Medicine-Pediatrics FAQ’s

Q: How many residents are in your program?

A: Currently we have 15 residents in our program. There are 4 positions available for each intern class.

Q: Where do your residents work?

A: Our residents rotate at three sites: The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (Presby).

CHOP: CHOP is a large academic pediatric teaching hospital. It has been consistently ranked the number one children’s hospital in the country in both U.S. News and World Report, and Parents Magazine. CHOP serves as both a community hospital for the neighborhood of West Philadelphia, as well as a tertiary care referral center for pediatric patients from around the country, and around the world. Many of the inpatient wards at CHOP have a combination of general pediatrics hospitalist service combined with at least one subspecialty service such as benign hematology, neurology, pulmonology, adolescent medicine, nephrology, endocrinology, metabolism, oncology, cardiology and the Integrated Care Service. CHOP has a very large and busy pediatric intensive care unit where Med-Peds residents rotate in their third year.

HUP: HUP is a large, tertiary care, academic medical center. It is consistently ranked among the best adult hospitals in the country. Medicine services include a hospitalist general medicine service, as well as subspecialty services in cardiology, oncology, pulmonology, gastroenterology, and infectious disease. Residents also spend time in the busy medical intensive care unit and the cardiac care unit. To round out the Med-Peds experience at HUP, our residents rotate through the Well Baby Nursery and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, both of which are fueled by a very busy labor and delivery service.

Presby: Presby is located in West Philadelphia, approximately 6 blocks from HUP. It is a smaller community hospital where our residents receive exposure to “bread and butter” general medicine, and have the opportunity to work with outstanding educators in general internal medicine. Residents spend time on the general internal medicine service at Presby, as well as the inpatient geriatrics unit.

Q: Where do Med-Peds residents have continuity clinic?

A: Currently, our residents have two separate continuity clinic practices: one at the Edward S. Cooper general internal medicine practice and another at the CHOP Karabots Pediatric Care Center. Both clinic sites have long-standing traditions of providing primary care to the West Philadelphia community. In order to care for complex patients, both clinics have on-site social workers, care coordinators, and in the case of the Edward S. Cooper clinic, an on-site pharmacist. Having a presence in both internal medicine and pediatrics clinics positions our residents to learn from their categorical peers and preceptors, and also allows them to provide resources to colleagues seeking to transition pediatric patients to adult care.
While on pediatric ward rotations, residents alternate clinics with one clinic session per week in internal medicine clinic and the next week in pediatric clinic. While on internal medicine rotations, residents do not have continuity clinic in keeping with the "6+2" schedule of our categorical internal medicine colleagues. While on Med-Peds Primary Care blocks and electives, our residents have more frequent clinics, allowing them to broaden their exposure to outpatient medicine and pediatrics.

We are in the process of developing a combined med-peds clinic, which will serve both adult and pediatric patients. Stay tuned for further details!

Q: How often do residents rotate between medicine and pediatrics?
A: Our interns have the advantage of an early switch within the first 3 months of intern year in order to familiarize each intern to the various hospital systems. After this, interns and residents rotate between medicine and pediatrics rotations approximately every 3 months. Schedules are more flexible in the final two years of the program in order to accommodate specific electives, global health rotations, and personal requests.

Q: Will I be on service with other med-peds residents?
A: Yes. At any given time, approximately half of our med-peds residents are on internal medicine rotations and half are on pediatrics. We strive to pair-up med-peds interns with upper year med-peds residents whenever possible.

Q: Is there a med-peds specific conference series?
A: Yes. We have a weekly noon conference for Med-Peds residents which includes a variety of interactive learning opportunities from case reports to journal clubs to didactic lectures to a resident wellness series. It is protected time for our residents to learn from faculty experts as well as each other and a great venue for both residents and core Med-Peds faculty to convene weekly.

Q: Is there a Med-Peds Chief Resident?
A: Yes. There is a dedicated 5th year med-peds chief resident, whose core responsibilities focus on Med-Peds clinical teaching both inpatient and outpatient, Med-Peds conference planning, categorical conference teaching, committee involvement and administrative oversight of the Med-Peds program. The Med-Peds Chief resident works alongside the categorical chief residents at both HUP and CHOP, ensuring smooth operations for our residents as they rotate among the various hospitals.

Q: Is there a formal mentoring program?
A: Yes. We are very proud of the 3-layered mentoring program for Med-Peds residents at UPenn/CHOP. Each resident is assigned to a med-peds core faculty mentor, a mentoring group leader who is a faculty member with Med-Peds training, and interns are paired with 4th year residents for peer mentoring. Each layer of the mentoring program aims to fulfill specific objectives including career-planning, fellowship applications, advice for choosing electives,
rotation-specific survival tips, psychosocial support and more. Residents meet with their mentors at regular intervals throughout the year and mentor groups are structured to promote intramural mentoring and peer support. Residents are also encouraged to find career-specific mentors at either HUP or CHOP, where faculty are always happy to connect with and mentor residents.

Q: Are there med-peds trained faculty?
A: Yes. There are many med-peds trained faculty members at both HUP and CHOP, and the med-peds community is growing all the time! You can find med-peds faculty as attendings in inpatient and outpatient settings in both general medicine/general pediatrics as well as many subspecialties. Med-Peds faculty members have a consistent presence at weekly Med-Peds Conferences and also avail themselves as mentors and career counselors. Many faculty also have research interests, and are happy to guide our residents through research projects during the course of their training.

Q: Is there flexibility in the schedule?
A: Yes. Elective time is built into the schedule to allow residents opportunities to explore career interests, perform research, participate in subspecialty clinics, and pursue global health electives.

Q: Will I be able to do research?
A: Yes. Each graduating med-peds resident is required to complete a scholarly activity prior to graduation. Research opportunities are available in basic science, clinical research, health policy, health services, and global health. Many residents collaborate on research projects with scholars throughout the University of Pennsylvania. Structured elective courses for residents to learn about clinical research and careers in academic medicine are also offered, and have been highly rated by our residents.

Q: Are there opportunities for international health experiences?
A: Yes. Med-Peds interns are invited to apply for the highly-rated Global Health Equities Track. Med-Peds residents who participate in the Track have the opportunity for fully-funded travel for global health electives yearly during the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year. The UPenn/CHOP partner sites for the Global Health Equities Track are located in Botswana and the Dominican Republic. For residents who are not in the Track, opportunities are still available for international rotations during 3rd or 4th year and in recent years, Med-Peds residents have worked in Haiti, Kenya, India, Ethiopia, Liberia and Mexico.

Q: Are there other track options besides the Global Health Equities Track?
A: Yes. Med-Peds residents are invited to apply to established tracks in the internal medicine residency program and advanced skills programs in the pediatric residency program. The internal medicine tracks include: Medical Education, Quality Improvement, Health Policy and the Clinical Investigator's Toolbox. The pediatric advanced skills programs include: bioethics, medical education, integrative medicine, health policy, clinical informatics, behavioral & mental health, business of medicine and practice management, and quality improvement.

Q: What are the best parts of your program?
A: The best parts of our program are our colleagues (both med-peds and categorical), and our phenomenal faculty mentors and teachers. They are some of the most supportive, brilliant, fun,
and kind physicians in the country. We also feel lucky to have access to all of the resources afforded by the large CHOP and UPenn categorical programs, while still being able to maintain a close-knit bond that the smaller med-peds program provides.