Aurora Graduate Medical Education Resident Biographies

Family Medicine Residency ● Third Year Residents

Carl Bellinger, DO

- Hometown: Hudson, WI
- Undergraduate: BA in Psychology/Philosophy, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Medical School: Andrew Taylor Still University in Kirksville, MO

Family medicine has always been a natural fit for me. It allows me the flexibility to work with a wide variety of medical issues and a wide variety of people. It was perfect for me as a guy that liked everything during my clinical years. It also appeals to me that it allows us to intervene in disease processes when they are at their most modifiable. We are able to change people's lives by focusing on health earlier in these disease processes.

I was drawn to Aurora because of their excellent osteopathic education and focus on integrative medicine. Additionally, it was also the only program where I spent much of my time talking with their faculty about resident health/mental health. It showed how much they cared about their students' well-being while still ensuring an excellent educational experience.

For my free time, I am an avid "in-doorsman" and enjoy media in all forms: movies, video games and books. I love to travel and hope to spend significant time learning about global medicine, with a goal of returning to India where I spent time during my undergrad learning about that medical system. My future goals are a broad-spectrum outpatient practice and to be active within the international community.

Vy Dinh, MD, Senior Chief

- Hometown: Chicago, IL
- Undergraduate: Biology/Psychology
- Medical School: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine

My interest in family medicine stemmed from my experiences growing up in inner-city Chicago as a Vietnamese boat refugee, where I learned of the importance of community and other social determinants of health. During medical school, I worked with many family physicians that often went beyond the scope of their practice to come up with creative solutions for their patients’ problems. Their pragmatism reminded me of the can-do attitude that helped my family survive during our assimilation in America.

I was specifically drawn to the Aurora program because of its commitment to serving a diverse, urban underserved population. Because I rotated here as a student, I knew that it provides strong clinical training within a progressive learning environment. Furthermore, Milwaukee is such a humble, smaller version of Chicago!

Spare time or not, I always make time for yoga, my family, and stress cooking/baking (and photographing them for my Instagram account). My hobbies include volleyball, exploring the great outdoors, and doing lots of crafts (knitting, crocheting, and polymer-clay sculpting miniature food for my daughter). I would love to make an impact in refugee health, integrative medicine, and lactation medicine throughout my career as a family physician.
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Itamar Gnatt, MD

- Hometown: Jerusalem, Israel
- Undergraduate: Biology BA, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Medical School: Technion American Medical School

Family medicine is unique in the ability to treat any age group, anytime, anywhere. During my family medicine rotation in Israel, I enjoyed seeing patients of many different countries and cultures, with issues ranging from rare genetic diseases to the common cold.

The supervising family physician had a very broad knowledge of many fields and excellent rapport with his patients, taking care of their each and every need. Consequently, I developed a thirst for variety and serving the entire community.

During the interview season I was impressed with Aurora's curriculum and people I met; it seemed a natural fit. My wife Tzipi and I are excited to open a new chapter of our lives together in the Midwest.

Yelena Goschin, MD

- Hometown: Mequon, WI
- Undergraduate: BA in Biology and Russian Literature and Language, University of WI – Madison
- Medical School: American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine

As a third-year medical student, I was drawn to family medicine because it combined everything I loved about various medical practices into one discipline. Being able to care for patients at every stage of life allows me to be a well-rounded and holistic practitioner. Access to comprehensive primary care is vital to improving the health of our population.

I chose Aurora because of the people and principles they stand by. This program is dedicated to training physicians who use integrative techniques to empower patients in an underserved community. I am thrilled to return home to Milwaukee and be able to serve the community in this way.

Coming from a multicultural family, I am excited for my husband to discover all the diversity this city has to offer. We look forward to exploring the city and surrounding areas and making Milwaukee our home. I'm sure our new puppy will love the trails and parks that abound in southeastern Wisconsin.
Melissa Grube, MD

- Hometown: Woodville, WI
- Undergraduate: University of Wisconsin – Madison, Microbiology
- Medical School: University of Wisconsin – School of Medicine and Public Health

I chose to be a family medicine physician because I believe in the power of relationships built over time to support, motivate, and empower patients toward improvement in health. We all need someone in our corner who is available and invested in our well-being, no matter what comes up or how complicated life (or the health care system) can get, and I believe this field allows me to truly be that for my patients.

This program includes a focus on ambulatory care training and strong opportunities in mental health, geriatrics, and sports medicine, which are big interests of mine, and it was the first interview where I really felt at home. It also allows my husband and I with our new baby girl to live nearer the in-laws and to Milwaukee with its plethora of exciting and amazing things to do (and eat!).

