

Seasons  
greetings

DECEMBER 2024

# ACADEMIC INSIDER



**DHRHealth**

Graduate Medical  
Education

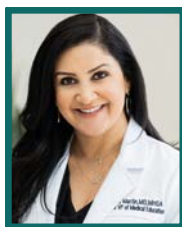
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- GME EVENTS
- RESOURCES



**DHRHealth**

## UNDER THE DIRECTION OF



Jessica Martin, MD, MHA

Senior Vice President of Medical Education  
Designated Institutional Official

## Congratulations to Bariatrics Fellow, Dr. Paige!



**DHR Health Graduate Medical Education congratulates Dr. Maya Paige on successfully becoming Board Certified in General Surgery.** Dr. Paige's first thoughts, "Passing the General Surgery boards was a moment of profound accomplishment and relief, marking the culmination of years of rigorous training, sleepless nights, and relentless dedication. It validated the sacrifices made during medical school, residency, and beyond, affirming my capability as a competent, board-certified surgeon. The moment I received the news, a weight lifted off my shoulders, replaced by a surge of pride and gratitude. For me, it was not just a personal victory—it was a testament to the support of mentors, colleagues, and loved ones who believed in me every step of the way. This milestone brought a newfound sense of responsibility. *I am no longer just a trainee; I am now entrusted with the full weight of my profession, able to independently make critical decisions that impact patients' lives.* The certification isn't just a credential—it's a symbol of my perseverance and readiness to contribute meaningfully to the field of surgery".

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



## DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

A quick coffee break at the Coffee Buzz Bus turned into a much needed moment of relaxation and connection for the GME team. Pictured are **DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY, Dr. Jorge Nadal, PGY-2, and Dr. Samuel Serna, Program Director**, taking a brief pause from their busy schedules to recharge. As they enjoyed their specialty drinks, they took the opportunity to catch up, share and few laughs and unwind, creating a welcoming and friendly atmosphere to everyone around. The Buzz Bus was a fan favorite, bringing all healthcare staff together and fostering a sense of camaraderie and team spirit amidst the fast-paced environment at DHR Health.



## EMERGENCY MEDICINE

**EMERGENCY MEDICINE Program Director, Dr. Paul Dominici**, hosted his highly anticipated second annual holiday party, a cherished tradition that brought together GME Emergency Medicine residents, faculty, and staff to celebrate the holiday season in a warm and festive atmosphere. ***The event was a heartfelt occasion to recognize and honor the hard work, dedication, and contributions of both the residents and faculty.***



The **EMERGENCY MEDICINE** Residency Program along with their Program Director and Faculty continued the holiday activities and came together for their first **Secret Santa** event, marking a festive and heartwarming occasion within the community. ***The event saw both residents and attendings excitedly participating in the holiday tradition of anonymously exchanging gifts.*** The event was met with enthusiasm, as everyone relished the opportunity to spread holiday cheer and create lasting memories.





# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

## FAMILY MEDICINE

Santa's helpers made a special visit to the **FAMILY MEDICINE inpatient ward**, bringing with them a festive touch of holiday cheer. The GME team, dressed in their holiday best, spread warmth and joy throughout the ward, serving delicious, freshly baked pan dulce and aromatic, freshly brewed coffee to all the hardworking healthcare staff and GME residents. *The air was filled with smiles and laughter as Family Medicine core faculty, Dr. Lopez, and residents enjoyed the comforting treats, creating a sense of togetherness and holiday spirit.* The thoughtful gesture served as a reminder of the kindness and compassion that permeate the hospital, brightening the day of everyone in the ward and fostering a sense of community, support, and celebration. Santa's helpers truly made it a memorable moment, lifting spirits and adding a festive touch to the holiday season at DHR Health.



## GENERAL SURGERY

The **GENERAL SURGERY** Residency Program recently came together for a memorable **Journal Club and holiday celebration at Bella Mia Italian Restaurant**. The event was a warm success, with residents and faculty representation from **General Surgery, Surgical Critical Care, and Urology** in attendance. The Journal Club discussions were led by residents **Dr. Aravind, Dr. Bohan, and Dr. Diba**, showcasing their dedication to academic excellence.



During the festive gathering, the General Surgery faculty generously gifted Christmas presents to the residents, fostering a sense of appreciation within the program. *It was a joyous occasion filled with intellectual discourse, camaraderie, and holiday cheer.* As we reflect on the evening, we hope that each resident had a blessed holiday season and that the spirit of unity and collaboration continues to thrive within our residency program.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

The **INTERNAL MEDICINE** Residency Program is pleased to recognize the successful completion of the rigorous **EKG Course**, led by the esteemed **Dr. Robalino**.

All of the Internal Medicine **PGY-1 residents** participated in the month-long course, demonstrating exceptional dedication to mastering this critical skill. The program is proud to announce that every resident successfully **passed the final examination**—a testament to their hard work and commitment to excellence.

*We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Robalino for providing such an outstanding educational experience.* Your leadership and expertise have made a significant impact on the development of our residents.

Congratulations to our residents and faculty on this outstanding achievement!

## INTERNAL MEDICINE



## UROLOGY

As the 2024 year draws to a close, the **UROLOGY** Residency Program, alongside faculty and staff, gathered to ring in the holiday season with festive cheer at their annual holiday dinner! *The event was filled with camaraderie and a sense of gratitude for the incredible teamwork and accomplishments throughout the year.* It was the perfect way to celebrate the season and reflect on the memories made amongst the Urology team. A truly memorable evening, marking another successful year for Urology residents and faculty as they look ahead to even bigger and better things in the coming year!





# FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

## BARIATRICS

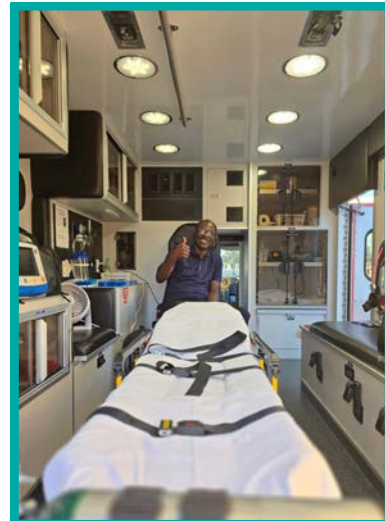
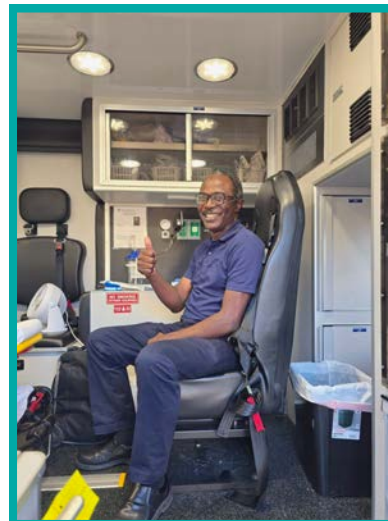
The **DHR Health BARIATRIC Fellowship Program** is currently accepting applicants for 2026-2027. **The Bariatric Application portal will be open until January 21, 2025, 11:59pm.** All interested surgeons, should apply using The Fellowship Council Portal: <https://www.fellowshipcouncil.org/>

**Mission** - The **DHR Health Bariatric Surgery Fellowship Program** strives to provide an atmosphere that is conducive for learning and committed to training competent, board certified critical care physicians to provide care in the Rio Grande Valley area of Texas. *Our aim is to provide fellows with the best education that will help them complete their training and mold them into caring and confident bariatric surgeons who will uphold the high moral standards of their profession.* As a fellowship program, we encourage the development of interdisciplinary clinical, research, and teaching programs between divisions, departments, and extending to other industries.

**Program Information** – The **DHR Health BARIATRIC Fellowship Program** is a one of a kind program in South Texas, serving more than a million residents along the U. S. Mexico border. The Rio Grande Valley is home to many of the highest prevalence rates of obesity, diabetes, and other life-threatening illnesses. Our fellowship program aims to raise the standard of care in obesity treatment by training physicians in a comprehensive team approach from world-class bariatric surgeons. *DHR Health's program is focused on addressing obesity with modern treatment strategies, research, and education. Our program is dedicated to providing you with a comprehensive and hands-on educational experience that will prepare you for a successful career in bariatric medicine.* Patients at DHR Health have access to world-class management of obesity training and related diseases, bariatric surgery, clinical trials, treatment protocols, and additional research opportunities that are offered through the **Bariatric and Metabolic Institute**. At DHR Health, we are committed to staying at the forefront of bariatric medicine, research and treatment. Our team of experienced and passionate faculty members are dedicated to providing you with the knowledge and skills necessary to become leaders in bariatric medicine. **The Bariatric Program is led by Dr. Manish Singh as Program Director and Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez as Associate Program Director.** The surgical core faculty include **Dr. Robert Forse, Dr. Tomasz Rogula, and Dr. Angela Lomas.**

The **SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE** Fellowship program is excited to spotlight a groundbreaking achievement in our program! *Fellow, Dr. Gabriel Toma, made history as the first-ever fellow to embark on an EMS ride-along rotation with Lone Star Ambulance.* He spent New year's Eve with EMS teams as they responded to urgent calls and transported trauma patients straight to **DHR Health**. The team at Lone Star greeted him with open arms, and his pioneering efforts are paving the way for future residents and fellows to take part in this incredible learning experience. We're beyond proud of this collaboration, and we can't wait to see where this opportunity takes us next!

## SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE





# INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

## 2nd Annual GME Mid-Year Celebration

At **DHR Health Graduate Medical Education**, we are proud to support the future of medicine through honoring our GME Faculty, who play a vital role in helping shape the next generation of healthcare leaders. *The 2024 GME Mid-Year Celebration was a special evening dedicated to honoring the commitment of our faculty, whose guidance and expertise are instrumental in training our residents.* The event was filled with recognition, gratitude, and celebration of the hard work our physicians invest in advancing medical education. Thank you to everyone who made this night so memorable!



