

Inclusive. Innovative. Impactful.

What this means to us and why this makes Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital/Michigan State University Pediatrics Residency Program your perfect fit!

Inclusive

As a program, we are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have dedicated program leadership within the Pediatric Residency Program as well as the Office of Medical Education who are committed to providing DEI educational opportunities and experiences throughout the academic year. Our resident led committee ensures inclusion for our patients by sponsoring language-diverse book drives for our clinic and creating educational handouts in multiple languages.

Our residents come from a variety of backgrounds and use their unique experiences to help serve our patients. We all share a love for caring for children and their families. Our program values emotional wellbeing for our residents, and we are committed to work life balance. We serve a diverse population of children and families both in the local Grand Rapids area and across the entirety of West Michigan, the Upper Peninsula, and parts of Northern Indiana.

As the program continues to expand, our wonderful leadership, including Dr. Jason Thomas (Program Director), Dr. Sheila Waslawski (Associate PD), Dr. Lauren Alessi (Associate PD), Dr. Miranda Hillard (Associate PD), Dr. Callie Killpatrick (Associate PD), Dr. ShaMelle White (Assistant PD), and Dr. Vanessa Cardenas Soto (DOSA), continue to inspire and challenge us to expand beyond our comfort zones and implement the values of compassion, inclusion, and quality improvement.

Innovative

Our program successfully balances providing excellent patient care and protecting time for learning. As part of our education, we attend twice weekly morning report conferences and a weekly academic half day, Grand Rounds, and multidisciplinary conferences with subspecialty experts. Individualized program tracks allow residents to customize their education to their career goals while solidifying their general pediatric knowledge. These tracks include Primary Care, Hospitalist Medicine, Critical Care/Emergency Medicine, and Subspecialty Medicine. In addition to tracks, we offer multiple certificate programs such as Lifestyle Medicine, Culinary Medicine, and Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS). Opportunities to grow as clinical educators are integrated into our curriculum with multiple leadership electives available for senior residents.

We are a resident driven program and have an open-door policy with our leadership - we even call our PD and all attendings by their first names! We have both resident-driven and faculty-driven committees focused on implementing resident feedback to refine elective experiences, create new rotations, and improve resident satisfaction.

A variety of research opportunities are available at our program thanks to resources provided by Corewell Health, the biggest hospital system in Michigan, and thanks to our affiliation with Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Every resident is required to complete a scholarly research project during residency, and there are numerous resources to help fulfill this requirement. From research mixers connecting you with mentors, to presenting at national and international conferences— our proven research track record will ensure you are successful!

Impactful

Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital is a free-standing children's hospital with more than 240 inpatient beds. Trainees rotate through high acuity environments including our Level I Trauma pediatric emergency department, Level IV NICU (largest in Michigan), and state-of-the-art 24 bed PICU with PCICU beds. Several subspecialties continue to be ranked nationally in the U.S. News & World Report in their Best Children's Hospitals Ranks. Residents learn to manage a broad range of pediatric illnesses as well as complex care patients and are well prepared for any career path. Recent graduates

have matched in fellowships across the country, including Yale University, Cleveland Clinic, University of Michigan, Seattle Children's, Lurie Children's (Chicago), and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

A "hidden gem" in the Midwest, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital offers well-rounded training with access to more than 50 pediatric services and programs. Our affiliation with Michigan State University College of Human Medicine creates additional opportunities for faculty mentorship and teaching opportunities with medical students. Above all, we prioritize teaching and education with strategies to facilitate a variety of learning styles.

Why Grand Rapids?

Grand Rapids consistently ranks highly on U.S. News and World Report's *Best Places to Live*, *Cheapest Places to Live*, and *Best Places to Live for Quality of Life* lists. Our city's proximity to outdoor recreation (including nearby Lake Michigan) combined with the colorful food, art, and music scene provides a vibrant life outside of work.

Thank you for your interest in the Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital/Michigan State University Pediatrics Residency Program. We look forward to meeting you on the (virtual) interview trail this year! Please contact us with any questions; we are happy to provide you with more information.

Pediatric Chief Residents 2025-2026

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