Medical School Students Learn and Grow at Aultman

Medical student education flourishes at Aultman Hospital, with nearly 300 students participating each year. Aultman offers state-of-the-art classrooms and simulation technology, along with a low faculty-to-student ratio for optimal learning.

Aultman primarily partners with Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), formerly NEOUCOM, and the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) to provide learning opportunities for undergraduate students. "Aultman offers a special balance of community and academic medicine," said Martha Magoon, M.D., director of Undergraduate Medical Education at Aultman. "Medical students experience a variety of settings in which care is delivered, from private offices to hospital clinics and one-on-one care in addition to group models of doctoring."

At Aultman, first- and second-year medical school students take medical interviewing and clinical medicine introductory courses. Students also have the opportunity to shadow physicians and residents.

Core clerkships are available for third-year students in areas ranging from internal medicine to obstetrics and gynecology to psychiatry. The clerkships are six or 12 weeks in length. "Clerkships help medical students gain clinical knowledge in addition to developing interpersonal skills," Magoon said. "Patients allow the medical students the privilege of sharing in some of the most intimate aspects of their lives, such as students in the OB/GYN clerkship who witness childbirth."

Fourth-year students choose electives based on their medical interests. Rotations are available in areas such as anesthesiology, cardiology, emergency medicine, family medicine and neurology. "The electives available to medical students offer an opportunity to learn from a variety of patients with diverse medical problems," Magoon explained. "Medical students work with dedicated faculty members as well as residents, providing the students with opportunities for both professional and personal growth."

Learning isn't just a one-way street in Aultman Undergraduate Medical Education. "The medical students enhance our educational programs," Magoon shared. "They challenge our staff members to stay current with the new standards of evidence-based medicine."

Aultman Offers Summer Learning Opportunities

Every summer, the Aultman Medical Education Department offers customizable learning experiences for high school graduates and college students interested in health care careers.

The Summer Symposium enables students to listen, learn and ask questions during classroom sessions with Aultman leaders in medicine, nursing, allied health and hospital administration. The two-day event concludes with a career fair with representatives from heart, cancer, pathology, physical therapy and other programs.

"Many options exist for careers in health care," said Terena Perez, symposium organizer and coordinator of the Aultman transitional residency program and undergraduate medical education. "The goal of our annual symposium is to show students how members of the health care team – from those who provide direct patient care to finance experts working behind the scenes – come together to care for our community."

Aultman Summer Symposium students also have the opportunity to participate in research projects, clinical observation or job shadowing. Nursing and allied health shadowing experiences enable students to explore fields including physical therapy, speech pathology and information technology. Pre-medicine and pre-pharmacy students observe in clinical areas and network with Aultman physicians, residents and medical students.

A total of 35 students participated in the 2011 Summer Symposium, and 97 percent of those students took advantage of job shadowing experiences. Additionally, 21 students completed research projects. "Half of this year's participants want to be doctors, while the other students are interested in nursing, physical and occupational therapy, social work and other health care careers," Perez shared. "The Summer Symposium ties in well with Aultman's other educational programs, which range from the Career Academy for high school students to graduate medical education programs."

EXPLORING HEALTH CARE THROUGH THE AULTMAN CAREER ACADEMY

■ Aultman Career Academy participants gain valuable experiences in health care and earn school credit in career exploration.

The Aultman Career Academy enables local high school students to gain first-hand knowledge of career paths within the health care field.

Each year, students from eight schools – Canton South, Fairless, Jackson, Louisville, Massillon, Minerva, North Canton and Sandy Valley – are chosen by their school administrators. The juniors and seniors report to Aultman Hospital four days a week to learn about health care and earn two elective credits in career exploration.

"We believe we are the only program in the country where students receive high school credit for observing careers and professionals," said Eric Dublikar with Aultman Human Resources, who coordinated the 2010-11 Career Academy program. "The Aultman Career Academy helps young members of the community explore health care in detail before choosing a college major, which can put the students at an educational advantage in addition to saving them time and money."

