

## **KSOM Primary Care Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the advantages of participating in the Primary Care Program?**

In the traditional Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) experience, medical students work with their ICM mentor and interview and/or exam patients weekly in a hospital based setting throughout their first two years at the KSOM. The Primary Care Program offers the traditional ICM experience, but **also** has the medical students working alongside a primary care, community clinic based mentor, where they will see patients in a clinic setting monthly. PCP students will receive **additional education in nutrition**, and help teach diabetic health education classes at the LA County-USC Wellness Center in their first KSOM year. In their second KSOM year, PCP students **are trained in inter-professional team care and geriatrics**. They work in elderly, community based, independent living facilities alongside faculty and health professional students from the schools of dentistry, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and social work, providing team based education and support. There are additional *optional* opportunities to work with marginalized communities in tattoo-removal, with the homeless and holistic pain management patients.

### **Who should participate in the Primary Care Program?**

This program is designed to enhance the clinical opportunities and interests of students who have a very strong interest in *primary care*, specifically, an interest in *family medicine, general pediatrics, general internal medicine* and well *women's health*. Further, this program **focuses on** outpatient, community based training where they will see patients, physicians and office staff over time, in **urban, inner city, underserved communities**.

### **Will I have additional work to complete that is independent of my regular ICM time if I participate in the Primary Care Program?**

The Primary Care Program is a track within ICM. Students meet the same times and days as the traditional ICM students. Students who participate in this program are required to complete all the same milestones, write-ups and OSCA and OSCE's. Because of the clinic and hospital work that are a part of this experience, students will need to keep close attention to efficiently studying their ICM work. Additionally, students will need to fill out evaluations and patient logs that are specific to this experience twice during the academic year.

There is additional training in nutrition, geriatrics, interprofessional team work, a retreat, and several social events to gain additional primary care skills and foster community/friendships. This amounts to no more than *2-4 hours a month on average*.

**Will my participation in this Primary Care Program obligate me to apply for a primary care residency in the future?**

No, medical students are not obligated to apply for any specific residency program if they chose to participate in this program. Nonetheless, this experience is geared towards the students who have a desire to pursue a *primary care residency*, further stimulating their interests in primary care and the opportunities that exist for clinicians in these fields

**What opportunities may I have after ICM is completed in my second year to remain connected to my community clinic mentor, my community clinic and the patients that I have formed relationships with over two years?**

KSOM students may choose to do their third year, family medicine clerkship in the same community clinic in which the medical students participated in their ICM year #1 and year #2, if working with a family medicine clinician, to further the relationships that they have made with their patients. This is not obligatory.

**Will my participation in this program obligate me to choose a community medicine research project for my second year KSOM required scholarly project?**

No, your participation in the Primary Care Program will not obligate you to do a community medicine research project; however, we anticipate that the students attracted to this program will be interested in community-based health. The community clinics offer a rich resource for clinical, community based research opportunities that the students may take advantage of studying further. There are primary care travel scholarships available to students.