

The UNC Preventive Medicine Residency

General Description:

The UNC Preventive Medicine Residency trains physicians to lead practice and research in public health and clinical population health in communities, health care systems, and other defined populations. The UNC Preventive Medicine Residency has existed for more than 40 years and is headquartered in the Department of Family Medicine in the School of Medicine, UNC Chapel Hill. UNC Hospitals is the sponsor of the Residency and directly supports the program by funding nine resident positions per year. The School of Public Health is an active partner in the program.

Trainees:

Our program currently has 10 trainees (5 academic year and 5 practicum year). Stipends are provided by UNC Hospitals; tuition is covered by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Curriculum:

Our areas of focus are **clinical population health management, health disparities/underserved populations, cancer prevention and control, and clinical preventive services**. The curriculum consists of MPH coursework at the UNC School of Public Health, weekly seminars in preventive medicine topics, a research project, a governmental public health agency rotation, two rotations in clinical population health (management and policy), patient care, and co-teaching of a clinical epidemiology course for medical students. Elective rotations allow each resident to individualize their practicum year.

Clinical opportunities:

In Year 1, all residents conduct their clinical rotations in the Family Medicine Center or other UNC entity; current options include weight management and tobacco cessation clinics, occupational health, and preventive services clinic. In Year 2, residents may change their clinical site within the UNCH system. On rare occasions and with advanced planning, residents can request clinical work outside of the UNCH system to further their academic and career goals.

Research:

All residents complete a major research project. Residents work with faculty in the Schools of Medicine or Public Health, including the Sheps Center for Health Services Research, the Lineberger Cancer Center, and the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Residents also pursue research with outside organizations, including the NC Division of Public Health and RTI International.

Rotations:

All residents are required to complete rotations at the N.C. Division of Public Health (including maternal and child health, infectious disease, chronic disease, and preparedness), Piedmont Health Services (an FQHC), and the VA National Center for Prevention. With advance planning, residents may have elective rotations with outside agencies.

Resources:

Support for the program is from the Department of Family Medicine, from UNC Hospitals, and from a HRSA training grant.

Faculty:

The Residency currently has three funded faculty in addition to the Program Director who add expertise in quality improvement, practice-based research, and systematic reviews and evidence synthesis. The Department of Family Medicine has numerous faculty members who serve as clinical and research mentors for residents. We also consider approximately 24 persons to be volunteer faculty for the program. These include faculty in required or key courses in the School of Public Health, Residency Advisory Committee (RAC) members, or select research, clinical, and/or practicum preceptors. Numerous other individuals participate as advisors or practicum preceptors.

Work of our graduates:

The UNC PMR serves as a major pipeline for the public health and population health workforce in North Carolina; for example, 1/3 of physicians in the NC Division of Public Health and other relevant state agencies are graduates of the UNC PMR. Graduates have served in key roles for the state, for example, Assistant Secretary, NC Department of Health and Human Services, Medical Director of the Communicable Disease Branch, and Chief Operating Officer of the nationally recognized Community Care of North Carolina.

The majority of our graduates combine clinical practice with population health practice or research. A breakdown of the primary positions of our graduates is as follows:

- 38% are in academics
- 26% in government (federal/state/local)
- 15% in a health care setting
- 9% in a non-profit organization
- 4% in the military
- 5% in industry
- 1% in an international health organization

The UNC PMR in the context of nationwide Preventive Medicine GME:

Preventive medicine physicians are uniquely trained in public health and clinical medicine and provide leadership to public health agencies, managed care and other healthcare delivery organizations, academe, private corporations, non-profit organizations, and the military in disease prevention and health promotion. Currently, there are 75 ACGME-accredited PM residency programs across the country that train approximately 350 residents (these figures include occupational medicine and aerospace medicine). Hallmarks of the UNC PMR include:

- One of oldest and largest in the nation
- Routine enrollment of residents already board-certified or eligible in a clinical specialty
- Strong partnerships with state and local agencies and a tight network of graduates
- Individualized educational plans with a research focus
- Travel funding for conferences on an annual basis (as allowed by grant funding)