# Accepting applicants: General Internist Hospital Medicine Primary Care

Gallup Indian Medical Center Indian Health Service Gallup, New Mexico





The city of Gallup, New Mexico sits deep within the high desert, neighboring the tribal lands of the Navajo Nation.

With relatively fewer resources compared to urban centers, Gallup Indian Medical Center is a place where physicians directly engage with the complex medical, social and economic environment of the local Native American community.

Our department of General Internists is an experienced, purpose-driven team that cares for Native American patients in the primary care clinic, inpatient wards and ICU.

#### **Available General Internist Positions:**

- 1. Primary Care Physician (PCP)
  - Ambulatory primary care only, approximately 26 half-day clinic sessions per month
    - o 2 half-day sessions of administrative time per week

# 2. Mixed PCP/Hospitalist

- Hospitalist: approximately 6-8 inpatient shifts including one weekend per month
- Primary care: approximately 15-16 half-day clinic sessions per month
  - o 1-2 half-day sessions of administrative time per week of outpatient work

# 3. Hospitalist

- Inpatient hospitalist care only, approximately 16 shifts per month
  - o 8 call shifts per month
  - $\circ$  2 weekends per month

## **Description of Clinical Work**



#### Inpatient Medicine

- Census: 25-40 patients staffed equally between four hospitalists
- Call schedule: half of shifts are admitting or "call," with one quarter being first call and the other second call
- Night shifts (7p-7a) are staffed by dedicated Nocturnists
- Available inpatient services/consultants: General Surgery, Orthopedics, Ob-Gyn, Infectious Disease, Podiatry
- Other consultants when available: Cardiology, Neurology, Rheumatology



#### Ambulatory Primary Care

- Gradually build a panel of continuity patients
- Practice with support from RNs, nursing assistants, pharmacists, case management and front desk personnel
- Paired with a nursing assistant throughout each clinic session
- Wide scope of practice, PCPs provide specialty-level care with support from local peer consultation and a 24/7 consultant line via University of New Mexico Hospital



#### Additional Notes

- Across all positions, additional protected time for non-patient care work, e.g. QI projects, can be incorporated over time
- All PCPs follow a panel of continuity patients, the size of which depends on length of time in our practice and whether their position is ambulatory-only or mixed

# **Continuing Education**

We promote an environment of collegial learning across • Twice-weekly multidisciplinary rounds: inpatient cases our department and offer many CME opportunities to continuously enhance our ability to provide evidencebased patient care. Funding is available to attend offsite CME such as conferences and seminars.



- and diagnostic challenges
- Weekly sub-specialty rounds: ID, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Psychiatry, Neurology, Primary Care
- Monthly multidisciplinary M&M conference
- Monthly department Journal Club
- Formal collaborative affiliation with Mass General Brigham: twice-monthly live teleconference CME, recent topics include urologic emergencies, RA management beyond triple therapy, NSAIDs and cardiovascular disease
- Project ECHO: didactic and case-based education platform across specialties including addiction medicine, HIV, hepatitis C, rheumatology and genderaffirming care

#### Non-clinical Work



There are many opportunities for quality improvement and other non-clinical projects depending on an individual's particular interests. Given the smaller size of our medical center, it is easy to build collaborative relationships and new project ideas are well-received with great potential to progress. During protected non-clinical time, Internists in our practice have started multi-disciplinary task forces, including the Wellness Committee, Transitions of Care Multidisciplinary Task Force, Alcohol Task Force, and many others.

#### **Medical Trainee Education**



We periodically host Internal Medicine residents from University of California San Francisco (UCSF), Brigham and Women's Hospital and other institutions. We also work with UCSF Global Health HEAL fellows and occasionally host visiting MD, NP and PA students from regional institutions.

#### The Patients



Most patients are Navajo/Diné along with some Zuni and a few patients from other tribes as well. Most speak English, but we do care for elders who only speak in their Native language. Approximately one-third of the patients who seek care at GIMC do not have running water or electricity. Many patients live on the reservation and practice a traditional lifestyle, preserving the rich Navajo/Diné culture. We treat a unique spectrum of disease in this population, with higher-than-average prevalence of diabetes, rheumatologic diseases such as RA and spondyloarthropathies and infectious diseases such as TB, coccidioidomycosis, hantavirus and syphilis.

### The Facilities



Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC) is a federally-run Indian Health Service (IHS) facility providing the most visits of any IHS hospital in the Navajo area: 250,000 outpatient encounters and 5,800 inpatient admissions annually. The hospital is composed of 99-beds including 6 ICU beds. Outpatient services including Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Dental and Physical Therapy are provided in adjacent ambulatory care facilities.

# **The Department**



GIMC's Department of Internal Medicine is comprised of 15 General Internists, 3 Infectious Disease physicians, 1 Medicine-Psychiatry physician, 1 part-time Rheumatologist, 1 full-time Cardiologist, 1 part-time Cardiologist, 1 part-time Neurologist and 2 Nocturnists.

#### **The Location**



Gallup, New Mexico is home to ~20,000 residents and borders the vast Navajo Nation, whose tribal lands are the size of West Virginia. The city of Gallup's population is roughly 44% Native American, 35% White, 32% Hispanic/Latino, however many thousands more from across the Navajo Nation regularly come to Gallup for employment, business and shopping. Gallup sits at 6,500 ft elevation. The high desert climate brings wide temperature variations between the heat of the day, with daytime highs exceeding 90°F in summer, and the chill of the night, with nighttime lows dropping below 10°F in winter. As Gallup is not technically located on tribal lands, housing is not provided by the IHS. There are affordable rentals and homes for purchase.

Gallup boasts gorgeous hikes, world-renowned mountain biking and exhilarating rock climbing. While Gallup is in a rural area, it is within driving distance to the warm sunshine of Phoenix and the stunning ski slopes of Telluride all in one season! Driving distances to notable locations include 2 hours to Albuquerque, NM, 2.5 hours to Flagstaff, AZ, 2.75 hours to Durango CO, 4 hours to Telluride, CO, 4 hours to Taos, NM, and 4 hours to Phoenix, AZ. Every August, Gallup hosts the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial, where Native tribes proudly share their culture and artistry.



#### **Benefits and Perks**

- Robust retirement benefits package as a federal government employee includes:
  - o Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), a 401K equivalent, government matching vests after 3 years
  - o Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) government pension, vests after 5 years
- Loan repayment options include:
  - o IHS loan repayment, up to \$50,000 for a 2-year commitment with the option to extend
  - National Health Service Corps, \$50,000 for a 2-year commitment with the option to extend
  - o New Mexico State Loan Repayment, \$25,000 per year
- NM State Rural Healthcare Practitioner Tax Credit of \$5,000 per year, this is a credit, not a deduction
- CME funding: \$2500/year, approximately 5 days/year
- Vacation system is generous and flexible
- Eleven paid federal holidays each year, caveats:
  - o Providers working inpatient work 1-2 holiday weekends each year (e.g. July 4<sup>th</sup> and MLK)
  - o All providers work one major holiday week per year, either Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's; the other two holiday weeks not assigned to work are open for vacation

## **Job Requirements**

- Completion or anticipated completion of residency training in Internal Medicine
- Unrestricted medical license from any state; as a federal institution, the Indian Health Service accepts any active, unrestricted state medical license
- American Board of Internal Medicine certified or board-eligible
- U.S. citizenship, as mandated for federal government employment
- Commitment to health equity
- Commitment to respect and learn about Native American history, traditions and culture

Interested in applying? Have questions?

Please contact and send your CV to:

Duncan White, MD Acting Supervisor of Internal Medicine <u>Duncan.White@ihs.gov</u>