

Welcome to the department

Retired Col. Suzanna Horsch, D.O., joined the faculty of the KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi on Sept. 4. Dr. Horsch graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology in 2000 from Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia, before her commissioning as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve in 2001 through the Health Professions Scholarship Program. After receiving her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree in 2004 from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, Capt. Horsch completed an active-duty Army family medicine residency at Womack Army Medical Center in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Dr. Horsch was a family medicine staff physician at Reynolds Army Community Hospital in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was deployed in 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Maj. Horsch subsequently returned to North Carolina where she completed a family medicine obstetrics fellowship at the Women's Hospital of Greensboro. Dr. Horsch was a core faculty member at the Tripler Army Medical Center Family Medicine Residency in Honolulu, Hawaii, and, in 2017, she moved to Fort Riley, Kansas, where she served in a variety of leadership roles and was promoted to colonel. Until her retirement earlier this year, Dr. Horsch was the Irwin Army Community Hospital deputy commander for clinical services.



Taylor Cox joined the staff at KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Smoky Hill-Salina as a residency administrative assistant on Sept. 10. Her primary job responsibilities include scheduling faculty supervision, maintaining the daily didactic calendar, documentation and recordkeeping, and providing administrative support to the residency program manager. Cox previously worked at Salina Regional Health Center as a certified nursing assistant, laboratory technician and as a medical assistant. Cox cared for her two young children before returning to work as a medical assistant at Mowery Clinic in Salina. In 2024, Cox returned to Salina Regional Health Center as a medical assistant until accepting the position at Smoky Hill.



Tara Neil, M.D., rejoined the faculty at the KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi on Sept. 16. Dr. Neil previously worked at Ascension Via Christi Family Medicine Residency Program from 2010-2015 as faculty, from 2015-2016 as interim program director and from 2016-2023 as senior associate program director for Family Medicine Continuity Clinics. She has been in practice at Dedicated Senior Medical Center in Wichita in the interim. Dr. Neil graduated from KUSM-Wichita in 2003 and completed her training at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Family Medicine Residency in Madison, Wisconsin, in 2006. Following the completion of a Maternal Child Health Fellowship at the PCC Community Wellness Center in Oak Park, Illinois, she practiced in Abilene, Kansas. She is the recipient of the 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015 Victor North, M.D., Outstanding Family Medicine Faculty Award and the recipient of the 2016 Kansas Academy of Family Physicians Exemplary Teaching Award in the full-time category.



The Family Medicine Interest Group celebrates National Primary Care Week

The Family Medicine Interest Group celebrated National Primary Care Week from Oct. 7-11. The FMIG started off the week with snacks in the KUSM-W George J. Farha Medical Library and coffee in the DFCM. Students cooked a spaghetti meal for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House, received a presentation about the AAFP from KAFP president and community faculty in Wichita, **Jared Johnson, M.D.**, and participated in a procedure night where they could practice OB delivery, “Code Blue” responses, suturing and POCUS. Faculty and staff from the Simulation Center assisted with the stations. FMIG rounded out the week with a trip to the Meadowlark Farm in Rose Hill to pick pumpkins and apples. The week’s activities were coordinated by FMIG Primary Care Week Co-chairs, Morgan Hamersky, MS4, and Gentry Shapland, MS2.



Members of FMIG cooked a spaghetti meal for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Pictured from left to right, Gentry Shapland, Taylor Adwell, Morgan Hamersky, Dania Jumpa, Mahreen Ahsan, Cross Allen.



Students practiced their suturing skills for Procedure Night as part of National Primary Care Week. Pictured from left to right, Eli Bullinger, Connor Owen, Taylor Adwell.

