Welcome to California’s First Teaching Health Center!

The federal government wants to find a better model for training family medicine residents. Our old system of tying payments to residencies based on the amount of time training occurs in a hospital is an outmoded system.

Enter the idea of the “Teaching Health Center”. Last winter, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) went searching for programs that qualify for a unique pilot project funding residencies that utilize Community Health Centers to combine training with care for underserved patients.

The Valley Family Medicine Residency of Modesto threw its hat in the ring and was surprised to be the recipient of the largest grant in the nation, and only one of eleven programs to be designated as a HRSA-funded Teaching Health Center. The five-year, eleven million dollar grant supports training for thirty family medicine residents.

California’s Central Valley is a region in great need of family physicians. Community-based training in settings such as ours leads to more graduates feeling comfortable with practice in underserved communities and populations.

This HRSA pilot project hopes to demonstrate the benefits of combining underserved community-based care with high quality medical education. The eleven Teaching Health Centers are participating in a national study to gather more information about our programs and their graduates. This eventually may lead to an entirely new way of funding primary care medical education.

Innovative programs such as ours are leading the way to expand the primary care workforce that meet the healthcare needs of our poor and vulnerable populations. However, training in these settings no longer means our residencies need to be poor and vulnerable as well. Welcome to the future!

Welcome to California’s First Teaching Health Center!

Moving on up to bigger digs

This fall, we moved out of our tight space in the hospital’s old west wing to a more spacious central location befitting our growing program.

Remodeling will commence this spring to consolidate call rooms, bathroom facilities, conference and teaching space adjacent to the residency offices.

We’ve noticed that a gender-based debate has arisen as to whether the lounge should have a weight room or a spa.

The director wisely side-stepped the issue by confessing that neither option is in the budget. Yet, this doesn’t preclude resident fund raising. Get ready for a tough campaign season.
Graduates Off to Great Things!

The class of 2011 was another banner year. In June, we graduated eight family doctors who are off to successful careers.

**Carlos Ayon-Martinez, MD (Universidad de Guadalajara)** Carlos will be starting a practice in Temecula, CA. He will be practicing in a federally-qualified clinic system serving the underserved Hispanic community.

**Barbara Cadena, MD (University of New Mexico)** Barbara will be starting a practice in Anthony, New Mexico. She has joined a community-health clinic system in a rural part of the state.

**Gilberto Cota, MD (Universidad Autonoma de Mexico)** Gilberto will be starting a practice in San Diego, CA. He will be practicing in a federally-qualified health clinic system serving the underserved Hispanic community.

**Hossein Hassani, MD (Ross University)** Hossien will be starting a practice in Santa Cruz, CA. He has joined the Dominican Medical System and will be practicing full-spectrum family medicine.

**Jennifer McIrvin, DO (Touro University)** Jennifer will be starting a practice with Kaiser Permanente in Livermore, CA. She will be working part-time in the outpatient clinic, while spending time with her new son, Donnie.

**Tejinder Nahal, MD (Ross University)** Tejinder will be starting a practice with Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, CA, and enjoying time with his two young sons who were born during residency.

**Sabrina Sood, MD (St. George’s University)** Sabrina will be starting a practice with John Muir Health in Walnut Creek, CA. Her parents (both Modesto physicians) are pleased she has not moved too far away.

**Negin Taher, MD (Zanjan University of Medical Sciences)** Negin will be starting a practice with Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek, CA., and looks forward to having her brother nearby as he completes his medical training.

Resident Leadership Fellow gets taste for advocacy

Our medical society wants you! Each year, the Stanislaus Medical Society sponsors a resident to become a Leadership Fellow. This competitive appointment entitles the resident to sit on the Society Board of Directors, participate in the CMA and CAFP House of Delegates Resident Section and underwrite attendance at two leadership conferences.

This year’s fellow, Dr. Mohan Sakhrani (’13), discovered advocacy through engagement at the California Medical Association Annual House of Delegates meeting in Anaheim this October. Many important topics were discussed, including the controversial decision advocating the decriminalization, research and regulation of medical cannabis.

This year, we have one-hundred percent resident membership in our medical society, one of only a handful of societies to achieve this membership milestone. Thanks to the advocacy of Dr. Sakhrani, family medicine will be well represented at the table, debating the future of California medical practice and healthcare...
Residency and faculty awards and recognition accumulate

Please forgive us. We can’t help wanting to list all the recent accomplishments of our faculty and residency. But this year has been exceptional.

