Creating the next generation of physicians

Medical education goes far beyond earning a medical degree. At UMHS, we train new physicians to become the doctors and medical leaders in our state, nation and world. Here are some key facts:

- Residency training, also called graduate medical education or GME, is a crucial step in a doctor’s career, and essential to the board certification that allows them to be independent physicians.

- Here is a visual depiction of the general path to becoming a physician – which can take as many as 18 years, depending on the specialty. The number of years for each step is in parentheses:

  - Bachelor’s degree (4 years)
  - Medical School (4 years)
  - Residency (3 to 7 years)
  - Specialty training fellowships (1-3 years)
  - Board certification
  - Practicing physician

- UMHS has the fourth-largest residency program in the U.S., and offers training in 103 accredited specialties, from primary care to highly advanced subspecialties.

- In a national survey of board-certified physicians, we ranked among the best in the country in all 20 ranked residency specialties. We were #1 among large public hospitals in ear/nose/throat, pathology & surgery.

- At UMHS, 1,199 residents and clinical fellows train in their specialty while helping to care for patients at our Hospitals and Health Centers, under the supervision of Medical School faculty physicians. Our residents also provide crucial care at and train at the VA Ann Arbor Health Care System, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Hospital and Hurley Medical Center in Flint.

- In recognition of the importance of this training, state & federal governments provide funds to teaching hospitals to offset costs associated with involving residents in patient care while also training them. We receive funding for 765 slots, but we support additional ones as part of our educational and patient care mission.

- We attract the nation’s best students to our very competitive residency program. More than 40 percent were named to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society during medical school.

- Two-thirds of our incoming class of residents comes from out of state.

- U-M patients benefit from the expertise of these residents. About one-third of our residents are doing second or third residencies in complex specialties available at few other hospitals.

- After residency, doctors tend to practice near where they trained. About 40 percent of our residents stay in Michigan – and most of those staying are not originally from Michigan.

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