DFCM hosts conference series on culture and communication in health care

The KUSM-Wichita Department of Family & Community Medicine hosted a four-part, virtual conference series on culture and communication in health care in September. Topics included “Cultural constructs of Latinx families in health care,” “Challenges and opportunities in the use of health care interpretation,” “Rethinking limited English proficiency: Re-framing language as an opportunity to improve health equity” and “Care of the Arab American patient.” Registrants from 14 states and a variety of professions, including physicians, nurses, marriage and family therapists, respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, speech language pathologists, public health workers, and clinical chaplains attended the series. **Colleen Loo-Gross, M.D., MPH**, organized and emceed the series which was funded by the HRSA grant, “Preparing Physicians for Care of Individuals with Limited English Proficiency” awarded to the DFCM in 2023.



Colleen Loo-Gross, M.D., MPH, emceed the virtual DFCM conference series on culture and communication in health care.

KUSM-Wichita students, residents, faculty speak at Kansas HOSA conference

Lynn Fisher, M.D., recruited KUSM-Wichita medical students and residents, Emily Beaver, MS4; **Emma Beck, M.D.**, Ascension Via Christi; Jada Rosa, MS4; and **Landon Younger, D.O.**, to speak at the Kansas Health Occupations Students of America Fall Leadership Conference at Kansas State University in Manhattan on Oct. 17. Beaver and Rosa helped run the KAFP booth and took part in a panel presentation on family medicine with Dr. Beck, Dr. Fisher and Dr. Younger.



DFCM virtual CME conference attracts registrants from nine states

The KUSM-Wichita Department of Family & Community Medicine delivered a virtual conference titled “Clinical Pearls and Pitfalls in the Care of the Aging Patient” on Oct. 10. The conference was supported in part by the KUSM-Wichita DFCM Delos V. Smith Jr. Lectureship in Geriatric Care and an educational grant from the Wichita Medical Research and Education Foundation. Registrants from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Missouri, Wisconsin, Ohio, Maryland and New York attended the CME event.



Donna Ewy, M.D., D.Be., MTS, M.A., left, and Rick Kellerman, M.D., right, took part in a dialogue on geriatric depression during the DFCM virtual CME conference on care of the aging patient on Oct. 10.

Ascension Via Christi annual bike trip

KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi sponsored its annual bike trip Sept. 19-23 in Frisco, Colorado. The bike trip is an annual team-building event for first- and second-year residents. **Cynthia Nash, M.D.**, and **DeeAnn Bragg, M.D.**, led a session on various aspects of leadership such as dealing with personality differences and team dynamics. **Todd Stephens, M.D.**, presented a session on high-altitude illness and high-altitude pulmonary edema. **Philip Dooley, M.D.**, delivered an interactive team-based case presentation on mass casualty and triage.



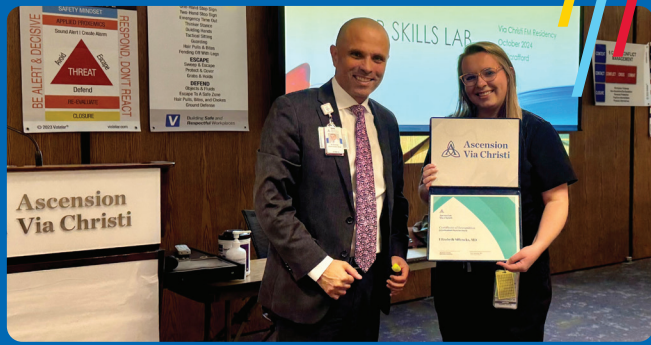
Ascension Via Christi first- and second-year residents and their families attend the annual bike trip Sept. 19-23 in Frisco, Colorado.

Wesley team meeting

KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Wesley Medical Center conducted its annual team meeting at Rock Springs 4-H Center in Junction City, Kansas, Sept. 6-8. Residents and faculty kicked off the event by packaging food items for the Food-4-Kids program at the Kansas Food Bank before traveling to the 4-H center. During the retreat, residents and faculty participated in educational sessions including emergency simulations, culinary medicine and individual learning plans. Residents, faculty and their guests also enjoyed team-building activities, the culmination of which was the annual “Residency Olympic Games.”