This summer, Drs. Erin Kiesel (’00) and Susie Wenstrup (’97) were accepted into the prestigious UCSF Faculty Development Fellowship, while another faculty member, Dr. Kate Kearns, graduated from the nationally-recognized Institute of Program Director Development in Kansas City.

Our residency also received the Bronze Award from the Association of Family Medicine Program Directors for the distinguished residency educational commitment of its faculty.

Our program director, Dr. Peter Broderick (’90) wears many hats, but this year he added another by being elected President of the Stanislaus Medical Society. In the fall, he will start a two-year fellowship with the California Healthcare Foundation, developing future state-wide leadership potential. And there was that bit about being named California “Family Physician of the Year” by the CAFP.

From our recognition as the most funded Teaching Health Center in the nation, to the national story of saving a residency through community ownership, to the multiple and varied accomplishments of our faculty, forgive us for sounding boastful. We just have to tell why Modesto keeps proving great things can happen.

Novel solution to residency ownership gets good press

Family medicine residencies are community assets. So why can’t a community own a residency?

This was the premise for a novel and appealing solution to an increasingly common scenario; a residency closes because its sponsor is unable or unwilling to continue funding.

In our case, the crisis wasn’t internal but related to federal regulations that disqualified former funding streams. So our community built a new residency together, forming a non-profit corporation to sponsor residency training.

It turns out this may be the way forward for many communities who want to start or sustain residencies caring for vulnerable populations. By sharing cost and benefit, community partners can leverage their assets for a stronger, more stable funding platform. And the federal government is taking notice, by including community-based GME consortia, such as our Valley Consortium for Medical Education (VCME), among the eligible institutional sponsors for Teaching Health Center funding.

This spring we received great coverage of our ‘community miracle’ in state-wide publications like California Healthline, and HealthyCal.org. Our story will also soon be in Academic Medicine. Stay tuned for more community spirit.

Skills training takes bloom in the Spring

Modern medical education requires detailed proof that each physician has assembled the specific ingredients of a competent doctor, but showing this outcome is a challenge.

Our new Valley Family Medicine Residency tackled this challenge debating a novel day of simulation this past June. Much as flight schools use simulation to assess pilots’ skills in critical situations, our faculty observed residents using role-play with actual “live” patients, expertly played by senior residents.

From a young woman with post-partum depression, an elderly presenting with dementia, or a man secretly suffering with alcoholism, junior residents got to show their skills of interviewing and diagnosis, while the seniors poured out their talent for acting.

Afternoon stations resembled circuit training, with residents rotating through 5-minute mini-skills stations, testing their ability to properly code a visit, describe a rash, adjust an insulin regimen or find evidence-based answers.

Our cast of characters laughed and learned their way through what will become an innovative
The Valley Family Medicine Residency of Modesto was founded in 2010. Our community has a thirty-five year history of training family physicians for this region. Valley Consortium for Medical Education is a public-private partnership with Doctors Medical Center, Memorial Medical Center, and Stanislaus County Health Services. Our mission is to train physicians through service to those in need. Our residents build on a four-decade legacy of comprehensive care for the underserved, ethnically diverse population of Stanislaus County.

The saga of the Sleepless Knights twice a year!

The Morning Report

Doctors Medical Center.
P.O. Box 3271, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: 209-576-3526
Fax: 209-576-3597
Email: michele.helwick@tenethealth.com

Training tomorrow’s doctors today

Interest in Global Health is spreading throughout family medicine, particularly in our multi-cultural region of California.

Many of our residents aspire to serve overseas, not just in the future, but now! However, they often don’t know how to get the knowledge, skills or connections necessary to make a lasting impact.

Enter our Global Health Area of Concentration! As part of the Area of Concentration, residents must complete a project pertaining to global health, giving lectures on global health topics, spending electives abroad, combined with work in refugee and tuberculosis clinics, and didactics through multiple global health conferences.

In the last couple years, our residents have done electives in Haiti, Pakistan, India, Mali, Kenya, Guatemala, and Sudan. Not to be forgotten is the global health exposure residents receive in Modesto where they regularly see patients from Southeast Asia, Central America, and the Middle East.

Our Global Health Area of Concentration is a growing program and we are looking forward to developing it further!

Dr. Ben Colton (’09) on a medical mission in Africa this last year. Dr. Colton leads our Global Health curriculum.

Our Sponsors: