Message from the Associate Dean

Many describe their resident years as the highlight of their professional careers.

Despite its challenges, residency allows a new doctor to not only provide advanced medical care, but also to act as both teacher and learner in a broad array of clinical and conference settings.

In the Office of Graduate Medical Education (OGME) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), we advocate for you – our residents and fellows – providing the foundation necessary to maximize your career potential and fulfill your personal and professional goals in a supportive environment. We also challenge ourselves to meet your expectations for high quality learning experiences by ensuring a proper balance of education and patient care.

Although grounded in primary care education, UMMS offers well-balanced residency programs in all specialties. Here, you will complete the requirements for specialty board certification, develop professionally for careers in a changing health care delivery environment and provide progressively responsible clinical care under expert faculty supervision. Abundant basic science and clinical research opportunities are also available.

UMMS has attained a distinguished record in its relatively short history: the Medical School is ranked among the top ten percent nationally in primary care among LCME and Osteopathic accredited medical schools by U.S. News & World Report. UMass Medical School attracts more than $240 million annually in research funding, placing it among the top 50 medical schools in the nation. Our clinical partner, UMass Memorial Health Care, is the region’s center for tertiary and quaternary care, providing a network of community health centers and primary care practices.

I invite you to learn more about UMMS and our residency programs through this brochure, as well as contacting us by phone or via the Web at http://www.umassmed.edu. Completing your residency is a challenging and rewarding experience. Let us share this time with you.

Deborah M. DeMarco, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Graduate Medical Education (GME) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) consists of 53 accredited programs, from anesthesiology to vascular surgery; 577 residents and fellows; more than 2,300 full-time and community-based faculty; an academic medical center; affiliated teaching hospitals and community health centers; and a growing number of private office and group practices. As a teaching institution, UMMS has received the highest approval rating from the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Office of Graduate Medical Education

UMMS prides itself on its resident-friendly philosophy, made real through the direct services offered by the Office of Graduate Medical Education (OGME).

The office reinforces the view that residency must be recognized as an educational endeavor rather than solely a provision of clinical service. OGME encourages communication among residents and representatives from the clinical system in response to resident concerns and advocates on behalf of residents and program directors.

Primary Care

The majority of residents beginning their graduate medical education at UMMS enter one of the school’s outstanding primary care programs: internal medicine, pediatrics, the combined Medicine-Pediatric Program or the state’s first and largest Family Practice Residency Program. In addition, obstetrics & gynecology—which encompasses the spectrum from primary care initiatives in community health centers and high-risk pregnancy to reproductive endocrinology and gynecological surgery—offers excellent training in comprehensive women’s health.

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UMass Medical School Campus Highlights

UMMS is one of five University of Massachusetts campuses and one of 13 institutions of higher learning in Greater Worcester. Encompassing the state’s School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Graduate School of Nursing, UMMS offers several unique advanced degree opportunities for residents and fellows including a master’s of public health through its affiliation with the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health, the new Masters of Science in Clinical Investigation and the Millennium PhD Program.

As the commonwealth’s only public medical school, UMMS emphasizes building local partnerships and creating opportunities for students and residents to learn in and serve Massachusetts communities through the care of underserved populations. There is a wide range of clinical training in community based sites including community hospitals, health centers and private physician offices.

Beyond fulfilling its core missions of health sciences education and public service, UMMS is home to a thriving biomedical research enterprise. The Albert Sherman Center, opened in January 2013, doubled the amount of research space on campus and serves as the hub of the Worcester campus, both for the researchers focused on translating basic biological discoveries into new therapies, and for students who learn in a fully collaborative environment in the education wing.

The Sherman Center is also home to the interprofessional Center for Experiential Learning and Simulation (iCELS), a 24,000-square-foot comprehensive simulation center. Located across from the Learning Community suites, iCELS is a fully interprofessional resource for learning across the spectrum of learners. iCELS features a 12-bed clinical skills lab, two surgical skills suites, four large team-training scenario rooms and a comprehensive array of task trainers. Complementing the technology-based simulation resources, our nationally recognized Standardized Patient Program is housed on the second floor, as well as a virtual outpatient clinic with 20 rooms, fully equipped for ambulatory care in the office setting.

Also located within the Sherman Center is the Advanced Therapeutics Cluster, which brings together an interdisciplinary group of research faculty and physician-scientists who are making pioneering advances in stem cell biology, RNA biology and gene therapy.

The Sherman Center also addresses the wellness and social needs of the UMMS community. A fitness center has locker rooms, showers, a large open exercise area and a separate studio for group classes. Membership in the fitness center is open to all UMass Medical School students, faculty and staff.

The Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) opened in August 2010, ushering in a new model of academic medicine that combines world-class patient care with world-class research to benefit the health of residents across the region and beyond. The 258,000-square foot, nine-story facility houses the ambulatory services of UMass Memorial Health Care’s four Centers of Excellence: Cancer, Diabetes, Heart and Vascular, and Musculoskeletal.

The campus’ Lamar Soutter Library is designated as the New England Regional Medical Library in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. The library is a leading source of biomedical information for residents, students, faculty, staff and the public. The Irving S. and Betty Brudnick Neuropsychiatric Research Institute hosts faculty devoted to studying the biological causes, diagnoses and treatment of mental disorders.

UMass Medical School’s research, education and public service missions are also strengthened by its unique business units – Commonwealth Medicine and MassBiologics – as well as the New England Newborn Screening Program and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center in Worcester.

UMass Memorial Health Care

As the clinical partner of UMMS, UMass Memorial Health Care provides residents in all generalist and specialist programs attractive opportunities for supervised experiences in both tertiary and community practice. UMass Memorial Health Care delivers care through the UMass Memorial Medical Center and community hospitals (Clinton Hospital, HealthAlliance Hospital, and Marlborough Hospital) with health care services further enhanced and augmented by community primary care practices, ambulatory outpatient clinics, home health agencies, hospice programs, rehabilitation and mental health services.

“In the Internal Medicine Residency Program, you are not only working with a talented group of passionate teachers, you are also exposed to a variety of cases in all levels of acuity. Residency has also been a culturally enriching experience for me, being exposed to patients from various cultural backgrounds. Working with smart, caring staff at UMass makes Internal Medicine Residency both intellectually stimulating and fun.”

Cristina Alvarado Nieves, MD
As the region’s tertiary referral center, UMass Memorial Medical Center offers a full complem of advanced technology and support services, providing the region with a broad range of specialists renowned for their expertise in clinical areas, including the Centers of Excellence—heart and vascular, cancer, musculoskeletal and diabetes—as well as emergency medicine, surgery, women’s health and children’s medical services.

UMass Memorial Medical Center is a 781-licensed-bed facility on three campuses: Hahnemann, Memorial and University. UMass Memorial Medical Center records 150,000 visits per year at its two emergency departments located on the University and Memorial campuses. UMass Memorial Medical Center is also the region’s transplantation center and provides liver, kidney, pancreas and bone marrow transplantation.

Located on the University Campus, the Duddie Massad Emergency and Trauma Center, the region’s only Level I trauma center, is the home base of Life Flight, New England’s first hospital-based air ambulance and the only emergency helicopter service in Central Massachusetts. Since its founding in 1982, Life Flight has become one of the busiest single-aircraft services in the country. The Duddie Massad Emergency and Trauma Center provides training and consultation to providers and appoints medical directors for area towns’ emergency medical services. UMass Memorial also sponsors the Disaster Medical Assistance Team—Massachusetts, a volunteer group of professional and paraprofessional medical personnel who augment local medical efforts and provide emergency medical care during a disaster or other adverse event.

The University Campus is also home to the Children’s Medical Center, providing extensive services, including the internationally recognized newborn intensive care unit, orthopedics, gastroenterology, neurology, pulmonology, oncology and surgery, and the only pediatric intensive care unit in Central Massachusetts.

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OGME Support Services

Relocation
The OGME offers guidance on housing availability, guidance for spousal employment and child care options. Relocation loans are available to US citizens and permanent residents through the UMass Five College Credit Union.

Financial Guidance
UMMS provides a competitive stipend to residents, and offers educational programs and individual financial counseling on student loan deferment, consolidation and repayment options. Interest-free emergency loans are also available.

Program Balance
UMMS strives to fund an adequate number of residency positions appropriate to clinical needs, allowing residents to work manageable shifts as part of their experience. The Graduate Medical Education Committee closely monitors duty hours compliance and reviews ongoing resident feedback in order to ensure an appropriate balance between education and service.

Practice Management
The OGME sponsors comprehensive practice management support for the transition from residency or fellowship into practice. The office hosts department and hospital-wide conferences on topics related to finding and evaluating practice opportunities and negotiation of employment agreements. It also provides individual assistance to residents as needed.

Counseling
Developed by OGME and the UMMS Department of Psychiatry, the House Officer Counseling program is designed to help residents cope with the rigors of the training process, primarily through ready, confidential and highly subsidized access to quality mental health services. By alerting residents to the potential effects of stress and its warning signs, residents are encouraged to recognize problems if they occur and seek help in a timely fashion.