Five hours a week, Career Academy students participate in one-on-one clinical, nonclinical and group classroom lessons at Aultman. Each student selects eight, four-week rotations through which they learn about the many aspects of health care. Rotations include nursing units, the emergency department, surgery, therapy and medical education.

> "The Aultman Career Academy is great for the education of our community because these bright, young people will be the future leaders of health care."
> — ERIC DUBLIKAR

Students also learn about hospital departments that provide support services including finance, medical records, corporate communications and human resources.

The 2011-12 Career Academy session, which will be Aultman's 10th program, gets under way in the fall. "This is a very intense but rewarding program," Dublikar offered. "Students must be mature, professional and have a true curiosity to work in health care."

Through survey responses, Aultman has tracked outcome data from former Career Academy students. Remarkably, more than 90 percent of students who responded are currently working in or pursuing health care careers. For Aultman, the program is an investment in the future of health care. According to the survey data, it is already paying off for the students and the Stark County area. "The Aultman Career Academy is great for the education of our community because these bright, young people will be the future leaders of health care," Dublikar explained. "Someday, they will be the ones caring for us and our families."

There's No Place Like Home

■ Transitional Year Resident Kelly Covey, M.D., is getting a high-quality medical education with close-to-home convenience.

Ohio has been called "the heart of it all," and that's true for Kelly Covey, M.D. The transitional year resident in the Aultman Graduate Medical Education program chose a medical school and residency that allowed her to remain close to her husband, home and family.

Covey grew up in Wooster, and she married her high school sweetheart. "I went to college in Florida and earned my undergraduate degree in astrophysics," she said. "My husband Kevin is a farmer, so it was hard to find a job in my field that was close to Wooster."

While working as a research assistant in Cleveland, Covey discovered an interest in radiology. "It wasn't a childhood dream of mine to be a doctor," she shared. "But after working with MRIs as a research tech, I realized I wanted to do something that matters and makes a difference in people's lives."

Covey chose Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine (NEOUCOM), now called Northeast Ohio Medical University, for medical school. Throughout her third and fourth years of medical school, she came to Aultman for clinical rotations. "In the last two years of medical school, you're rarely in a classroom setting. Instead, you follow a typical medical resident schedule," she explained. "I chose Aultman for my residency because I knew it was a good program with great attending physicians."

Aultman's transitional year residency program offers Covey and the three other participants experience in multiple clinical areas. From there, Covey will move on to four years of residency training in radiology. "We have our choice of electives during this transitional year, so participants don't all do the same rotations," Covey said. "I rotate through the hospital floors, the emergency department, medicine subspecialty departments like hematology/oncology, the intensive care unit and the coronary care unit. I really like getting to know patients and their families regardless of which department I'm in."

Covey wasn't tempted to venture far away for medical school and residency training. "After being in Florida for undergraduate studies, I knew I wanted to stay in Ohio to continue my education. My family is here, and they've been a big support to me," she offered. "The education is just as good here as anywhere, and it's a blessing to be around great people. You don't need to be in a big city or at a big-name institution to get a high-quality education."

Covey has particular interest in caring for the Amish community. "My husband deals with the Amish through our hay tubing home business," she said. "They're good, hardy people. It's hard to find people with better values."

In addition to her busy medical residency schedule, Covey helps her husband run the home business and care for their 3-month-old daughter. "Life is about the journey, not the destination," Covey said. "I don't worry about what it's going to be like as an attending physician down the road. I just enjoy what I'm doing now."

AULTMAN: A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR...

HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

AULTMAN

CENTER of EXCELLENCE

Orthopaedics

Many orthopaedic problems need more than one medical service. You may require emergency room treatment, medical treatment, surgery, therapy, medical equipment for the home or intense on-site rehabilitation.

Heart

Aultman Hospital has been named one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by Thomson Reuters for 2011. At the Aultman Heart Center, prevention is a priority. Our education and risk factor identification programs can help you keep your heart healthy.