Outside of work, I love hiking, yoga, cooking, traveling, and actively engaging with my church community. After residency, I hope to work in a broad-spectrum outpatient practice and with nursing homes and rural ER.

Thomas (TJ) Harrington, DO, Senior Chief

- Hometown: Bourbonnais, IL
- Undergraduate: BS Kinesiology, University of North Texas
- Medical School: Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University

Family medicine is a unique opportunity to provide holistic, long-term, and relationship-based care. I believe including a patient's family in the decision-making and care plan reduces uncertainty and anxiety while improving the health care experience and outcome.

As a family physician, I want to be considered part of my patient's family and someone they can depend on in times of need. I strive to deliver integrative health care, which I define as the intelligent blending of lifestyle medicine (nutrition, exercise, stress management) with my osteopathic medical education, while emphasizing the patient-provider relationship.

When considering residency, I sought a program that would nurture my interests in OMT, integrative health, behavioral health, and obstetrics while providing a supportive and inspiring environment to learn in. Aurora's commitment to these areas of medicine and residents' well being made the program a perfect fit. Additionally, the passion, warmth, and fellowship I felt from the staff, faculty, and residents during my time here made me feel at home.

My family and I are excited to become part of the Milwaukee community and experience all its diversity, arts, and outdoor life. Outside of medicine, my enjoyment comes from spending time with my wife and 4 children, reading, exercising, gardening, automotive restoration, fishing, and coaching sports.
Dane Olsen, MD

- Hometown: Milwaukee, WI
- Undergraduate: BS Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Medical School: St. Georges University, Grenada

I was drawn to family medicine for the profound connections that you can form with patients. Family physicians have the unique perspective of treating patients from ‘womb to tomb.’ There is a different level of trust that is fostered between a patient and family practitioner.

In that regard, I am honored to begin forming these bonds with my patients. And what a better place to do so than in Milwaukee! I am overjoyed to be returning to my roots to practice medicine. From the moment I set foot in St. Luke’s, I could tell that there was a dedicated group of physicians and staff. A feeling of community and family was present. That is why I knew that Aurora would be a great fit for me.

Apart from medicine, I have a number of passions, however one I hold near and dear to my heart is spending time camping with my father. We have taken a number of trips into the wilderness with only a canoe and a backpack. A return to nature from time to time is necessary! In the future, I would like to spend time working with underserved areas. I also have an interest in integrative medicine and can't wait to incorporate it into my outpatient practice.

Leslie Rabaut, DO

- Hometown: Grosse Pointe, Michigan
- Undergraduate: Michigan State University
- Medical School: Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Hi! My name is Leslie, and I am so excited to be starting my residency in family medicine at Aurora! My journey to family medicine and to Aurora has been an interesting one. Since I was in grade school, I knew I wanted to be a doctor. However, I was certain I was destined to be a surgeon. Once I started on my surgical subspecialty rotation in the third year of medical school, I quickly discovered I was mistaken.

I found that I wanted a deeper connection with my patients, and I didn't feel that the surgical quick fixes were truly addressing the chronic disease issues at hand. I also came to realize, throughout my rotations, that I was not satisfied with simply treating one aspect of my patients’ health and neglecting those that didn't pertain to the specialty. Family medicine was perfect choice for me because it enabled me to build relationships with my patients, to care for all of their health needs, and to emphasize preventative medicine.

Aurora's program stood out to me because of its emphasis on integrative medicine, which I personally believe is the future of outpatient medicine. I feel privileged to be part of a program that is embracing forward-thinking alternative therapies.

I have no family or friends in Milwaukee (yet), but I am moving all the way to Wisconsin because I know that Aurora is a very special program. I can't wait to get started at Aurora and to explore Wisconsin and all the nature and craft beer it has to offer!
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Priti Rana, DO

- Hometown: Monroe, WI
- Undergraduate: University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, Biology
- Medical School: Midwestern University – Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

I chose to pursue family medicine because of the relationship I get to form with my patients. I get to see and hear about their questions and concerns firsthand and am first in line to help solve their problems. In addition, I love the breadth of scope that family medicine allows me to practice, everything from pediatrics to obstetrics to geriatrics.

I chose Aurora's Family Medicine Residency Program in Milwaukee because of the opportunity it allows to work with a diverse patient population. I feel that the program will give me the experiences, tools, and support needed to succeed in practice after residency. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and cheering on the Packers and Badgers. As of right now, I am hoping to practice full-spectrum family medicine with obstetrics.

