Alumni Survey

This Spring we sent out a survey to graduates of our Swedish Geriatrics Fellowship. Sixteen robust responses were collected. Here’s a summary:

- Respondents were from graduation years 2003-2016
- 43% currently work in academic settings, 43% in single specialty groups
- 75% work in urban centers and 70% are involved in medical director or leadership work.
- 100% would choose the Swedish Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program again if they had the choice.

“The expertise of geriatric care, with its focus on multi-morbidity, chronic disease, and the patient in context of family, enhances my care of all my patients, not just my older patients. So it made me a better full-spectrum clinician right out of fellowship, and it has given me job opportunities I wouldn’t have otherwise had years later.”

- Fellowship Alumnus
Program Director Carrie Rubenstein presented our program’s new Alternative Pathway for Practicing Physicians at this year’s conference. This pilot pathway will allow physicians in practice to complete our fellowship over a longer period of time while still maintaining their current employment. Dr. Amy Wilkerson, pictured above with Dr. Carrie Rubenstein, will be the first Alternative Pathway Fellow. They presented together in San Antonio. Current Fellow, Dr. Anshu Rimal (below), presented a poster at the conference which was very well received. It was titled, “Lamotrigine for Labetalol: A Medication Error with Grave Consequences.”

“In my current role I supervise physicians who are both family medicine docs and internists in a Medicare based practice. It is manifestly clear to me that those with fellowship training are on the whole better prepared to care for complex chronically ill patients, even those on the "younger" side. They do not fear dementia, they have a great understanding of complex family dynamics, and they understand how to talk about and plan for the end of life “

-Fellowship Alumnus

The opportunity to learn so much during the fellowship year to take the best care of your elderly patients is well worth the extra year of training. To date, I still find family physicians who have been in practice 20-30+ years still come to me for advice on care of their older patients.

-Fellowship Alumnus
New Fellows!

Amy Wilkerson, MD
Swedish Family Med grad 2009 has worked in Long Term and Sub-acute care for the last 5 years at Group Health (now Kaiser). She will keep her job half time, and complete our fellowship over 20 months starting September 2017, as our first Alternative Pathway for Practicing Physicians fellow.

Holly Christoferson, MD
Swedish Family Med grad 2006 has worked the past 6 years at Group Health (now Kaiser) serving a large older adult population. She realized that she loved Geriatrics, but wanted more training. She will be a full time fellow starting in August 2017 for 1 year.

Fellow Transitions

Dr. Laura Blinkhorn will finish the fellowship in October 2017. She will be working for NeighborCare Health as a Family Physician where she will be developing a new Geriatric Assessment program for its organization.

Dr. Anshu Rimal is still deciding on her next adventure, stay tuned to our next newsletter!

Caregiver Project Update

Our Geriatric Assessment Interprofessional Clinic is the site of an IRB-approved research study looking into caregiver burden. The primary aim of our project is to improve our care of the patient by screening caregivers for caregiver burden and providing support and resources. Behavioral Health Faculty, Dr. Kelly Serafini, and our Behavioral Health Graduate Students are playing an active role in this effort. To date, 13 participants have completed the study.
We are recruiting for Academic Year 2018-19 Fellows!

Our Program Offers:

Clinically-focused, one-year, ACGME-accredited fellowship program, with training in outpatient, inpatient, post-acute, and long-term care settings.

Academic training in geriatrics and family medicine at Swedish Family Medicine – First Hill, an outstanding residency program in downtown Seattle.

Program director and faculty who are board-certified in geriatrics and palliative medicine.

Emphasis on maintaining full-spectrum family medicine or internal medicine skills, including OB if desired.

Compensation above the fellowship average, with a generous 15 days/ $5000 CME package.

FAQs:

Outstanding pass rate on the ABFM/ABIM Geriatrics CAQ exam (the geriatrics equivalent of board certification).

We accept two fellows per year. We accept both Internal Medicine and Family Medicine residency graduates. Applications are taken through the NRMP Fellowship Match Program through the summer and fall; we interview in September and October.

Fellows develop clinical expertise in geriatrics, and graduate much better prepared to manage multiple chronic diseases, cognitive impairment, polypharmacy, end-of-life planning, and palliative care.

Fellows participate as “junior faculty” at Swedish Family Medicine, and are involved in precepting, didactics, faculty development sessions, and teaching residents and medical students. 40% of our graduates have gone on to careers in academic medicine, 70% involved in medical director or leadership positions.

ERAS application cycle opens July 6, 2017/NRMP Match opens August 31, 2018

For further information, please contact:

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Or for further information visit our website: www.swedish.org/geriatricsfellowship