

June 2021

Dear Applicant,

Welcome to the wonderful world of pediatric hospital medicine! We remember just starting out on the interview trail a few years ago. Despite ACGME core competencies, there are a lot of differences between programs, and you are probably wondering how to find the best fit. Going through this process virtually may present additional challenges and anxieties. We hope you find the next few months exciting as you explore all that pediatric hospital medicine fellowship has to offer. We can assure you that the pediatric hospital medicine fellowship at Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital has been an incredible fit and first choice for both of us.

This fellowship program is designed to develop graduates who are fantastic clinicians, seasoned medical educators and leaders in quality improvement projects. There are too many wonderful opportunities for a single letter, but we think the biggest strength of the pediatric hospital medicine fellowship at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital is the commitment and resources to tailor a fellow's experience toward their individual learning goals, in addition to developing them as excellent, well-rounded pediatric hospitalists.

Helen DeVos Children's Hospital is a free-standing children's hospital with large volumes and high acuity patients. This provides fellows an opportunity to see a wide array of pediatric illnesses and develop the clinical skills needed to manage them, using evidence-based medicine and high-value care. Fellows 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 feature of our hospital is the commitment to a culture of continuous quality improvement. Previous pediatric hospital medicine fellows have owned projects aimed at reducing vital sign frequency, decreasing electrolyte testing, improving comfort with using interpreter services and using hospital medicine surgical co-management to decrease length of stay and PICU readmissions for neurosurgical patients. Additionally, fellows have a dedicated Quality and Process Improvement curriculum working directly with experts. We can apply this knowledge by working on hospital committees and participating in safety review.

This is also a great program for fellows passionate about medical student and resident education. Pediatric hospital medicine 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. Additionally, fellows lead an intern lecture series for pediatric residents, design and lead resident in situ simulation and complete peer education through hospitalist journal club and ethics journal club. From an academia perspective, this program offers robust support in medical education scholarship. As members of the Spectrum Health Academy of Professional Educators, we can lead and attend medical education journal clubs, secure medical education project grants and benefit from mentorship and peer review on medical education scholarship projects.

Faculty are beyond supportive of fellows and are 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 supportive of fellows' own work. The incredible culture of generosity and collegial empowerment within the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital pediatric hospital medicine family is second to none. We have amazing program leadership; the program they have built in three years is so outstanding that it was one of the first few pediatric hospital medicine programs to be ACGME accredited in 2020. Our section chief

has taken special interest in developing us as future programmatic leaders within pediatric hospital medicine by creating a unique leadership elective that provides high level mentorship opportunities in our larger health system. It is tailored towards individual fellow goals. The graduates from this program have all received highly personalized education and we have been able to pursue our individual career interests further than we anticipated.

Whatever you are looking for in your training, Brett Leingang, MD, and Jeri Kessenich, MD will go above and beyond to make this the best program for you. We are so happy with our decision to train at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and are confident that this program is developing us into exceptional hospitalists and pediatricians. Thank you for your interest in the pediatric hospital medicine fellowship program at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. We welcome any questions you may have at any point along the interview trail.

All the best,
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