Resident Benefits
Each UMMS resident receives an annual stipend, in accordance with the stipend schedule available July 1 of each year. Residents receive the same benefit package as other UMMS professional employees. Massachusetts deducts only 1.45 percent for Social Security (FICA) Medicare contributions. Residents contribute to the State Retirement System (which is refundable when residents leave State service).

Residents may elect basic group health insurance benefits from a number of different providers, including indemnity plans, preferred provider organizations or health maintenance organizations. UMMS pays 75 percent of the monthly premium as well as the premium for $5,000 of term life insurance. UMMS offers comprehensive dental insurance and portable long-term disability insurance coverage. Other benefits include tax-sheltered annuities, child care and dependent care assistance programs, and reduced premium homeowners and automobile insurance.

After six months of continuous full-time employment, residents, their spouses and children are eligible for tuition remission when enrolled in selected Massachusetts public colleges or universities. Full remission is offered when enrolled in a full-time day program, while 50 percent remission is offered to those enrolled in evening programs. Up to full tuition may be waived for undergraduate or graduate courses at any University of Massachusetts campus (excluding continuing education and the doctoral program at the Medical School.)

UMMS also provides residents with occurrence-type medical malpractice coverage through a self-insured trust program. This insurance allows for extended employment opportunities (institution-sanctioned “moonlighting”) in accordance with institutional guidelines and individual residency program policies.

Each resident receives three weeks of paid vacation yearly, 15 days of sick leave, and maternity and parental leave. Meals and sleeping quarters are provided when on call.
The Memorial Campus is a leading provider of acute care services in the greater Worcester area and offers a broad array of primary, secondary and tertiary care services. The maternity center delivers more than 4,000 babies a year, more than any hospital in the region. It is the regional referral center for women with high-risk pregnancies, and it provides the region’s only Level III Newborn Intensive Care Unit, a 49-bed unit providing the most advanced life-saving care for fragile infants.

**Teaching Affiliates**

In addition to UMass Memorial, UMMS has major affiliations for education with St. Vincent Hospital at Worcester Medical Center, Baystate Hospital, Cape Cod Health Care, and the Central Western Massachusetts VA Health Care. Individual residency programs have affiliations with Milford Regional Medical Center, HealthAlliance in Fitchburg and Leominster, Bridgewater State Hospital, the Massachusetts Department of Correction, Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital, and other hospitals. A number of community-based ambulatory teaching centers are also linked to UMMS.

The Department of Family Medicine & Community Health is affiliated with the Family Health Center of Worcester, the Hahnemann Family Health Center, the Regional Family Health Center in Barre, and the CHC Family Health Center in Fitchburg. The Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics are also associated with the Tri-River Family Health Center in Uxbridge, and the Department of Pediatrics administers Webster’s South County Pediatrics and clinical experiences in private practice settings at Reliant Medical Group, a group model HMO.

**Life in Worcester**

Located in Central Massachusetts, Worcester is the third-largest city in New England. As the hub of economic activity in the area, Worcester and surrounding towns offer ample opportunities for spousal employment in various service industries, including health care, insurance, education, biotechnology and finance. The cost of living in Greater Worcester, particularly shopping and housing, is also very reasonable compared to that of other major cities. For entertainment, Worcester boasts the historic and acoustically-superior Mechanics Hall, site of classical music and opera performances, and the DCU Center, one of the country’s most successful arenas for top-draw rock concerts, sports, including hockey, and family entertainment events, and the Hanover Theatre for Performing Arts. A wide variety of ethnic restaurants satisfy every taste, as do eclectic cafes and nightclubs featuring live music.

Among the city’s treasures is the Worcester Art Museum, displaying world-class collections spanning 50 centuries and the Ecotarium, a regional resource for learning about the natural world. For shopping, Worcester boasts numerous specialty shops and boutiques.

Worcester’s central location also makes it ideal for visits to favorite New England attractions, including Cape Cod, a 90-minute drive southeast; Newport, RI, a 60-minute drive southeast; and Boston, a 45-minute drive east. For recreation, nearby Wachusett Mountain State Reservation offers hiking, biking, and, snowboarding, Nordic and alpine skiing for all abilities. The majestic mountains and pristine lakes of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are also nearby and accessible for day trips.

For more information on Worcester and surrounding towns visit:

- [http://www.worcester.ma.us](http://www.worcester.ma.us)
- [http://www.worcester.org](http://www.worcester.org)

**LOCATED IN THE HEART OF NEW ENGLAND**

[Map of New England with Worcester and surrounding towns marked.]

University of Massachusetts Medical School

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