

Inclusive. Innovative. Impactful. What does this mean to us and why does this make Helen DeVos Children's Hospital's Pediatric Residency Program the perfect fit for you?

Inclusive

The pediatric 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. We know each other very well and have multiple opportunities to get together, whether it be at a social hour after work or with our intramural sports teams.

We have excellent program leadership in Drs. Kira, Raj, and Justin (yep, first names) who always inspire us to grow and push our boundaries to become excellent physicians while instilling the values of compassion and teamwork that have become an integral part of the functioning of our program. Our program leadership encourages work-life balance, values feedback, is committed to diversity and inclusion (with pediatric-residency-specific committees, as well as Spectrum Health support) and cares about the emotional wellbeing of our residents.

We chose to work here because it was small enough to feel like a family while being big enough to give us access to knowledgeable faculty in over fifty pediatric subspecialties and a vast network of pediatrics-trained support staff – everyone in the hospital from nurses to respiratory therapists has chosen to be trained to work with kids!

Innovative

Our individualized program tracks allow us to tailor our education so that it aligns with our career goals, while still providing us with a solid foundation of general pediatric knowledge. Education is valued and reinforced through our protected half-day didactic series, morning reports and multidisciplinary case conferences with participation by experts from many subspecialties.

We pride ourselves on being a resident-driven program with a wonderful balance of support and autonomy, as well as numerous opportunities to drive progress through feedback. Program leadership has a true open-door policy, and always want to hear our ideas!

There are ample research and teaching opportunities through our affiliation with Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Each resident is expected to complete a scholarly activity project during their residency, and we have plenty of tools to make that happen. From research mixers to connecting with mentors in your chosen area to presenting at national conferences, our program has done it all and will help you do the same! Spectrum Health strongly supports quality improvement and new ideas through the iHub—a dedicated team which hosts a wide range of quality improvement projects throughout the hospital.

Impactful

We love training at the only free-standing children's hospital in West Michigan. Seven subspecialties were nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report in their Best Children's Hospitals in 2021-2022. We thrive in high acuity environments including the pediatric emergency department, level IV NICU (largest in Michigan), a 24-bed state-of-the-art PICU and the cardiovascular ICU. We draw from a large catchment area including all West Michigan, northern Indiana, the Upper Peninsula and more! This provides our residents exposure to a broad spectrum of pediatric illness which will prepare you for any career path from general pediatrics to subspecialty training.

Why Grand Rapids?

We love living in Grand Rapids! Grand Rapids is consistently ranked highly on U.S. News and World Report's "125 Best Places to Live in the USA" list. It is also one of the fastest growing cities in the country. West Michigan's wonderland of outdoor recreation and fun combined with a vibrant food, art, and music scene might have a little something to do with that. And Lake Michigan is just a 45-minute drive away!

We have heard our program described as a “hidden gem” in the Midwest because of the rapidly growing pediatric hospital, research opportunities and faculty in every pediatric subspecialty. Recent graduates have matched in fellowships across the country – including Boston Children’s, Columbia (New York City), University of Michigan, Lurie Children’s (Chicago), Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and many more.

Thank you for taking an interest in the Spectrum Health/Michigan State University Pediatric Residency Program at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. We look forward to meeting you on the (virtual) interview trail this year! Please contact us with any questions and we would be happy to provide you with more information.

2021-2022 Pediatric Chief Residents

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