



Residency Program Highlights

A CHRISTUS Santa Rosa
Family Medicine Residency
Program Newsletter

2009—2010: Issue 1
February 2010

Message from the Program Director...

As an alumnus of the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program you have been a part of something very special: the development of one of the best Family Medicine Residency Programs in the State of Texas. Given the program's stellar ACGME accreditation record, our (your!) ABFM National Board overwhelming success rate, and our continued excellent match history we can say objectively that in the 13 years we have been educating family doctors, we have assumed a place among the best Family Medicine Residency Programs in the COUNTRY!

For those of you I have not had the opportunity to meet, I assumed the role of Program Director in October 2008. Dr. Martin, after directing the program for 10 years, moved to the position of Regional Vice-President for Medical Affairs for CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System. Though serving in a different capacity, Dr. Martin maintains a vital presence in the program.

I would like to let you know some of the exciting changes that have occurred and the plans we have for the program. As always, our primary mission is to inspire and educate tomorrow's family physicians. We also continue to serve a patient population that is 52% Medicaid or self-pay. But there are three initiatives about which I am particularly enthusiastic; some dreams we are seeing come true.

First is our clinic expansion. We accomplished our addition of 8,000 square feet by adding a "Clinic C" on the fourth floor of the Goldsbury Building. Some of you may remember this space as the CentroMed Clinic. This expansion has been vital as we transform to our Personal Medical Home Model and incorporate a true team concept of care. The additional space has increased our ability to serve the community of downtown San Antonio and the surrounding area by providing exceptional primary care to a larger population and by adding dedicated procedure clinics to our capability. The residents have enjoyed the focused procedural experiences and our patients appreciate being able to receive services right here in their "medical home". We are also in the process of transitioning to a new electronic health record. We are moving from Centricity® to AthenaClinicals® in March. The new EMR will allow us to move in the direction of patient centered care as we implement more aggressive complex care management, electronic prescribing, and secure communications through a patient web-portal. In addition to improving our level of care for patients, my hope is to model advantageous use of health information technology for the residents in the medical home model of care.

Second, we launched an aggressive community outreach program targeted at serving the needs of our fellow citizens in the downtown area. Under the direction of Dr. Diana Ballesteros, whose passion lies in this outreach mission, we have begun lending services through the Faith Family Clinic and the Haven for Hope Homeless Ministry (<http://www.havenforhope.org/>), and both located in the downtown area. Our residents will be increasingly integrated into this outreach program and will provide lasting, meaningful service to those most in need. Over time, we plan to expand this initiative as we look to fulfill our promise to bring value to the communities we serve.

And finally, our International Medicine Experience has been a tremendous success. Our curriculum has connected with the passion and interest in the global need for primary care seen in so many of our applicants and residents. Under the Direction of Dr. David Ortiz, the program is built around core lectures and didactic sessions designed to equip the residents for service in developing countries. Most importantly, the program offers the opportunity for rotations to provide care in a number of international locations: Oaxaca, Mexico; Lima, Peru; Asunción, Paraguay; and Kijabe, Kenya. The response to this curriculum has been terrific both from an educational and a recruitment standpoint, and we are excited at the prospect of expanding this initiative over the coming years.

One other dream of ours has taken shape as well. I am proud to announce the formation of the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Family Medicine Fund. Through the contributions of community supporters and with the support of our friends and alumni, we will continue to expand our service to the families of San Antonio and the downtown area, and we will continue to recruit the best and brightest young family physicians into our program. Our goal for the initial year was to raise \$50,000 for the Family Medicine Fund. I am proud to say we came very close to that

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goal, and with generous contributions from the USAA Foundation we will actually exceed a total of \$60,000 this year!

With 2009 starting anew we reflect on our blessings and look with expectant hope to the future. I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to lead this fantastic residency program and I thank each of you for your individual contributions toward making the program so successful. I hope that now you take a moment to consider contributing to the future of the program through a tax deductible gift or monthly pledge to the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Family Medicine Fund. Please contact the program office at (210) 704-2551 or contact the CHRISTUS Foundation at (210) 740-2541 for more information on contributing.

If you have not done so, I invite you to visit our website at: www.christussantarosafamilymed.org

Peace to you and Blessings, from all of us here at “your residency program”.

Sincerely,

Todd A. Thames, PT, MD, MHA

Director

Program News

Sports Medicine Receives Five-Year Accreditation

On Jan. 25, 2010, the Residency Review Committee granted the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Sports Medicine Fellowship Program a five-year accreditation. Thanks to Dr. Eliot Young, Program Director, Lisa Marquise, Residency Coordinator and all of the faculty and staff at the Sports Medicine Associates of San Antonio for all their hard work.

Congratulations!

