Aurora Graduate Medical Education Resident Biographies

Family Medicine Residency ● First Year Residents

Alec Baca, MD (Ah-lic Bah-ka)

- Hometown: Eau Claire, WI
- Undergraduate Degree: Microbiology
- Medical School: Medical College of Wisconsin

I chose family medicine because of the broad practice opportunities available in the field and strong relationships providers have with their patients. The Aurora Family Medicine Residency offered the chance for excellent training at the primary urban center of my home state, with access to the connections of a large hospital system. Besides general outpatient primary care, my professional interests include procedures, immigrant/refugee care, research, and inpatient medicine. Outside of medicine, I play trumpet and jazz, enjoy learning languages, and am involved in a local church with my wife. In the future I anticipate practicing in Wisconsin with some aspect of global health worked into my career.

Stephanie Bruno, DO (Stef-Uh-Nee Brew-No)

- Hometown: New Berlin, WI
- Undergraduate Degree: Neurobiology
- Medical School: Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Born and raised in New Berlin, WI, I always hoped to return to the Milwaukee area for my residency training and future practice. Not only am I surrounded by a supportive network of family and friends, but I love the four seasons and everything Wisconsin has to offer (winter included!). I’m beyond excited to continue exploring Milwaukee and all of the food, festivals and outdoor activities it has to offer.

While I initially entered medical school convinced that pediatrics was the path for me, I quickly came to realize that I enjoyed working with patients of all ages. The broad spectrum of training and ability to partner with patients through all stages of life was exactly what I was looking for in a career. I also loved that Family Medicine would allow me to pursue my interests in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) and integrative medicine. As DOs, we learn a variety of hands-on techniques and treatments to relieve twists and turns in the body that can contribute to or cause disease. One of the many reasons I chose the Aurora Family Medicine Residency is their dedication to osteopathic training. I’m also excited to train alongside physicians who utilize integrative medicine in their practice. With Aurora, I am confident I will graduate with the skills and knowledge I need to practice compassionate, well-rounded primary care.
Aurora Graduate Medical Education Resident Biographies

Family Medicine Residency ● First Year Residents

Morgan Erickson, MD  (More-gan Err-rick-son)

- Hometown: Black Earth, WI
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology/Spanish
- Medical School: St. George’s University

My passion for Family Medicine stems from my previous experiences working as a CNA in both a nursing home and hospital setting. I knew I wanted to pursue a pathway that allowed me to build relationships with patients over an extended period of time, and truly get to know them on an individual level. I also value the intentional focus on preventative health and the reward of working with a variety of ages that is offered through the field of Family Medicine. More specifically, my interests within the field include Integrative/Lifestyle Medicine as well as Hospice & Palliative Care.

I immediately knew that the Aurora Family Medicine Residency was for me simply by how kind and transparent both the faculty and the residents were during the interview process. It was very apparent that this program values the wellbeing of its residents and has a legacy of producing competent Family Medicine physicians. The commitment to community outreach through the CHAMP curriculum paired with the ability for me to remain close to home were additional perks.

Outside of medicine, I enjoy cooking up new recipes with fresh fruits and veggies, exploring local hiking or jogging trails, and spending time with my family, friends, and fur babies. Despite growing up in the Midwest, I'm also a certified scuba diver and it’s my lifelong dream to scuba dive the Great Barrier Reef!

After residency, I hope to eventually start my own clinic, serving patients of all ages and ethnicities as their primary care provider in a medically underserved area.

