July 10, 2020

Dear Applicant,

Welcome to the wonderful work of pediatric hospital medicine! As you know, no two PHM fellowships are alike, despite ACGME setting core standards. We remember how nerve wracking it was during the interview trail to find a program that would be the best fit. We assure you that program at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital could be that perfect fit! As one of the first ACGME certified fellowships, this program will certainly develop you into a strong clinician. You will also become a champion of quality improvement and a seasoned medical educator. There are too many other wonderful opportunities for a single letter, but we hope to help you understand that our PHM fellowship at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital can enhance whatever skill you are interested in so that you will be an all-around exceptional pediatric hospitalist.

Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital is a free-standing children’s hospital with large volumes, high acuity, and a large catchment area that provides our fellows with opportunity to see a wide array of pediatric illnesses and develop the clinical skills needed to manage them, using evidence-based medicine. Fellows at this program are given a high level of autonomy and placed in an attending role, with supervision and feedback on leading patient care teams and working inter-disciplinarily to provide comprehensive care.

One unique quality of our hospital is the i-Hub, which can be likened to a “QI Heaven.” It’s a department central to the culture of Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital where anyone can submit a project idea, and then the hospital will come together and provide the support to create change by using an assigned improvement specialist, executive sponsorship, and continuous project feedback. Previous fellows have owned projects aimed at reducing vital sign frequency, decreasing electrolyte testing, and improving comfort with using interpreter services. Danielle’s current fellow project studies hospital medicine surgical co-management as a quality intervention. Additionally, fellows have a dedicated Quality and Process Improvement curriculum working directly with experienced i-Hub leaders that helps us have a strong foundational knowledge of QI and PI. We apply this knowledge directly, working on hospital committees and participating in safety review.

This is also a great program if you value student and resident education. Fellows are clinical instructors at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and teach the medical student pediatric rotation small group discussions. Residents on the service teams come from multiple programs and specialties, providing a diverse spectrum of pediatric clinical education. Didactically, fellows lead an intern lecture series for pediatric residents, design and lead resident in situ simulation, and do peer education through hospitalist journal club. Fellows also get to complete a robust, simulation-based, 2.5 day Faculty Development Program that takes teaching skills to the next level.

Faculty are beyond supportive of the fellows and are truly invested in their personal growth. The hospitalists are diverse in their interests – medical education, administration, clinical research, media relations, informatics, quality improvement, and more. They are excited to have fellows involved in their projects and are so supportive of fellows’ own work. We have amazing program leadership in Dr. Jeri Kessenich and Dr. Brett Leingang; the program they have built in two years is so outstanding that it was one of the first few to be ACGME accredited. Our section chief Dr. Andrea Hadley has created a leadership elective that fosters us as the future programmatic leaders of PHM, while simultaneously being individualized to fellow goals and providing high level mentorship opportunities in our larger health system. Both of us have received highly personalized education that allowed us to pursue our individual
career interests further than we anticipated, with Allek receiving grant funding for addiction program development. Whatever you need in your training, Jeri and Brett will go above and beyond to make this the best program for you.

We could not be any happier with our decision to train at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. The training we have received thus far has been amazing and we are so thankful for the growth we have experienced. We are confident that this program has helped us achieve our dream of being exceptional hospitalists and pediatricians.

We thank you for taking an interest in the pediatric hospital medicine fellowship program and look forward to meeting you on the interview trail. Please contact us with any questions you may have. We would be happy to provide you with more information.

All the best,
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