

Meeting the Health Care Needs of Central and Southern Delaware

BY DR. GARY SIEGELMAN

OUR GOAL as innovative and driven health care providers is to help people access the care they need in order to achieve optimal health and wellness. That mission fuels our work today at Bayhealth. We know access is a barrier for many of our community members who struggle to find a physician. We're taking steps today to recruit the brightest and most capable, next-generation health care providers to our growing state.

In July of this year, Bayhealth's Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program will welcome its first group of residents. The GME program is poised to help bring top medical residents – future physician leaders – to Kent and Sussex counties and the surrounding region for generations to come. In the three years each resident will spend at Bayhealth, the hope is they will thrive and become part of our communities and ultimately choose to practice medicine in southern Delaware. We have a chance to show these aspiring physicians, through the richness of our communities and hospitality of our towns, that central and southern Delaware are wonderful places to live and work.

When the Family Medicine Residency and Internal Medicine Residency programs launch in July 2021, they will welcome 21 residents who will care for patients in the hospital and outpatient medical offices. At full capacity, the Family Medicine practice will add more than 30,000 patient care visits per year for patients of all ages, including pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecological (OB-GYN) care for women. The Internal Medicine practice will add more than 20,000 patient care visits each year for the community.

Behind a quality program is a strong faculty of physicians training the residents. Both the Family Medicine Residency and Internal Medicine Residency programs are supported by an exceptional group of physicians to lead, train and support the residents who will care for the community.

Bayhealth's commitment to medical education extends beyond graduate training as we also partner with area medical schools to host medical students for a portion of their Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) clinical rotations. Upon graduating medical school, these



students may later apply for one of Bayhealth's residency programs. Some students learn at Bayhealth for their entire third year of medical school, and complete 11 core rotations, each lasting one month. On each of their specialty rotations, students are mentored by a Bayhealth physician for four weeks, learning in a hands-on environment.

As a regional healthcare leader, developing the next generation of physicians to serve our communities for years to come is a top priority. These new undergraduate and graduate medical education programs will provide the perfect opportunity to train physicians who will provide accessible, quality healthcare for the members of this community who need it now more than ever.

Visit BayhealthGME.org to learn more about Bayhealth's undergraduate and graduate medical education programs. ■



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