Augustin Hernandez, DO  (AW-guhs-teen Hur-nan-dez)

- Hometown: Yuma, AZ
- Undergrad Degree: Biology
- Medical School: Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine

A fun fact about me, I got into medicine when I joined the Army as a medic at 18. I liked the tight-knit community of military life, and I think that’s what drew me to family medicine. In medical school, I did a rotation in a rural Iowa town, and I really felt like a part of the community. When I graduate residency, I hope to work in a smaller Midwest town and be their community doc. Outside of medicine, I hope to be involved in politics and advocate for my patients in the local legislature.
Aurora Graduate Medical Education Resident Biographies

Family Medicine Residency ● First Year Residents

Kewmars Keyvani, MD (Q-Mars Kay-Vuh-Nee)

- Hometown: Scottsdale, AZ
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology/Minor: Psychology
- Medical School: Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University

I chose family medicine for several reasons; I enjoy learning about each system of the body and the idea of dedicating myself to one of them didn’t appeal to me. Furthermore, the breadth of family medicine permits me to address all of my patients’ concerns. Like most family medicine physicians, I deeply resonate with the idea of building long-lasting, personal connections with my patients. One of my top priorities when picking my residency was my future colleagues. I believe when you have the right team everything else will fall into place. During my interview, I experienced a supporting and encouraging vibe from the people. The faculty felt caring and approachable, and the residents were amiable. Following residency, I will pursue private practice in an outpatient setting as well as advancing my patients’ medical literacy. This way patients may make informed decisions regarding their health. When I visit a new area, the first thing on my list is identifying the best places to eat. My hobbies include playing games, binging shows, reading books at different cafes, and bodybuilding.

Rachel Lopdrup, MD (RAY-chel LOP-drup)

- Hometown: Newton, MA
- Undergraduate Degree: Industrial Design
- Medical School: Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine – Rochester

I felt an irresistible draw to family medicine because of the amazing trust relationships I could build with my patients, the opportunities to help them reach their health goals, and the unsurpassed focus on addressing socioeconomic barriers to care. I chose this program as it had a perfect blend of my favorite residents, a fun city with delicious food, an urban underserved population, and a curriculum focusing on community engagement and advocacy training, which will foster opportunities for me to help my patients overcome barriers to care. Outside of work, I enjoy learning new skills in art, cooking, and gardening, as well as exploring via hiking and visiting new cities. In the future, I would like to practice in an urban underserved area and be involved in health systems leadership to improve access for my patients.
Aurora Graduate Medical Education Resident Biographies

Family Medicine Residency ● First Year Residents

Hira Gulrayz Nasir, MD  (Heh-ruh Naa-sir)

- Hometown: Karachi, Pakistan
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology
- Medical School: Dow Medical College

I love working with people, hearing their stories, and learning about their journeys, which is what drew me to the diverse scope of practice that family medicine offers. I have personally seen how this specialty can help with not just individual people and families, but whole communities, allowing patients to develop long-term relationships with their caregivers. I was seeking a residency program that will allow me to continuously grow and evolve while engaging with the community in a meaningful manner and I believe Aurora Family Medicine Residency Program will do just that. I have lived in Wisconsin for a few years now and have fallen in love with its people, its food, its festivals, the incomparable outdoors and the ample parking. I enjoy spending time with my adorable albeit mischievous son and my loving husband and tend to spend all my free time baking, reading or starting (but not always finishing) a DIY project. In the future I aim to focus on being a full-spectrum primary care physician, and diligently pursue my passion for medical humanities and education.

Brenna Ori, DO  (Bren-uh Or-ee)

- Hometown: Portland, OR
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology and History
- Medical School: Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Early in my medical school training, I was drawn to family medicine because of its breadth of training and its opportunities to work with all ages. During my clinical years my desire to become a Family Medicine physician was cemented when I saw the positive health outcomes in patients who had strong relationships with their family physicians. I was fortunate to be able to rotate with Aurora Family Medicine during my third year of medical school. While on this rotation, I saw firsthand the collaborative and supportive environment at Aurora. Additionally, I was struck by the residency’s commitment to the providing care for the underserved. I knew after my experiences with Aurora that coming here for residency would be a good fit for me. I look forward to living in Milwaukee for another three years and continuing to get to know this city. After residency, I hope to pursue a Sports Medicine fellowship and split my time between Sports Medicine and outpatient primary care.

