Leading the Charge In Medical Education

Eisenhower Residency Programs Accredited

Expected to help meet the growing shortage of primary care physicians in the Coachella Valley, Eisenhower Medical Center's new residency programs in Family Medicine and in Internal Medicine have received national accreditation. Eisenhower is the first hospital in the Valley to establish residency programs in Family Medicine and Internal Medicine.

"Eisenhower Medical Center is deeply committed to the success of our residency programs. We've witnessed the Valley's growth as well as the growing need for primary care services in the area," says G. Aubrey Serfling, President and Chief Executive Officer, Eisenhower Medical Center. In the Coachella Valley, an independent Reuter's survey found that the Valley had a deficit of 102 primary care physicians based on physician/population ratios. By launching the Family Medicine and Internal Medicine residency programs, Eisenhower is working to fulfill this need.

The Family Medicine residency program is a threeyear training program with eight residents in each training year, for a total of 24 residents. The program will be based within the Eisenhower George and Julia Argyros Health Center in La Quinta. Residents, along with family medicine faculty, will care for adults and children within this state-of-the-art facility. The facility allows for patients to be comprehensively evaluated by their physician, with the help of the most modern ancillary patient facilities in radiology and laboratory medicine. The program will focus on disease prevention, and health and wellness, but will also include management of chronic medical problems and care of the patient when hospitalized.

The Internal Medicine residency program is similarly structured as a three-year program. However, this program will also be home to six first-year trainees who are preparing — at the completion of their first year of training — to enter a variety of specialties other than internal medicine. The Internal Medicine residency program will be located in the Uihlein Building on the main campus of Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage.

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—G. Aubrey Serfling

The responsibility for educating the next generation of physicians is granted by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to programs that can demonstrate a commitment to provide specialty medical education to graduate physicians. Criteria for accreditation are stringent and incorporate complex educational goals and core competencies. Educational goals are overseen by this accrediting body. Eisenhower Medical Center was granted a three-year accreditation, the longest period of time possible for an initial accreditation.

Prior to being able to offer a residency at Eisenhower, the hospital and its academic faculty had submitted a very detailed program application. "The Accreditation by the ACGME distinguishes the Eisenhower Medical Center's Family Medicine and Internal Medicine residency programs as having met the highest standards for graduate medical education," says Roy Young, MD, UCLA Professor of Medicine Emeritus, who is the Internal Medicine Residency Program Director at Eisenhower Medical Center.

Becoming a Teaching Hospital and launching a School of Graduate Medical Education comes at a price. Capital improvements to the School's four facilities, as well as scholarships and faculty salaries, have created the need to raise an additional $32 million in philanthropy. To help support the Campaign for the Teaching Hospital/School of Graduate Medical Education, please contact Michael Landes, President, Eisenhower Medical Center Foundation, at 760-773-4558.

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