

J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency leaders reflect on what makes our program stand out.



REENA HEMRAJANI, MD

Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Florida State University, Residency: Virginia Commonwealth University

I am so honored to serve as the Program Director for such an incredible program! Working with our residents and faculty teaches me so much about how to be a better physician, advocate, colleague, and friend. We have an amazing community dedicated to serving others, supporting each other, and becoming the best version of our selves.



KAREN LAW, MD

Immediate Past Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate Vice Chair of Education & Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Brown University, Residency: Emory University
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Every day, I am humbled by the combination of joy and diligence each of our residents bring to their work - whether it is caring for patients, teaching each other, or participating in scholarship. The strength of our resident community has become even more apparent during COVID as we have all worked together to learn about a novel disease, navigate considerable change, support each other, and lead our communities.



DAN DRESSLER, MD, MSC, SFHM, FACP

Associate Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Emory University, Residency: Emory University

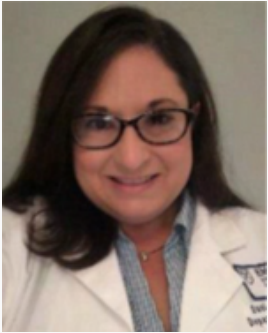
My favorite aspects of working with residents are their energy and enthusiasm, their kindness and caring, and their excitement about exploring new ways to effectively diagnose and manage our patients. I love being on clinical service with residents, as I always learn something new. Residents ask such thoughtful and poignant questions that really make me think and push me to great depths of finding new (or old) medical information.



SHELLY-ANN FLUKER, MD, FACP

Director, Primary Care Track, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Harvard University, Residency: Brigham and Women's Hospital

I feel so privileged to be a part of the journey that our residents take in becoming the physicians they envision for themselves. Watching our residents grow into skilled servant leaders is truly inspiring to me!



DANIELLE JONES, MD

Associate Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Rutgers University, Residency: Emory University

I love having the opportunity to mentor residents from the very start of their internal medicine careers and getting to witness their incredible growth along the way. Working with the residents in both the inpatient and Program Leadership outpatient settings not only allows me to have longitudinal teaching and mentoring relationships with residents, but also to learn from them—making medicine just that much more fun.



NOBLE MALEQUE, MD, FHM, FACP

Associate Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Vanderbilt University, Residency: University of Washington

It is incredibly rewarding when one of our graduates becomes a colleague and I can see firsthand the caliber of physician that comes out of our program. Right now, I am most excited about the efforts within our residency program and Emory at large to be intentional about resident wellness and well-being so they can obtain the necessary skills to continue a career in service and lifelong learning.



DUSTIN SMITH, MD

Associate Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Emory University, Residency: University of California - San Francisco

One thing I look forward to every year is teaching our interns simulated procedures at Intern Orientation and then later getting the opportunity to supervise those same trainees perform their very first bedside procedures on actual patients. The combined exuberance, relief, and sense of accomplishment I see on their faces is priceless and unforgettable.



JENNIFER SPICER, MD, MPH

Associate Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Emory University, Residency: Emory University

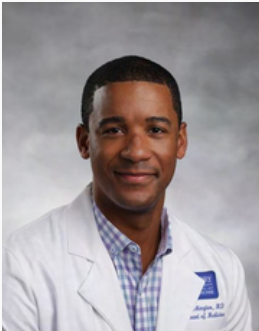
I am SO EXCITED to serve as an Associate Program Director for this residency program. The most fulfilling part of my job is working side-by-side with our residents caring and advocating for our patients at Grady. Teaching is my passion - yet, every time I work with residents, they also teach ME something new. Their thirst for knowledge is infectious, and it constantly challenges me to stay updated and adapt to the ever-evolving field of medicine. Working with them is a privilege and a joy.



TRACY VETTESE, MD

Director, Core Faculty Development, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Wayne State University, Residency: St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

It's an honor and a privilege to be a mentor to the residents and junior faculty, and it's what gives my professional life meaning. I've recently developed and am implementing a curriculum on "Improving the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of opioid use-disorder in primary care" for the residents. I love to teach about pain management, addiction medicine, and palliative care—particularly the communication aspects.



COLIN WASHINGTON, MD, MPH

Associate Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Emory University, Residency: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

There are many reasons why I love working with the residents, but the most impactful on me is their ability to constantly reconsider our status quo in medicine. Medicine is a living body, and with the instillation of new ideas and beliefs, it keeps from becoming stagnant and stale. The residents not only make me a more empathetic and proactive provider, but they do the same for whatever system they are put in.



KELLIE CLEARO, MD

Program Director, Combined Internal Medicine/Psychiatry Residency Program
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: University of Washington, Residency (Internal Medicine/Psychiatry): State University of New York & Duke University

I was drawn to Emory for the academic leadership and strength of both the Department of Medicine and the Department of Psychiatry.