CSR Family Health Center Launches Patient Information Sessions

In August 2009, the Complex Care Management Program introduced “Patient Information Sessions,” an educational resource outlet for patients in a group setting. Carolyn Davis, BSN, RN, is the Complex Care Manager for the program and is responsible for coordinating the sessions to meet the patients’ health needs. She says the sessions were implemented to educate patients and the community about health promoting behaviors and were designed to provide them with a venue to ask specific questions related to their disease and health.

While diabetes continues to be one of the most common sessions offered, the Patient Information Sessions cover a variety of health topics – medical and behavioral – such as heart disease, constipation, joint pain, obesity, depression, anxiety, parenting and the new smoking cessation class. The sessions are offered on a weekly basis, except for the smoking cessation class, which is offered monthly and is also open to CHRISTUS staff members. This class was added to endorse the new CHRISTUS tobacco-free campus policy that went into effect in November.

The CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Family Health Center continues to look for new ways to improve the health and safety of patients. The Family Health Center now offers AccentHealth (www.accenthealth.com), a TV network specifically designed to educate patients on diet, exercise, disease management, recipes and healthy tips. This network is displayed on the televisions located in the waiting rooms of the three clinics. With this new feature, the Family Health Center is able to promote its services, and provide updates on vaccines and schedules for the Patient Information Sessions. What a great way to begin the new year here at CHRISTUS!

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Faculty News

TAFP Physician of the Year - Congratulations Dr. Karrh!

Dr. Larry Karrh was featured in the winter issue of the *Texas Family Physician* magazine. The article, “life lessons,” a tribute to his Texas Family Physician of the Year award, provides an account of his role as a family medicine physician and teacher. To view the article visit the TAFP website at <http://www.tafp.org/news/TFP/>. The announcement was officially made on July 25, 2009, at the TAFP’s 60th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Arlington, Texas. To view the press release go to <http://www.tafp.org/news/newsReleases/09poy.pdf>.



RRC Names New Chair

Dr. Martin was named the New Chair of the Residency Review Committee (RRC). He will assume responsibilities on July 1, 2010. Congratulations!

Mama Mabry Does It Again

Dr. Mabry was re-elected speaker of the Congress of Delegates at the annual Scientific Assembly in Boston on Oct. 14, 2009. She was first elected in 2008 after serving as vice-speaker since 2005. Way to go Mama Mabry!

Local Magazine Mentions Faculty and Alumni in Top Docs List

Scene in S.A. announced the “Top Doctors” in its November 2009 issue. Under the category of Family Medicine, the following physicians from our program were recognized: **Dr. Pedro Calzada** (2007), **Dr. Juan Carlos Garza** (2003), **Dr. Annika Gonzalez** (2007 and Faculty), **Dr. James Martin** (Faculty), **Dr. Shannon Prevette-Lopez** (2003), **Dr. Todd Thames** (Program Director), and **Dr. Scott Thomas** (2007). **Dr. Thomas** also received recognition in the General Practice and Occupational Health categories. Congratulations!



Dr. Veronica Escobar Dr. Annika Gonzalez

CSRFRMP Welcomes New Faculty

We are proud to announce two of our own graduates, **Dr. Veronica Escobar** and **Dr. Annika Gonzalez**, joined the faculty in August. **Dr. Escobar** and **Dr. Gonzalez** graduated from the program in 2007.

Over of the course of two years. **Dr. Escobar** completed two fellowships—Geriatrics and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She currently serves as the Geriatrician for the program.

CSRFRMP Says Goodbye to Dr. Lopez

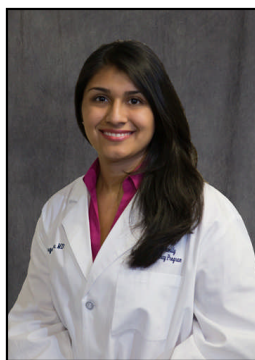
After 13 years with the program, **Dr. Joseph Lopez**, left the program on June 5 and joined the Alamo City Medical Group in Schertz, Texas. A celebration was held on June 4 in honor of his service to the program as one of its most dedicated teachers in family medicine. Thank you, Dr. Lopez, for your tremendous contributions to the program.

Resident & Fellow News

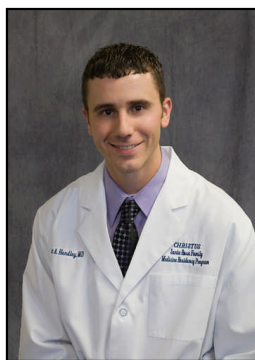
Sports Medicine Fellow for 2009 - 2010

The Sports Medicine Fellowship Program welcomed its new fellow, **Dr. Hector Lopez**, on Aug. 1, 2009. **Dr. Lopez** obtained his medical degree from UTHSCSA in 2006. He then completed his residency in family medicine at the Scottsdale Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program in Scottsdale, Arizona in June 2009.