Congratulations 



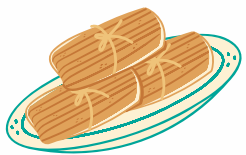


# INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

## DHR Health GME Resident Recharge Week

The DHR Health Graduate Medical Education team is always finding ways to support our residents and faculty as they complete their training with us. During **Resident Recharge Week**, the GME team delivered sweet treats to residents and hospital staff as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication to excellence in patient care. As we close out 2024, we reflect on the incredible support from service lines, nursing staff, and hospital teams who work alongside our residents to ensure their success. **Thank you to all residents, faculty, and staff for your commitment to our patients.** We look forward to a bright and successful year ahead filled with growth, learning, and collaboration.



◆◆ **Tis the** ◆◆  
**season**





# INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

## GME CARES

The Coffee Buzz Bus visits GME Residents and Faculty for an outdoor coffee break!



The DHR Health Graduate Medical Education team is dedicated to supporting our residents' **well-being** as they advance their training and care for our community. Residents, faculty, and staff took a moment to recharge with custom-made GME inspired drinks and a chance to step into the sunlight—a refreshing break from their schedules, which often begin before sunrise and end after sunset. We are committed to fostering an environment that values both personal and professional growth and are deeply grateful for their hard work and dedication.



Thank you to the local **Coffee Buzz** business for serving our GME team!





# GME GRAND ROUNDS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



Graduate Medical Education Grand Rounds

GME Grand Rounds Wednesdays Noon  
Main Hospital, Resident Conference Room, 2nd Floor

## January 2025



Well-Being

January 8, 2025

Well-Being 101: What is Well-being and How Can We incorporate into Our busy lives as clinicians?

Dr. Jennifer L. Ortega DPC, LPC-S, CPC, CCATP  
Behavioral Health Specialist/Core Faculty



Faculty Development

January 8, 2025

Navigating the Latest AAMC LSL Updates: Advancing Medical Education and Leadership -- Webex @ 5:30 pm

Dr. Jacqueline Levesque  
Associate Dean, GME and Faculty Affairs, DIO  
Tilman J Fertitta Family College of Medicine



Public Health

January 15, 2025

DSHS Region 11 Specialized Health and Social Services

Mr. Angel De La Garza  
PHR11 Specialized Health & Social Services Program Manager



QI/PS

January 22, 2025

Root Cause Analysis, RCA

Andrew Phillips, MD, MEd, FAAEM  
Chief for Quality, DHR Health



Practice Management

January 29, 2025

Wealth management division: loans, regulatory, future investments, taxes, loan forgiveness

Sonia Falcon  
Senior Vice President & Business Relationship Manager  
Lone Star National Bank



## WELLNESS SUPPORT

The Comprehensive Behavioral Health (CBH) Department at DHR Health provides free, confidential mental health support, resources, and access to appropriate tools for self-screening for every resident. Counseling services provided to residents and faculty are available Monday - Friday from 8 AM - 8 PM and on weekends from 9 AM - 6 PM.

Call [956-362-2732](tel:956-362-2732) or the 24/7 registration department at [956-362-2755](tel:956-362-2755) to schedule an appointment.

### White Coat Dry Cleaning

- Alternate Fridays - Drop off/Pickup

### "DM the DIO" DROP BOXES:

- Located in classrooms and call rooms; encouraged to drop any confidential messages

### DHR WORKPLACE SAFETY:

- <https://app.convercent.com/enus/Anonymous/IssueIntake/LandingPage/Oc318ea9-5439-ea11-a972-000d3ab9f062>

### RLDATIX SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT:

- <https://srm.rldatix.com/landing/DHR/>

### CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING PORTAL:

- <https://www.dhrhealth.com/education/graduate-medical-education/confidential-reporting/>

### SECURITY PHONE NUMBER: [956-739-0717](tel:956-739-0717)

- ACGME IR: III.B.7.d).(5) - safety and security measures appropriate to the clinical learning environment site

**COVID-19/SICK-DAY PROTOCOL:** All staff shall notify Employee Health as soon as they receive a positive test result or request a sick day. Staff may may not return to work until cleared by Employee Health.

Clearance includes submission of your "Medical Clearance Certificate" to your program coordinator.

- Phone: [\(956\) 362-3655](tel:956-362-3655)
- Email: [EmployeeHealth@dhr-rgv.com](mailto:EmployeeHealth@dhr-rgv.com)

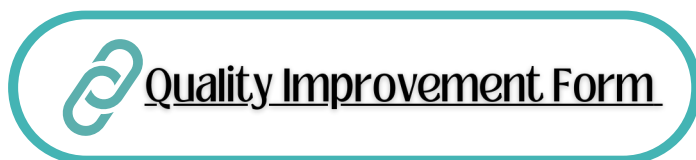
## DHR Health - Institute for Research and Development IRB Office

Human Subject Research or Quality Improvement Project:  
One-on-One Sessions

- QIP
- Case Report / Case Series
- Research Protocol Development
- IRB Submission



SCAN TO SCHEDULE



For more information, please call/email Liz Elias-Calles Cabanillas

Phone: [956-362-2379](tel:956-362-2379)  
Email: [lcalles@dhr-rgv.com](mailto:lcalles@dhr-rgv.com)