skills. The Internal Medicine Residency program offers an elective geared toward mastering these skills and all residents gain valuable experience as teachers throughout their three years of training. Residents participate in formal didactics and interactive teaching activities under the supervision of a teaching attending who provides feedback on the resident’s techniques. The resident will lead conferences and complete an education project of their choice during this rotation. Third year residents interested in remaining in an academic venue for their careers can take this elective to hone their teaching skills and help them to go on to mentor and lead the next generation of physicians. Continuous opportunities to teach with faculty feedback are available.
“It is our duty to provide learning environments that promote the rich diversity of career pathways available to internists, including options for specialty focus and duality of purpose. We must also provide options that remain flexible throughout the duration of internists’ careers.”