Wesley residents, faculty, staff and their guests participated in the annual team meeting Sept. 6-8.



DFCM resident named Ascension Via Christi 2024 Resident Physician of the Year

Elizabeth Sillcocks, M.D., is the recipient of the Ascension Via Christi 2024 Resident Physician Award. Sam Antonios, M.D., chief clinical officer for Ascension Via Christi, pictured on the left, presented the award to Dr. Sillcocks, pictured on the right, on Sept. 17.

Alumni spotlight

Julie Wood, M.D., MPH, AAFP executive management team

Julie Wood, M.D., MPH, a 1996 graduate of KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi, has worked for the American Academy of Family Physicians since 2013. She currently serves on the executive management team as the senior vice president of science and clinical strategy. She practiced as a solo, rural family physician in her hometown of Macon, Missouri, before joining residency faculty at the Research Medical Center in Kansas City prior to joining the AAFP staff team.

Dr. Wood provides oversight for the scientific research activities of the AAFP and oversees the AAFP's relationships with other medical organizations in the United States and abroad. Through these relationships, Wood facilitates the continued development of family medicine and coordinates the AAFP's international activities. She also oversees AAFP efforts to involve family physicians with the integration of primary care and public health, health equity, population and community health, as well as global health.

As senior vice president, she helps direct organization-wide strategy and policy-development activities in addition to actively participating in the work of the AAFP board of directors. She is based at the AAFP's headquarters office in Leawood, Kansas.

We asked Dr. Wood how her residency experience prepared her for her career. She said:

“When I was looking for a residency, I specifically chose a residency that prepared me well to be a competent family physician in a rural area. I was especially interested in obstetrical training. I am grateful for my training because I felt prepared clinically but also to consider the community as a whole and how I could become a helpful part of my community as a physician, citizen and advocate.

“I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to practice full-scope family medicine in my hometown as well as teach residents. Leaving my hometown was one of the hardest things I have done, and it was due to the closure of their OB unit which has further driven my passion for teaching rural maternity care as well as working on health policy in many areas.

“I’m often asked by colleagues and even former patients if I miss seeing patients. The answer is yes — sometimes I do. However, working at the AAFP provides me an amazing opportunity to advocate for both family physicians and patients on a broader scale and in a different way. Some moments that stand out to me about my role at AAFP are speaking with various federal agencies and sharing evidence about the impact of family physicians from vaccinating their patients to providing high-quality maternity care services. COVID-19, while an intense time, also only strengthened my pride in our specialty. I was honored to be able to work with my AAFP colleagues to review the breaking scientific information and ensure we were providing it in several rapid ways to our family physician members so they could use it at the point of care.”

Learn more about Dr. Wood and her role at the AAFP at <https://www.aafp.org/about/meet-our-leadership/aafp-ent/wood.html>



Wesley, Via Christi host WSU biomedical engineering students

The KUSM-W Family Medicine Residency Programs at Ascension Via Christi and Wesley Medical Center hosted Wichita State University biomedical engineering senior design teams this fall. The meetings helped the WSU students identify unmet clinical needs that could be addressed through biomedical engineering.



WSU student, Bao Nguyen, left, meets with **Zora Jenney, M.D.**, Wesley resident, middle, and **Stephanie Murray, M.D.**, Wesley faculty, right

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Zach Grossmann, M.D., Wesley, and Mary Grossmann on the birth of their daughter, Violet Hannah, on Oct. 7.

HAPPENINGS:

Wesley residents and faculty **Gavin Hayashi, M.D.**; **Randall Whitely, M.D.**, and **Ethan Woodcock, M.D.**, supervised KUSM-W medical students providing sports physicals to students at Hamilton Middle School in Wichita on Sept. 18.

Wesley residents and faculty **Grace Gearhart, D.O.**; **Jessica Shaw, M.D.**, and **Randy Whitely, M.D.**, supervised KUSM-W medical students providing sports physicals to students at Truesdell Middle School in Wichita on Oct. 15.