Family Medicine Interns for 2009-2010



Dr. Angela Guerra



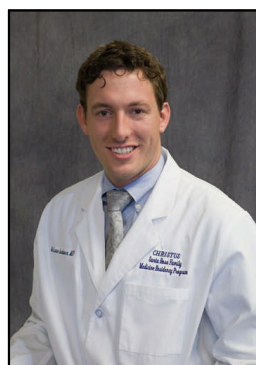
Dr. Matthew Hendley



Dr. Christine Maren



Dr. David Mullican



Dr. McLean Sanborn



Dr. Jesus Yanes



Dr. Marcy Youngdahl

Dr. Angela Guerra - University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Dr. Matthew Hendley - University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Dr. Christine Maren - Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University

Dr. David Mullican - University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Dr. McLean Sanborn - Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine

Dr. Jesus Yanes - University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Dr. Marcy Youngdahl - University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Alumni News

Introducing the New Members of the CSRFMRP Alumni: The Class of 2009



Standing left to right: Dr. Marco Molina, Dr. Benjamin Stahl and Dr. Aurelio Laing.
Seated left to right: Dr. Rachel McGinnis, Dr. Erika Garza, Dr. Karina Wenzell-Botero and Dr. Emily Briggs

On June 27, 2009, the annual graduation ceremony was held at the San Antonio Country Club to honor the new graduates: Drs. Emily Briggs, Erika Garza, Aurelio Laing, Rachel McGinnis, Marco Molina, Benjamin Stahl and Karina Wenzell-Botero. This is the 12th class to graduate from the residency program, which now claims a total of 73 graduates.

During the ceremony, the faculty and graduates presented awards to those individuals who excelled in leadership, academics and teaching. The Chief Recognition Award was given to Dr. Briggs and Dr. Stahl for their service as co-chief residents for 2008 - 2009. Dr. Molina received the Academic Excellence Award. For Outstanding Clinical Faculty, the graduates presented the award to Drs. Ellen Bajorek (former faculty), Ernesto Guerra and Jacinto “Jay” Villarreal.

Congratulations to the Class of 2009!

If you have any news about your practice or family, please submit your information to Veronica Rosas by mail at the following address or by e-mail:

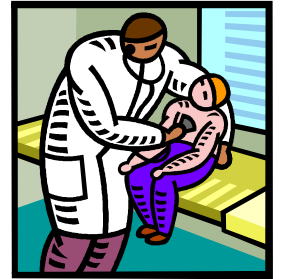
333 N. Santa Rosa
Center for Children & Families, Suite 4703
San Antonio, Texas 78207

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Fax: 210-704-2545

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Briggs and Stahl Open Private Practices

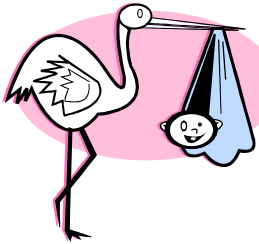
It was a busy year for **Drs. Emily Briggs** and **Dr. Ben Stahl**. While they served as co-chief residents during their third year of residency and tried to finish up any last requirements before graduation, **Dr. Briggs** and **Dr. Stahl** were working on setting up their individual private practices. Even after graduation, the planning continued. The hard work paid off, and the new family medicine physicians now own and operate their private practices.



In August 2009, **Dr. Briggs** opened Briggs Family Medicine (www.briggsfamilymedicine.com), in New Braunfels. Then, she and her husband, **Ray**, welcomed their second child, **Elizabeth Marcella** on Nov. 24, 2009. It was definitely a busy time for **Dr. Briggs**.

Dr. Ben Stahl returned to his hometown of Boerne and opened his private practice, Boerne Family Medicine, in November 2009. You can visit his website at www.boernefamilymedicine.com.

Congratulations to the new family docs and we wish them success on their new business ventures in family medicine.



Baby News

Dr. Lezli Braswell (2004) and her husband, **Anthony** welcomed a third addition to their family. **Charles Wesley Braswell** was born on July 30, 2009, at 3:51 p.m. Congratulations!



Check out the new website at
www.christussantarosafamilymed.org !

Mission Statement

The CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program will provide an environment which protects and fosters the scholarship of discovery, integration of knowledge, teaching, and application. This program will provide comprehensive, longitudinal, family oriented training, using both didactic instruction and supervised clinical experience, to produce residents who are proficient at providing high quality, cost-effective, compassionate care to their patients. Graduates of the residency program will have gained the appropriate knowledge base, clinical skills and caring attitude to enable them to deal with their patients' physical and emotional needs. They will be able to serve as the reference point and coordinator of subspecialty care and act as the source of information and reassurance for those patients who enter the world of highly, technical tertiary care medicine.