Cancer

The Aultman Cancer Center is a fusion of ideas, technology, talent and compassion. The physicians associated with Aultman Cancer Center evaluate and design individual treatment plans based on the type, stage and aggressiveness of the patient's disease.

Neurosurgery/ Stroke

Trauma or illness involving the brain, spinal cord or nervous system can be a frightening experience for a patient and loved ones. Take comfort in knowing you are in the hands of some of the region's most skilled neurological experts, neurosurgeons and stroke specialists.

Women/ Children

Together with our patients, the Aultman Birth Center is promoting and uniting families for life. We take a team approach to providing the best care for you and your baby — under one roof.

Emergency/ Trauma

Aultman's Emergency/Trauma Center, staffed by board-certified physicians, is designed to allow the fastest access possible to the latest in emergency-care technology.

Critical Care Medicine

Going to an intensive care unit (ICU) can be a very emotional experience. Aultman patients receive specialized care from our Intensivist Program and our dedicated group of critical care nurses, critical care pharmacists, respiratory therapists and intensivists.

AULTMAN

Aultman is My Hospital™

AULTMAN RESIDENCY PROGRAMS: TRAINING TOMORROW'S PHYSICIANS

■ Attending physicians share their time, knowledge and passion for lifelong learning with resident physicians.

Aultman is a teaching hospital with a deep commitment to graduate medical education.

Upon completion of medical school training, physicians move on to graduate residency programs. Aultman offers four-year residencies in obstetrics/gynecology and radiology; three-year residencies in family medicine and internal medicine; and a one-year "transitional year" program.

"Graduate medical education exists to meet the mission of our hospital, which is to 'lead our community to improved health,'" said Susan Mercer, M.D., director of Medical Education and Research at Aultman. "Our residency programs train excellent physicians, many of whom stay in our community. These residents aid in increasing access to care for our uninsured community. In addition, residents enhance our medical staff by bringing the most current medical knowledge to our patient-care teams."

About 30 residents graduate from the Aultman residency programs each year. More than 25 percent remain in Stark and surrounding counties to practice medicine. The residency programs are fueled by "attending" physicians who have completed residency training and practice medicine in their areas of specialty. "Attending physicians who teach have to have a passion for education because they volunteer most of their time," Mercer shared. "We have a very active medical staff, with most physicians teaching at some level. Physicians feel they're giving back to the community and our profession by having learners with them every day."

Beyond sharing medical knowledge, attending physicians serve as role models for the residents. "The attending physicians guide residents in ethics and professionalism," Mercer said. "Attending physicians not only share what they know about medicine but who they are as doctors … and that's every bit as important to the learners."

The residents learn in a team setting that includes doctors, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, social workers and other health care professionals. "In addition to the interdisciplinary environment, residents get hands-on experience in a variety of settings," Mercer explained.

Improving Patient Care through Medical Research

Research is the medical community's method of exploring the frontiers of medical knowledge and skills. Aultman physicians participate in research studies being conducted nationwide. These studies bring opportunities for treatment to patients that would otherwise be unavailable.

Aultman Hospital uses two Human Research Review Boards to advance research studies and assure patient-centered care is accomplished. Categories of research at Aultman Health Foundation include clinical investigations on FDA-regulated drugs and/or devices; resident research such as chart reviews, case studies and randomized controlled trials; and nursing research in conjunction with degree-completion programs.

"Residents learn at local health clinics, health departments, nursing homes and specialty areas within the hospital. Residency programs really are community endeavors that Aultman supports."

In addition to learning from attending physicians, residents also serve as mentors to undergraduate medical school students. "There's mentoring at both levels for the residents," Mercer said. "Aultman has about 300 medical school students coming through each year, so there are ample opportunities for residents to lead by example."

Aultman residents are a diverse mix of American and international students. "It's highly desirable to train and hire diverse faculty," Mercer said, "to meet our community's needs."

Any hospital with a graduate medical education program is required to have "resident continuity practices," which are outpatient centers where residents treat patients under the supervision of attending physicians. Aultman has family medicine offices in Canton and Waynesburg, along with the Aultman Physician Center across from Aultman Hospital. Internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology residents also provide outpatient care in attending physicians' offices. Through these facilities, thousands of patients receive high-quality medical care each year while residents hone their skills.