Amanda Rhyne, M.D., Smoky Hill-Salina, was inducted into the Ottawa University Braves Athletic Hall of Fame on Oct. 17. She is the first female alumna to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for soccer at Ottawa University.

Lynn Fisher, M.D., served as a member of the organization, finance and education reference committee at the AAFP Congress of Delegates meeting in September. The committee reviewed written testimony for resolutions and reports and made recommendations for how the resolutions should be handled. These resolutions were then further debated at the annual AAFP Congress of Delegates meeting from Sept. 23-25 in Phoenix, Arizona. Resolutions that are passed influence the policies and actions of the AAFP.

Lynn Fisher, M.D., and **Nicole Freund, Ph.D., M.A., MBA**, participated in the KUSM-Wichita Belonging Group A. Price Woodard Neighborhood Cleanup on Oct. 26. A. Price Woodard is the KUSM-Wichita neighborhood. The event provides an opportunity for residents with low mobility and access to resources to create healthier living environments in their homes through the elimination of surplus items. Dr. Fisher and Dr. Freund volunteered by picking up items and loading them in trucks.

Gretchen Irwin, M.D., MBA, served as a member of the AAFP nominating committee to help review and recommend candidates seeking positions on the AAFP board of directors.

POSTERS

Zayat M, Baird B, de la O Bahr S, Morelli N, Ciecko C, Vander Griend M, **Kellerman K**, **Rakestraw D**. Checklist Implementation and Utilization: Assessing First-Year Medical Students' Clinical Confidence at a Student-Run Free Clinic. Poster presented at Society of Student-Run Free Clinics Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 18.

PRESENTATIONS:

The following DFCM faculty presented at the KUSM-Wichita Department of Family & Community Medicine Delos V. Smith Jr. Lectureship in Geriatric Care Clinical Pearls and Pitfalls in the Care of the Aging Patient virtual conference:

Donna Ewy, M.D., D.Be., MTS, M.A., Critical Confrontations: Combating Urinary Tract Infections, Pneumonia and Clostridium difficile in the Elderly

Donna Ewy, M.D., D.Be., MTS, M.A.; Rick Kellerman, M.D., Feeling the Blues in the Golden Years: Geriatric Depression

Bradley Newell, Pharm.D., Adapting Diabetes Treatment Goals for the Aging Patient

Tessa Rohrberg, M.D., Bones of Contention: Addressing Osteoporosis in Elder Care

Alisa Schmidt, M.D., community faculty in Wichita, Stand Strong: Reducing Fall Risks and Improving Mobility in the Elderly

The following DFCM faculty presented at the KUSM-Wichita Department of Family & Community Medicine Opioids 2.0: Substance Use Disorders virtual conference:

Chris Ebbertwein, Ph.D., community faculty in Wichita, Psychology of Substance Use Disorders: Overcoming Barriers to Shared Decision Making

Daniel Warren, M.D., community faculty in Wichita, Responsible Opioid Prescribing Part 1; Responsible Opioid Prescribing Part 2

Stephanie Murray, M.D., Wesley, presented “Fueling Joy: Nutrition and Movement in Cancer Recovery” to the physicians and staff of the McPherson Hospital on Oct. 17.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

January

- 15** STFM/AFMRD webinar, “The Power of Direct Observation: Answering Residents’ Most-Asked Questions,” Noon-1 p.m. Register at stfm.org/cbmewebinars.

February

- 6** Opioids 2.0: Substance Use Disorders. Virtual conference co-sponsored by the DFCM and the MSSC, 3-6:30 p.m. Register at eeds.com/live/401131.

April

- 4** Family Medicine Symposium. Hybrid: In-person at the WSU Hughes Metropolitan Complex and virtual via Zoom. Contact **Karletta Pergeson** at kpergeson@kumc.edu for more information.

* Session qualifies for CME credit.



REVIEW

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