

Our COVID-19 Response

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will do all interviews in a virtual format. As with many of you, we are disappointed that we can't offer our hospitality and share the unique culture of our program and the feel of our residency. We do pride ourselves in getting to know each applicant during the interview. We hope to replicate the experience as much as possible in the virtual format and give plenty of opportunities to meet our residents and faculty.

This pandemic has affected us all in various ways. Fortunately, in Oregon, we have not had a severe surge and the case load in Portland has been manageable amongst the different healthcare systems. Our hospital has played a key role in taking care of COVID-19 patients within the Portland metro area. Our peak census was 27 patients in May. Oregon shut down relatively quickly in April and was able to flatten the curve. The state has a stepwise plan for re-opening. Each county must meet specific metrics for case prevalence, testing ability, and contact tracing ability to move through the phases. There is a universal mask mandate in the state.

During the pandemic, our program remained agile and responsive to the latest scientific evidence and data. We initially adjusted schedules to minimize exposure risk and spread the undue burden of working in a very stressful environment. Thankfully we have been able to return to our regular schedule. Our hospital system has a stable and adequate supply of PPE and all providers are using masks and face-shields with any patient contact. Our in-house lab quickly developed the COVID-19 PCR testing and was able to offer testing relatively early in the pandemic.

Our clinic quickly adopted engaging with patients with virtual visits. We are now safely seeing patients back for in person visits as well as the ability to continue providing virtual options.

We continue to practice social distancing in our conferences and workspaces. Our conferences occur in-person in multiple conference rooms and streamed online for others to engage using Teams. We miss seeing each other's faces more often but trying to do our best to stay connected.

A positive consequence of the creation of the home curriculum was the passion and inspiration that the residents showed in teaching each other. This led to a creation of the RATS (Residents as Teachers) curriculum, where residents can choose to enroll in a program to learn more teaching skills.

Our driving force through the pandemic is to keep everyone safe, both physically and mentally. We have been proud of our residents in delivering excellent care to our patients with dedication and compassion.