"Resident physicians care for patients under the supervision of attending physicians with the purpose of enhancing the resident's education while assuring excellent care for the patients. A first-year resident examines patients with the attending physician in the room," Mercer explained. "By the third year, residents have more independence. They discuss every patient with the attending physician, but the attending doctor doesn't have to be in the room during each patient's exam."

Health care experts predict a physician shortage by 2025, especially in primary care. "It's important that Aultman has residency programs because many of our local family physicians, internal medicine physicians, obstetrics/gynecologists and radiologists have trained in our programs," Mercer said. "I encourage students who are forging their career paths to consider medicine. It is a demanding but gratifying career if you want to be of service to the community."

AULTMAN'S EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES

Learn about the features and benefits of Aultman graduate medical education programs from current resident physicians.

Chijioke Enweluzo, M.D.
Internal Medicine
In a program with just 36 residents, the amazingly low faculty-to-resident ratio is truly one of our biggest assets. Our faculty and subspecialists know residents very well, down to their individual strengths and weaknesses. You will hear us make references to "mini-United Nations" a lot. With 36 people coming from different parts of the globe, you are sure to learn some new culture, cuisine and fashion almost every day. We love to refer to ourselves as one big international family.

Braxton McClung, M.D.
Radiology
The Aultman/NEOMED Radiology Residency Program offers a hybrid of a community-based hospital setting with an academic backbone. The large volume of cases and variety of radiologic pathology provides one with an experience especially suited for the demands of a busy clinical practice. However, for those interested in an academic career, former residents have successfully completed fellowships in some of the most prestigious university hospitals in the nation.

Kerry Tedesco, D.O.
Family Medicine
I started at a nearby residency program that shut down midway through my intern year, so I came to visit Aultman when my mistrust of the residency system was at its highest. I was immediately disarmed by the support and genuine integrity of the faculty here. The Family Medicine program is made up of members who live to educate and value their residents. They welcomed me and incorporated me into their system in a way that wasn't expected or required. When it comes down to it, as long as you have the perseverance necessary, you can graduate with the necessary tools from any accredited residency program. But only some programs have the people who are necessary to make the journey enjoyable and help you strive to be a better doctor. Aultman's Family Medicine residency has those people.

Steven Willard, M.D.
Obstetrics and Gynecology
I can't say enough good things about my residency training. The hospital and its staff, both medical and auxiliary, are wonderful. There is a great atmosphere of education and promoting the residents and medical students to be the best physicians we can be. I would put my training up against any residency program in the United States.

AULTMAN PROVIDES TRAINING GROUND FOR FUTURE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Aultman is actively involved in providing hands-on training for students pursuing a variety of health care careers.

■ Pam Wagner, RN

Job observation opportunities are available for high school students, while college students participate in clinical internships. The most requested areas for observation and internships are therapy, nursing units, radiology and physician shadowing. Excluding nursing, Aultman has affiliations with nearly 80 local schools and universities – and more than 70 students took advantage of clinical observation and internships in 2010.

Aultman has nursing clinical affiliations with The University of Akron, Case Western Reserve University, Malone University, Walsh University and Stark State College – along with Kent State University's main, Stark and Tuscarawas facilities.

"On an average day, 75-125 nursing students are training throughout Aultman Hospital," said Pam Wagner, RN, education specialist in the Aultman Clinical Development department. "We typically have 1,600-1,800 students per year. The nursing students are in various levels of degree programs: associate degree, baccalaureate degree and master's level."

Educating students takes a great deal of commitment from the Aultman staff. "It requires our staff members to 'think out loud,' answer questions and explain what is being done rather than just letting instinct kick in and doing the job," Wagner shared. "Educating students is important because it assists health care as a whole as well as the professional development of the student and the employee. From a nursing standpoint, we're helping to ensure we have entry-level nurses who will be able to meet the needs of our diverse patient population."