

Transforming Medical Students into Family Medicine Residents within the Hospital

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Purpose:

- Family medicine can operate in many settings, but at urban medical centers it is often limited to outpatient primary care. In this environment, most medical students interested in family medicine have to complete their sub-internships in specialties such as internal medicine or surgery, due to an absence of inpatient family medicine sub-internships.
- At the University of California, Irvine, an inpatient family medicine sub-internship rotation was created to better prepare medical students interested in family medicine for the relatively heavier inpatient demands of intern year while still teaching students the unique aspects of family medicine that differentiate it from other specialties.

Methods:

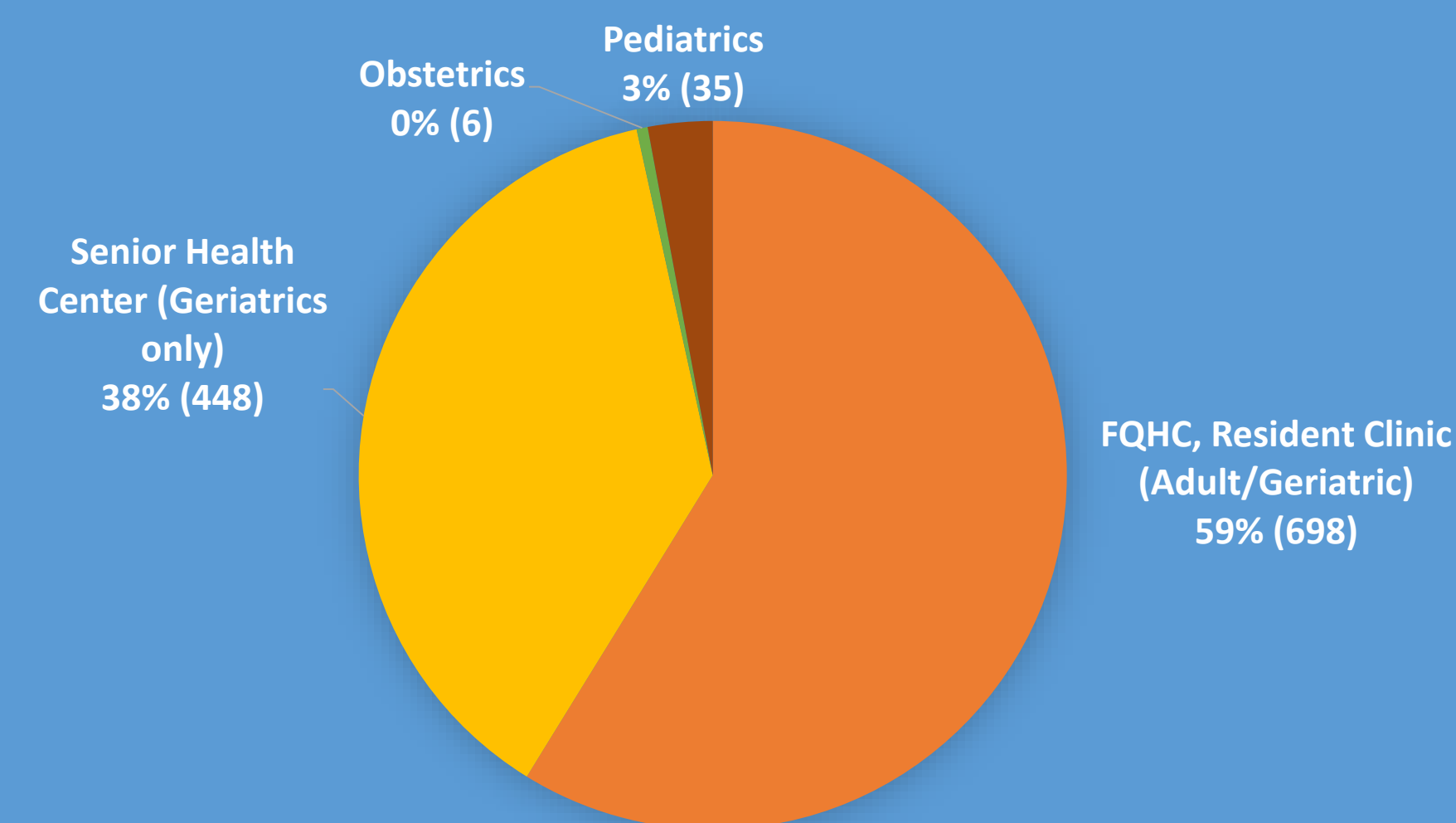
- This inpatient Family Medicine Sub-I rotation is a 4 week rotation (3 weeks of day and 1 week of nights) for UC Irvine and visiting medical students, that was started in 2002 and continues through today.

Overall goals of rotation:

- Expose participants to a diverse patient population, representative of the breadth of family medicine
- Develop participant understanding and competency in some of the most unique aspect of the family medicine specialty: continuity of care and holistic (whole-person) care
- Build participant confidence in preparations for inpatient aspects of family medicine internship

- Participant experience was measured through post-rotation questionnaires

UCI Family Medicine Inpatient Population
Based on data from 2013-2014



Results:

- Positive reception and enthusiasm by medical students has resulted in the growth of available spots (1 spot per month to 2 spots) and participants (5-7 yearly initially to 13 last year, and 12 so far this year (June 2016 to January 2017))
- Sampling of summative comments by medical students who completed the rotation:
 - ✓ *"I got a very accurate view of what internship would be like."*
 - ✓ *"I have a better understanding more so of continuity from the clinic, to the inpatient setting, and again after discharge."*
 - ✓ *"I think that I really saw the pros to continuity of care. I liked seeing patients that were known to the service and who we could trust would be followed up by family medicine colleagues. I liked that all of the patient's health, including social aspects affecting their health were taken into consideration while treating the patient."*
 - ✓ *"Now that I completed the inpatient rotation, I can see how important primary care and prevention is."*
 - ✓ *"I was fortunate to experience [the] variety [of] the service's patient population, from acute conditions to chronic illness, to newborn and post-partum."*
 - ✓ *"[I] have recommended to the incoming 4th years next year."*

Conclusion:

- A family medicine dedicated sub-internship can successfully prepare family medicine-inclined medical students for intern year and teach core family medicine values of continuity and holistic care.
- This suggests that other family medicine residency programs with affiliated medical schools in similar urban environments could benefit from creating an inpatient family medicine sub-internship rotation.

