

Personalized Career Pathways

The practice of Internal Medicine has evolved remarkably over the past few decades. Recently, leaders in academic medicine have called for the redesign of resident education, including the development of individualized career pathways as a way to reinvigorate interest in Internal Medicine. Here at Jefferson we have developed Personalized Career Pathways to allow residents to customize their training experience throughout their residency.

Masters in Clinical Investigation

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.

MBA/MPH/Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar

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 rolls. 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) to open 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 to move into leadership roles in the complex and evolving healthcare market. Certificate programs are also available.

Medical Education and Leadership

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 towards 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.

Research (2-2-2)

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 during their 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.