Alice Shallcross, DO

- Hometown: Warrenville, Illinois
- Undergraduate: BA in Integrative Physiology and BA in Spanish, Language and Literature, University of Colorado in Boulder, CO
- Medical School: West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, WV

My path to family medicine is the culmination of academic, personal, and community service-oriented life experiences that inspired me to enter into a profession where I could advocate for the health of my patients, stand up for social justice within my community, and embrace long-lasting established relationships with my patients.

A combination of global health experiences in Honduras, Mexico and Bolivia, as well as my experience as an AmeriCorps health educator focusing on prevention of chronic disease and breastfeeding education at a federally qualified health center in Chicago, inspired me to pursue a career in primary care where I could serve a diverse under-served population. Throughout my medical school experience in rural Appalachia, I tried to keep an open mind in regard to all specialties, but my heart kept coming back to family medicine and the fulfilling experience of being able to care for patients throughout the entire life cycle, from birth to death.

I specifically chose the Aurora Health Care program and Milwaukee for my training, to train in an under-served urban community and work with a diverse population. I felt really encouraged after my interview day and time rotating at Aurora St. Luke's that the faculty, staff, and residents are truly motivated to provide comprehensive, holistic care to a diverse under-served population, while addressing many of the barriers our patients and communities face. I am grateful for the opportunity to train at a community-based, university-affiliated program with multifaceted clinical experiences and dedicated, supportive faculty. A bonus is the opportunity to be part of a training program that supports continued training in osteopathic manipulative therapy as well as longitudinal opportunities in integrative medicine and community health.

As a Midwest native, I am looking forward to re-kindling my love for camping, hiking, and kayaking the beautiful lakes. My future goals after residency include working in an under-served community, providing full-spectrum primary care with a focus on adolescent medicine, women's health and obstetrics. I also have a growing interest in geriatrics and palliative care. A unique fact about me is I was a competitive figure skater throughout much of my childhood!
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Kyna Shnayderman, MD

- Hometown: Windsor, CT
- Undergraduate: Biology, University of Chicago
- Medical School: Medical College of Wisconsin

My path to family medicine was not direct, but I believe I am right where I am supposed to be. During medical school, I cultivated a variety of interests in topics ranging from global health, public health, and advocacy. Choosing a residency was difficult because aspects of many specialties appealed to me; my dream specialty would include a variety of experiences and be widely applicable, so that I could use my knowledge on mission trips such as the trip to Honduras I took as part of medical brigades during medical school.

Initially I trained in general surgery, excited about the opportunity to provide hands-on care. As time passed, I missed being able to pursue the other interests I nurtured in medical school. I also realized that the surgical lifestyle was not for me. I then worked as a wound physician in skilled nursing facilities while evaluating my priorities and career goals. The experience reinforced my interest in developing relationships with my patients and being the provider they could turn to for a variety of problems, not just their venous stasis ulcers. Family medicine seemed the perfect specialty for me to shape into a fulfilling career containing small procedures, rewarding patient relationships, and advocacy work.

While I was born a New Englander (go Patriots!), Milwaukee will always hold a special place in my heart as this is where I met my husband. I went to college in Chicago to try city life and try a new area of the country. I then became a Midwesterner, getting my first post-college job at Epic in Madison, then going to medical school in Milwaukee.

A fun fact about myself, I was the president of Cream City Communicators Toastmasters Club for the 2017–2018 term. This educational community club helps develop better speakers and leaders. Toastmasters International is currently sunsetting the previous curriculum and my goal is to earn their highest honor, the designation of Distinguished Toastmaster, in the legacy curriculum within the next 2 years.

Levi Stodola, MD

- Hometown: Rice Lake, WI
- Undergraduate: Applied Science
- Medical School: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

I was drawn to family medicine because I wanted a career where I would encounter a broad range of human illnesses, take care of patients of all ages, and develop lasting connections with my patients over their lifetimes. I believe through a strong physician–patient relationship, I will be able to support and empower my patients to make healthy lifestyle choices.

It is my desire to focus on disease prevention and health promotion. Not only will I strive to help heal the sick, I will help the healthy become healthier. My past training in general surgery has provided me with a unique insight into the tremendous benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and completing recommended health screening tests to help avoid the need for an operation down the road. Although I grew up on a dairy farm in rural northwestern Wisconsin, I am fully embracing the culture and culinary selections Milwaukee has to offer. I spend my free time outside as much as my schedule and the Wisconsin weather allows. After completing my training with Aurora Health Care, it is my desire to practice broad-spectrum family medicine in the outpatient setting. I greatly look forward to the privilege of serving generations of families in the same manner that my childhood family physician took care of five generations of mine.