

Program Leadership

Leaders of Emory University's J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency reflect on what makes our program stand out.



KAREN LAW, MD

Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate Vice Chair of Education & Assistant Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Brown University, Residency: Emory University

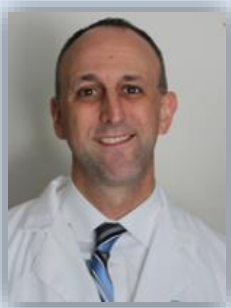
Every day, I am humbled by the combination of joy and diligence each of our residents bring to their work - whether it is caring for patients, teaching each other, or participating in scholarship. I also feel enormous privilege to be a part of the supportive community our residents create.



STAN SONU, MD

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

One of my favorite aspects of being in residency leadership is having the opportunity to advocate for residents on issues related to education, service, and wellness. Effective advocacy can lead to meaningful system change, which, over time, can lead to a shift in culture. I'm grateful for the opportunity to participate in cultivating and maintaining a safe, engaging, and inclusive learning environment/culture for our residents.



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.



STACY HIGGINS, MD

Associate Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory SOM
MD: Cornell University, Residency: Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center

What first attracted me to Emory was really Grady Memorial Hospital. I love getting the chance to care for an underserved population while teaching trainees in the same setting — it's an amazing opportunity. I also fell in love with the city of Atlanta, which was a nice bonus!



DANIELLE JONES, MD

Associate Program Director, J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency
Associate 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 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
Assistant 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.



TRACY VETTEZE, MD

Associate Program Director, 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.



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.