Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Internal Medicine Residency Program
Department of Medicine, Western University

1. **What types of educational opportunities does your program feature?**

   Our residency program offers diverse educational opportunities through a combination of in-person clinical rotations, structured teaching sessions, and comprehensive mentorship. Residents gain experience across core rotations including Clinical Teaching Units in London and Windsor, the ICU, Cardiology, Coronary Care, Emergency Department, community rotations, and research or quality improvement projects. Mandatory rotations include General Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Nephrology, and Respirology, while selective rotations cover areas such as Clinical Immunology & Allergy, Endocrinology, Geriatrics, Hematology, Infectious Diseases, Medical Oncology, Neurology, Rheumatology, and Point-of-Care Ultrasound. Elective rotations can be completed either locally within LHSC or out of town within other Ontario-based institutions.

   Protected learning time is provided through our Academic Half-Day curriculum, and residents also benefit from morning reports, lunchtime teaching, grand rounds, simulation sessions, transition-to-residency summer series, and ongoing exam preparation. The program emphasizes mentorship and competency support through our Competency Committee and assigned Academic Advisors, who regularly review educational and clinical progress. Program Directors are highly engaged, meeting semi-annually with residents while remaining accessible for regular guidance throughout training. This structure ensures a balanced, rigorous, and supportive learning experience for all residents.

2. **What makes your program unique?**

   The Western University Internal Medicine Residency Program is unique for its strong sense of community and close-knit environment. Residents enjoy supportive relationships not only within their own cohort but also across different years, fostering collaboration and camaraderie. Our faculty and program leadership are highly engaged, regularly interacting with residents and providing personalized mentorship throughout training.

   The program combines diverse clinical experiences, protected learning time, and opportunities for research and quality improvement with a focus on resident wellness. The administration is actively involved in shaping the residency experience, ensuring training is both rigorous and fulfilling. This combination of close connections, dedicated mentorship, and responsive leadership makes Western's program a truly supportive and enriching environment.

3. **How does your program protect residents' health and wellness**?

   Protecting and promoting resident health and wellness is a key focus of our program. Our resident-led Wellness Committee plays a central role in this effort by sharing information, offering resources, and hosting events in collaboration with our administration team, the Department of Medicine Education Office. The administration and leadership team are always open to feedback on how the residency experience can be improved. All contacts listed in this document are available to support medical students and residents throughout their training journey. You can learn more about our Wellness in Residency mission on our Elentra Community Site.

4. **When you are reviewing CaRMS applications, what do you look for in a potential interview candidate?**

   Our Program Director, Dr. Marko Mrkobrada's, outlook while reviewing applications is as follows: "The quality I value most is a strong sense of ownership — ownership of one's patients, but also of one's own learning. Internal medicine is complex and demanding, and the best residents are those who take initiative, follow through, and truly feel responsible for the care they provide.

   Beyond that, we're looking for a diverse group of residents who are clinically excellent, motivated, and who value a sense of community. Medicine is a team sport, and our best residents not only excel individually but also elevate those around them. We want people who are curious, compassionate, and who bring different perspectives and strengths to the program."

5. **What leadership opportunities are available to residents in your program?**

   There are many leadership opportunities for residents within our program. Residents can serve in various representative positions on our Internal Medicine Residency Training Committee, including cohort representatives, Internationally Sponsored Resident representatives, and International Medical Graduate representatives. We also have a resident-led Wellness Committee, with PGY1s selected each year to join the committee for the duration of their residency. In addition, residents are involved in our Continuous Quality Improvement Committee and Curriculum Committee, providing valuable perspectives on program development and educational goals. Every fall, we also hold elections for our new Chief Medical Residents—an integral part of our program—with six positions available each year.

6. **How do I connect with the Internal Medicine Program today? Who should I contact if I am interested in learning more about your program?**

   - To view our department-wide Instagram please visit @WesternUDeptMedicine
   - For general inquiries please contact DOMEDUCATION@lhsc.on.ca
   - If you are interested in completing an observership please review this website: https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/medicine/postgraduate/future_learners/visiting_resident_electives/Observerships.html
   - If you are interested in scheduling an elective during your Undergraduate Medical Education, please contact the Department of Medicine's Undergraduate Medical Education Office at DOMUME@lhsc.on.ca
   - If you are currently enrolled within an Internal Medicine Residency Program with another educational institution but wish to complete an elective with our program, please contact DOMVSE@lhsc.on.ca

7. **Who is your program director?**

   Our program director is Dr. Marko Mrkobrada. He works closely with our Assistant Program Directors, Drs. Cassie Fayowski, Aaron Leung, and David Hudson, our six Chief Medical Residents, and the Department of Medicine Education Office.

   Contact Information:

   - Program Directors: IMPD@lhsc.on.ca
   - Chief Medical Residents at LHSC University Hospital: uchief@gmail.com
   - Chief Medical Residents at LHSC Victoria Hospital: vhchief@gmail.com
   - The DoM Education Office: domeducation@lhsc.on.ca

8. **How large is your program?**

   Our program is growing! We currently have approximately 125 Core Internal Medicine Residents. However, including our PGY4-6 subspecialty residents, we have approximately 250 residents across our department.

9. **How do I access the Elentra Community Site?**

   If you are a Western medical student, you can access the site by following these steps:

   I. Go to the Elentra ME login page and sign in with your UWO credentials.
   II. Click the "**Communities**" tab in the top-left corner.
   III. Under Browse Communities, select "**Program Websites**".

IV. Find and select the “**IM Residency Program Community**” in the list to access our community site.

V. Save our community as a bookmark within your Elentra account!