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he United States faces a shortage of up to 122,000 physicians by 2032, according to a 2019



approved the addition of 10 new training slots for mental health professionals in

underserved areas within the state. Not only will they make an immediate impact to the provider needs of the region, but

increases access, so patients don't have to wait a long time (there are 22 primary care doctors available). Patients also benefit from the teaching and educational component. MCW students rotate with us for their third and fourth years, so we get to see how they work in teams and how they interact with each other. We want to keep as many of them as possible in the state, Dr. Domagalski says. This approach seems to be working, as there are four residents practicing currently in the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network.

Patricia Toro Perez, MD '19, graduated from MCW-Central Wisconsin and is a third-year resident in the Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Family Medicine Program. My clinical experiences in Antigo, Wisconsin, were the highlight of medical school for me. The preceptors were eager to teach, and everyone in the hospital/clinics was welcoming. I was able to get a lot of hands-on experience that I truly don't believe I would have had otherwise. These experiences helped to set me up for success in residency and made the transition from student to resident very smooth, she remarks.

I chose to attend MCW-Central Wisconsin after my interview day. I had a gut feeling of belonging during that interview, and I followed it. I had that same feeling during my interview at Froedtert Menomonee Falls. I liked that the residency program was focused on community medicine and based at a community hospital while still being close to the Froedtert & MCW main campus, Dr. Toro Perez adds.

MCW also recently created a new family medicine residency program in Green Bay in conjunction with Prevea Health and Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS). Founding program director Manal Soliman, MD, MBA, began to build the program in September 2019. The inaugural class of residents began on July 1, 2021; when fully running, the program will train four residents per year for three years. The program was funded in part by a new residency startup grant from Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, state funds earmarked for MCW's family medicine GME development in northeast Wisconsin and the two healthcare systems.

There is a great shortage of primary care physicians in the Green Bay area, says Dr. Soliman, who also serves as associate professor of family and community



(at center) Martha Grace Courtright, MD '18, graduated from the inaugural class at MCW-Green Bay and completed her Family Medicine Residency Program in 2021. Shown here with classmates Andre Theuerkauf, MD '18, and Allison...

medicine at MCW. The program provides service to families, especially when it comes to the underserved who don't have access to care. Residents also will be providing health education to the community.

Additionally, in July 2015, MCW became the academic affiliate of the Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program in Appleton, Wis., which previously had been a campus of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health department of family medicine. The program is undertaken in collaboration with Mosaic Family Health Clinic in partnership with St. Elizabeth Hospital and ThedaCare Regional Medical Center Appleton. There are 21 residents in the program, with seven graduating each year.

According to Beth Menzel, MD, program director of the Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program and MCW assistant professor of family and community medicine, the crux of the community-based residency program is that most individuals will practice within 100 miles of where they do their residency training. The academic scholarly approach we can bring into our community and our systems provides an elevated level of care for the residents because the existing physicians need to keep up on the latest approaches to care. This gets infused into the community. The residents practice evidence-based medicine, and they demand it from the

physicians they train with, and care is elevated throughout the community. Now, even the patients are making sure they are cared for with evidence-based approaches, she notes.

We just graduated two residents from the inaugural class of MCW-Green Bay, and they have been phenomenal. We are impressed with the students we get from MCW, Dr. Menzel adds.

Martha Grace Courtright, MD '18, GME '21, is one of the two MCW-Green Bay alumni who graduated from the Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program in 2021; she will be practicing full-spectrum medicine (outpatient, inpatient, OB deliveries and nursing home care) at Essentia Health in Hayward, Wis.

I was able to rotate at Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency in medical school at MCW-Green Bay, and that experience is what made me want to match at Fox Valley. I really felt that the residents were getting a broad education and that their OB curriculum was top-notch. I knew I wanted to do deliveries as part of my future practice, and so I wanted to go somewhere that was going to give me that intense training, Dr. Courtright remarks.

Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency's goal is to prepare full-spectrum physicians for which rural communities are so desperately searching. A unique part of our residency training is our third year, during

which we function like a mini-call pool covering clinic calls, admissions and deliveries for two hospitals and a nursing home. This really solidifies your training from the first two years and gives you a sense of what a rural, full-scope practice