# ACCEPTING APPLICANTS: GENERAL INTERNIST, PRIMARY CARE, HOSPITALIST INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

# GALLUP INDIAN MEDICAL CENTER, GALLUP, NEW MEXICO



Consider joining us at Gallup Indian Medical Center, located in New Mexico's beautiful high desert! General Internists in our department care for Native American patients in the primary care clinic, inpatient wards and ICU and do so alongside an experienced, purpose-driven team of providers.

Bordering the vast Navajo Nation, Gallup is a semi-rural city with relatively limited resources compared to large urban centers. Practicing here provides physicians the opportunity to engage with the complex medical, social and economic environment of the local Native American community.

## **Available General Internist Positions:**

#### 1. Primary Care Physician (PCP)

- Ambulatory primary care only, approximately 26-28 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 16-18 shifts per month
  - o 8 call shifts per month
  - o 2 weekends per month

Across all positions, additional administrative 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.

#### **Description of Clinical Work:**

## Inpatient

- Census of 25-40 patients staffed equally between four hospitalists
- 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
- Some subspecialty services (as listed above) are available, however the scope of care for General Internists is wide, enabling the PCP to provide specialty-level care with support from local peer consultation and a 24/7 consultant line provided by the University of New Mexico Hospital.

## **Continuing Education**:

We promote an environment of collegial learning across our department and offer many CME opportunities to continuously enhance our ability to provide evidence-based patient care. There is funding available to attend offsite CME, e.g. conferences.

- Twice-weekly multidisciplinary rounds, discussing inpatient cases and diagnostic challenges
- Weekly sub-specialty rounds: ID, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Psychiatry, Neurology
- Monthly multidisciplinary M&M conference
- Monthly department Journal Club discussions
- Formal collaborative affiliation with Mass General Brigham, who provide twice-monthly live teleconference CME from their specialists
  - Recent topics included Urologic emergencies, RA management beyond triple therapy, NSAIDs and Cardiovascular disease, and more!
- Project ECHO a didactic and case-based education platform across key specialties including addiction medicine, HIV, hepatitis C, rheumatology and gender-affirming care

## Non-Clinical Work:

There are many opportunities to work on quality improvement. 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 dedicated administrative time, recent Internists who have joined the group have started multi-disciplinary task forces, including: Wellness Committee, Transitions of Care Multidisciplinary Task force, Alcohol Task force, and many others.

#### **Medical Trainee Education:**

Our department hosts 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. Monthly teleconferences with UCSF Internal Medicine residents provide regular teaching opportunities.

### **Skills and Qualifications:**

- 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



### **Practice Setting:**

- Patient demographics: Most patients are Navajo/Diné along with some Zuni and a small number of other tribes as well. Most speak English, but some elders are monolingual Navajo speakers. Approximately one-third of the patients who seek care at GIMC do not have running water or electricity. Many patients who live on the reservation practice a traditional lifestyle, showing one of the many ways in which the rich Navajo culture has been preserved in the region. Diabetes, rheumatologic disease (RA, spondyloarthropathies, etc.) and infectious diseases such as TB, coccidiomycosis, and syphilis are more prevalent here than in other parts of the country.
- Gallup Indian Medical Center: Is a federally-run, Indian Health Service (IHS) hospital, composed of 99-beds (6 ICU beds) in Gallup, NM, on the border of the Navajo Reservation. GIMC provides the most visits of any IHS hospital in the Navajo area: 250,000 outpatient encounters and 5,800 inpatient admissions annually.

- <u>GIMC Internal Medicine department:</u> 13 Internists, 3 Infectious Disease physicians, 1 Med-Psychiatry physician, 1 part-time Rheumatologist, 1 full-time Cardiologist, 1 part-time Cardiologist, 1 part-time Neurologist, 2 Nocturnists.
- Gallup, NM: a town of ~20,000 people right off the Navajo reservation in northwestern NM
  - O Located in the high desert (6500 ft elev) summers highs in the 80-90s (but nights still in the 50-60s), winters with some snow with highs in the 40-60s (lows in the 20s)
  - o Demographics: 44% Native American, 35% White, 32% Hispanic/Latino
  - o Government housing not provided, but there are affordable housing rentals along with homes for purchase, as Gallup is not located on the reservation
  - o Gorgeous hikes, world-renowned mountain biking, exhillarating rock climbing
  - Close to the sun of Phoenix and the ski slopes of Telluride all in one season!
     Albuquerque (2 hrs), Flagstaff AZ (2.5hrs), Durango CO (2.75 hrs), Telluride NM (4 hrs), Taos NM (4 hrs), Phoenix (4 hrs)
  - Host of the Annual Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial each August, with opportunities to learn about a myriad of native tribes and cultures

# **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
  - o 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
  - o 11 paid federal holidays each year, caveats:
    - 1-2 holiday weekends worked each year (i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> of July and MLK weekends)
    - Winter Holiday schedule: work either Thanksgiving or Christmas or New Year's week, and get the other two for vacation, rotating schedule

Interested in applying? Have questions? Please contact and send your CV to:
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