We understand that choosing a residency program can be an unnerving task – we were there just three years ago. We would like to help alleviate some of those worries and show you why Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Residency Program will be the perfect fit for you!

Being at a free-standing children’s hospital with large volume, high acuity, and a large catchment area provides our residents exposure to a varied array of pediatric illness from the “bread and butter” cases to the rare “zebras” that are only read about in our medical school textbooks. A major draw for both of us to this program was the obvious importance of the values of compassion, hard work, excellence, and teamwork we saw throughout program leadership, support staff, and residents. We pride ourselves on being a resident-driven program with a wonderful balance of support and autonomy. We have excellent program leadership in Drs. Kira, Raj, and Justin (yep, first names) who create an environment from the top down which fosters education and inspires us to be excellent physicians.

We both chose the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital/Michigan State University Pediatric Residency Program because we desired a medium-sized program that challenged our intellectual abilities, provided a vast network of pediatrics trained support staff, sustained a “family feel,” and allowed us to tailor our education, all while providing a solid general pediatric foundation of knowledge. Education is valued at our program and reinforced through our protected half-day Thursday didactic series, morning reports, and multidisciplinary case conferences with experts from many subspecialties involved.

Our residents come from diverse backgrounds and have many different interests, but we all share a love for pediatrics. This helps form a strong bond and a tight knit family. Our program leadership emphasizes work-life balance, and there is always something going on, whether it be a social hour after work with colleagues or intramural sports. In fact, Grand Rapids is ranked #12 on U.S. News and & World Report’s “125 Best Places to Live in the USA” list. West Michigan’s wonderland of outdoor recreation and fun combined with GR’s vibrant food, art, and music scene might have a little something to do with that.

We thank you for taking an interest in the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital/Michigan State University Pediatric Residency Program and look forward to meeting you on the interview trail. Please contact us with any questions you may have and we would be happy to provide you with more information.

2018-2019 Chief Residents

Saji Azerf, MD
saji.azerf@spectrumhealth.org

Galen Hartman, MD
galen.hartman@spectrumhealth.org