Class of 2021 PGY III - Current 3rd Years



Abla, Sarah
West Virginia School of
Osteopathic Medicine

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, PA and studied at the University of Pittsburgh for my undergraduate education. After college, I worked in New York City for two years prior to attending medical school in rural West Virginia. In WV, I discovered my passion for rural underserved medicine as I saw the barriers to healthcare faced by the Appalachian population and the importance of the broad spectrum of care provided by family physicians. This initial exposure to the field as well as my value for holistic care and strong patient-physician relationships led me to pursue a career in Family Medicine. My additional interests include behavioral health, integrative medicine, and addiction medicine. Although I have lived in the Northeast my entire life, I am incredibly excited to move to the Southwest and train at UNM. I chose this program because of its emphasis on community health, diverse patient-population, dedicated faculty, and supportive environment. UNM stood out to me as it truly strives to make a positive impact on the population it serves. I look forward to spending the next few years exploring the Land of Enchantment!



Aufderheide, Rory
University of Arizona
College of Medicine Tucson

In my medical school application I stated, "I want to be a leader in the health of my community: working directly with people, addressing wellness, and empowering people to be engaged in their health care." While in medical school I loved everything from the emergency room to the operating room to the clinic, but four years later I felt the same way as when I began the process—that health care is about so much more than just medicine. Family Medicine offers me a career that combines my passions. I believe healing takes more than just the right medicine so I'm driven to understanding what's happening in the community outside my clinic. I believe that a good doctor is a good teacher, so I'm passionate about learning how to better engage others. I am excited about bringing LGBTQ inclusive health care to areas where access is limited—integrating access to hormone blockers and cross-gender therapy, peri-partum care for queer parents, and HIV treatment and prevention into my practice. I chose UNM for the patients and for my future colleagues who I saw also working to look out from their health care setting and understand the community we are a part of.



Culkin, Julie
University of New Mexico

New Mexico has always been my home. I grew up in Corrales riding horses along the river. I attended the University of New Mexico for college where I received a degree in Biology with a concentration in Neuroscience. I completed a research project studying the effects of alcohol on the developing brain. I went on the attend the UNM School of Medicine where I was introduced to the amazing physicians that make up the faculty of Family Medicine. They inspired me to become a family doctor and I could not imagine a better place to attend residency. My goal is to become a doctor who lives and practices in a small community where I treat whole families. Aside from my life in medicine, I have two wonderful children and an amazing husband. We have chickens, a horse, two dogs and a cat and live near the Rio Grande river where we enjoy spending time outside kayaking, biking and riding horses.



Colom, Marcela
Universidad Francisco Marroquín
Facultad de Medicina

I was born and raised in Guatemala City, where I also attended Medical School. I first became interested in Family Medicine during a rotation in Community Medicine in a town just outside of the city. I got to work closely with the community, often visiting patients in their own homes and seeing first hand the conditions in which they lived and that influenced their healthcare related decisions. I realized how important it was to understand patients in the context of their families and communities, and how this had a positive impact on the patient-physician relationship and on health outcomes. After graduating, I worked in a women's health program in rural areas of Guatemala and consolidated my interest in Family Medicine. I love working in reproductive health, maternal-child care, and chronic disease. I chose to come to UNM because it will allow me to get a high-quality training while working as part of a culturally diverse community, and because it's a great place to learn about how to expand primary care services to underserved populations. I'm very excited about moving to New Mexico!



My introduction to family and community medicine was when, as a teenager, I visited my ancestral land of Bangladesh. Stunned by the level of abject poverty in this small, developing country, I entered my adolescence resolved to pursue a career that was dedicated to caring for the underserved. This desire brought me to Tulane University, where I studied political science, public health, and studied abroad in both Jordan and Malaysia. Prior to medical school, I continued to develop my understanding of the social and political determinants of health by completing a MSPH at Tulane and working as a medical case manager for refugees and asylum seekers in Austin. In medical school, my

Khan, Farinaz
Louisiana State University
New Orleans

efforts were focused on teaching comprehensive sex education to local youth and participating in reproductive health advocacy. I have decided to move to the beautiful Southwest and join the family medicine team at UNM due to the rigorous training here and the passionate, devoted colleagues that I met during my away rotation and interview. My interests in medicine include family planning, substance abuse, LGBTQ health, and global health. Family medicine allows me to incorporate all of these interests into one career. Ultimately, after residency, I hope to work in a community health center and participate frequently in global health trips. Outside of medicine, I enjoy traveling, cooking but more importantly eating, watching films, attending concerts, and hiking.



Majdi, Jamie George Washington University

I grew up in the cornfields of western Illinois and the foothills of Colorado. During college, I studied Spanish and Public Health. Afterwards, I completed my MPH and worked as an epidemiologist for the FDA. In medical school, I discovered a love of political advocacy after spending time at the US Capitol, arguing to increase funding for Medicaid and mental health services. My interests in policy and public health led me to family medicine, where I found others who cared about prevention, community health, and the care of the entire individual. When I first met residents from UNM, I immediately realized that we shared a vision of primary care that positively impacts individuals and communities. I also saw how UNM turns that mission into action through their emphasis on training in family planning, substance use, and behavioral health. Those were my own clinical interests as well. I also love the idea of working with a diverse patients including a large immigrant population. In my free time, I enjoy eating good ice cream and hiking with my husband (Joe) and dog (Rufus). I am very excited to return to the west and get to know the people, natural places, and food of New Mexico.



Moore, Jillian
Harvard Medical School

I grew up in Arizona and am overjoyed to return to my desert homeland for residency. I came to family medicine through my work in Guatemala, where over the last six years, I have supported indigenous Maya communities in areas of reproductive health, mental health and palliative care through ethnographic research and teaching community health workers. I chose UNM for the opportunity to train in an academic safety-net system serving a rural state with large indigenous and immigrant populations, and for the local expertise in addiction care, midwifery, integrative medicine, and community engagement. All this, set amid abundant natural wonders to explore!



Muller, Brianna
Oregon HSC University

Born and raised in Colorado, I headed to Notre Dame for college where I studied Anthropology and how to survive subzero temperatures. Upon graduation, I worked as an AmeriCorps Patient Navigator in a Seattle community health center, rode a bike across the United States, and had a brief stint as a ski bum before heading to Oregon Health & Science University in Portland for medical school. Throughout all of this, I witnessed how health and well-being are cultivated not only in clinics, but in the communities where we work, live, and play. During medical school, I completed an MPH to learn more about how to address these structural and social determinants of health. I am grateful for my varied experiences, as they have inspired me to pursue family medicine. Through individual narratives and personal relationships, family medicine reveals the diverse topography of the human experience on a daily basis. I love that it is uniquely situated at the intersection of individual, community, and population health. I chose UNM because I knew I would receive full-scope, community-focused training in all of these realms all while being surrounded by inspiring individuals committed to advancing health equity. Outside of medicine, you will find me spending time in the mountains with my dog, reading books for fun, and attempting to cultivate a garden that can survive the New Mexico sun.



Nguy, Stacy
Texas Tech Paul L Foster

Coming from a financially disadvantaged family and neighborhood, I recognize that health goes beyond the doctor's office. It is affected by one's education, income, community, culture, politics, and so much more. I chose Family Medicine because I want to comprehensively and compassionately approach medicine and health. There are so many disparities in healthcare, and I wish to be able to address them, not shy away from them. I want to be able to work with a team that can help patients and communities reach their best health. My personal interests in Family Medicine include women's health, obstetrics care, maternal-child health, behavioral health, and substance abuse. UNM offers me a place and a community to pursue these particular interests in medicine. I also chose UNM because this program is greatly invested in the community, and I believe this is the best place for me to grow and learn to become the best physician I can become. I am so very excited to make Albuquerque my home for the next few years.



I chose Family Medicine because I believe in the power of relationships, I am committed to our community and I understand that an individual's life is not defined simply by diagnoses or medications. Within Family Medicine, I am interested in community health and thinking about how we provide care to our most marginalized populations. During my time at UNM, I have been able to learn from and be inspired by incredible family

Douglas, Katie
University of New Mexico

physicians. My scholarly project is focused around how to best teach feedback as a skill and improve the culture of feedback. During residency I have served at a few different volunteer clinics that are for our most marginalized populations. One of these is One Hope, a clinic in the international district that mainly serves a Spanish speaking population. I am also passionate about serving populations experiencing homelessness and do this through different volunteer clinics and serving on a local non-profit board. On the weekends I can be found in my kitchen or exploring the mountains with my husband and our puppy!



Overton, Timothy

McGovern Medical School

University of Texas

After being born in Virginia, I was lucky to grow up all over the United States, living everywhere from Texas to Boston and most places in between. Exposure to different cultures shaped my understanding of the role communities can play in an individual's health and well-being, and has helped me appreciate the variety of experiences people undergo in a nation as diverse as ours. My path took me from undergraduate biochemistry studies at West Texas A&M to the heart of Houston for Medical School at UT McGovern, all the while honing my interest in primary care. I was drawn to UNM Family Medicine because of the diverse population we serve, the robust clinical and public health training, as well as the excellence in academic medicine. My interests in medicine include: rural and full spectrum practice, adolescent health, sports medicine, and preventative care. Outside of medicine I enjoy the outdoors, rock climbing, digging up local live music, and spending time with my loved ones.



Patel, Darshan

Cooper Medical School

Rowan University

Residency has brought with it many adventures, and I do continually feel blessed to be amongst such a great group of people. As I approach the midway point of residency, I'll share with you some highlights! 1) It is a privilege to have my continuity clinic at the Albuquerque Indian Health Center - an Indian Health Service clinic. Our patients are truly our best teachers. 2) A group of us residents have been passionate about local health policy issues, and we meet with local leaders and stakeholders, and testify to legislative committees whenever we can. 3) We have the opportunity to staff a local low-cost clinic for uninsured, mostly immigrant and Spanish speaking patients. We also can work with refugees and asylum seekers along the US-Mexico border in a new Border Health elective. 4) In my free time, I've been able to go skiing, hiking, camping and exploring in all parts of New Mexico.



Phillips, David "Alex"

Medical College of Georgia at

Augusta University

Like many eventual family physicians, I found that I greatly enjoyed most aspects of patient care as well as a variety of patient populations during my rotations in medical school. But it was not only a desire to include a broad spectrum of medicine and patients into my practice but also a desire to include all of the traditional prongs of the academic physician—patient care, research, and teaching—that drew me to this field. I believe family medicine provides the opportunity both to practice as an academic physician as well as to serve some of the most vulnerable patient populations in our local communities and globally.



Rauchfuss, Julia
USF Health Morsani

I have been fortunate in my medical training to have had multiple family medicine mentors who have widened my perspective on the significance of social factors responsible for disparities in healthcare, including financial, educational, cultural, and language barriers. My most formative experiences in medical school led me outside of the exam room to bring preventive primary care directly to patients with limited access, such as Tampa's homeless and rural communities in Nicaragua. UNM recognizes that family medicine physicians are in a unique position to address these issues through their long-term patient relationships, sometimes spanning multiple generations of a family, and connect patients to other essential services within their multidisciplinary clinical team.



Rogers, Jessie
University of New Mexico

I am excited to join the UNM Family Medicine Residency program in order to continue the rewarding work of caring for my fellow New Mexicans. While I originally hail from the east coast, New Mexico has definitely become my home and I feel honored to be part of its diverse fabric. I was truly captivated by all fields of medicine, but ultimately family medicine called my name with its emphases upon building long term partnerships with patients in all stages of their lives, empowering individuals to have ownership over their well-being, approaching health as a confluence of social, political, environmental and individual interactions, and advocating for community health and social justice. My particular areas of interest are broad and include LGBTQ care, maternal child health, reproductive, addiction and adolescent medicines, and palliative care.