Fun Fact: During undergrad I did an archaeological dig in Ireland excavating a medieval monastery!
Aurora Graduate Medical Education Resident Biographies

Family Medicine Residency ● First Year Residents

Spencer Randazzo, DO (Spen-ser Ran-dat-so)

- Hometown: Lincoln, NE
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology
- Medical School: Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine

My desire to choose a career in family medicine stems from my desire to take a holistic approach to medicine, focusing on preventative care, and managing a wide variety of pathologies. Throughout my career I’m excited to get to know my patients on an individual level and come up with care plans that align with their goals and values. I chose the Milwaukee program because of its commitment to providing care to underserved communities, OMM track, and integrative medicine training, in addition to having a supportive faculty. I feel like the program will equip me with a variety of tools to provide the highest quality of care to my patients! In my free time I love cooking, running, and spending time with friends. After residency I hope to practice family medicine in underserved populations and utilize OMT in my practice.

Zachary Wallace, MD (Zak-Uh-Ree Wall-Is)

- Hometown: Germantown, WI
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology & Sociology
- Medical School: Medical College of Wisconsin

I chose to pursue a career in family medicine due to the unique opportunity for family physicians to care for a diverse population of patients of all ages. I am so grateful for the opportunity to continue my training with the Aurora Family Medicine Residency program, who have created a supportive working environment with a commitment to the wellbeing of both their residents and the communities to which they provide care. I am most impressed by the richness of pediatric and newborn experience offered by the program, as well as the strength of training in both inpatient and outpatient medicine. Having grown up near Milwaukee, it is a privilege to return to the area and provide services in the place that I consider to be my home. Outside of work I look forward to fishing and sailing on the region’s many lakes and rivers, supporting the local sports teams, and spending time with friends and family in the area. After residency I hope to remain near Milwaukee and continue to practice full scope family medicine.
Michelle Won, DO  (Mi-shel Won)

- Hometown: Gaithersburg, MD
- Undergraduate Degree: Psychology
- Medical School: Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

I chose family medicine because it allows me to do a little bit of everything and allows me to take care of a wide range of ages. One of the memorable experiences that ultimately drew me to family medicine was when I learned that family medicine physicians have the privilege to take care of patients throughout the entire pregnancy and take care of both mom and the baby afterwards. Being a family medicine physician meant that I truly get to take care of the entire family and form meaningful and life-long patient relationships that are special to primary care.

Outside of medicine, I like spending time with family, friends, and my dog Moana. I also enjoy spending time at the beach, going on hikes, and bowling! Milwaukee offers so many things that I enjoy and I am very excited to make Milwaukee my new home. After residency, I would love to get involved in academics where I can continue teaching medical students and residents and give back the tremendous support and teaching I received from many incredible attending physicians.

Melissa Zak, DO  (Muh-lis-uh Z-ak)

- Hometown: Flossmoor, IL
- Undergraduate Degree: Psychology
- Medical School: Marian College of Osteopathic Medicine

It may sound cliché but family medicine really chose me, not the other way around. FM feels like everything I think of when I imagine a doctor, both as a healer and a pillar of the community. I dual applied to both psychiatry and family medicine, and I ranked Milwaukee as my top program! I was immediately drawn to their community health focus and intersectionality as well as the opportunities in behavioral health and rural medicine. The Aurora approach to medicine matched well with my holistic approach to care. When I’m not practicing medicine, I enjoy creative writing, reading (especially horror novels), anime, and playing video games. To be honest being in family medicine reminds me of all the doctor characters in the RPGs I grew up with! As a avid writer and video game enthusiast, I’ve written multiple articles for the blog Doctors of Gaming, and love exploring video games as a medium for integrative storytelling. I also love DIY and have my own Etsy store where I sell handmade plush toys. After residency my dream is to open my own multi-disciplinary practice, one that provides a safe and welcoming environment to all patients.