East Carolina University/Vidant Medical Center
Pediatric Residency Program
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Welcome to The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University/ Vidant Medical Center!

We wish we were able to welcome you in person, but we hope that during your interview day you were able to get a feel for what our program is about! As a former resident and chief resident of this program, East North Carolina/Vidant is a place dear to my heart, and I sincerely hope you will consider joining our family.

Recent years have been wrought with challenges and difficulty unlike we have ever faced before. Living our lives and caring for patients during this pandemic has been life-altering and forever changed the way we view medicine, healthcare, education and so many other facets of our lives. Graduations, birthdays, funerals, weddings - even residency interviews - have had to be re-imagined. Also, as leaders in our field and community, we are stepping up with voices against racism and the social injustices that affect our communities. It is our duty as advocates to listen and stand together for our community and promote diversity, inclusivity, and acceptance of all.

Even though your “visit” with us was short, we hope you were able to get a glimpse of the amazing Pediatric Residency Program we have here at ECU. Our commitment is to primary care education while preparing our residents to be confident and competent pediatric practitioners in any setting. Our residency is continuously improving and making changes based on resident feedback to meet this goal. Having first come to ECU as a visiting 4th year medical student, then completing my residency here, going away for fellowship, and then returning as faculty and now as a program leader, I can attest to the continued excellence, strong roots and solid foundation of this program. Our faculty are invested not only in providing excellence in clinical care for our patients, but also in education, mentoring and advising our residents. Our patients in Eastern North Carolina are so special. Many live in rural, underserved areas and need us to continue advocating for them. Our community ties are great and go beyond just Eastern North Carolina, but globally!

There is something very rewarding about coming to work at ECU/Vidant. Our facility started decades ago as a small community hospital and has now grown into a top-rated, large academic center. The amazing thing is, we still feel like a community hospital with all the advantages of a large academic center. During my rotation as a student, I heard one of my attendings hang up from a call from our patient transfer center by saying, “Thank you for serving the children of Eastern North Carolina.” This is exactly what ECU is - our faculty, staff and residents come to work and learn every day as an act of service. We have a place at ECU where you will train to be an excellent pediatrician, participate in exciting scholarly activity, see patients with remarkable stories and yet feel rewarded and supported by the community and family you have here at East Carolina.

This is an exciting time at ECU and we hope you will consider calling ECU your home.

Best wishes for your interview season!

Sincerely,

Sarah B. Leonard, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Department of Pediatrics
Program Director, Pediatric Residency Program
East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine/Vidant Medical Center
leonardsa15@ecu.edu
Welcome to ECU Pediatrics!

We are so excited that you are interested in learning about our program at the James and Connie Maynard Children’s Hospital! We truly believe that we are a family here at Vidant Medical Center and East Carolina University. Our faculty and residents come from incredibly diverse and unique backgrounds, and we are so very proud of all our talented colleagues.

We chose VMC-ECU for the close community and wide range of clinical experiences. Our Residents have the opportunity to care for both “bread and butter” pediatric cases and rare “zebras”. Our program provides inpatient, outpatient, and preventive community care to a population of 1.4 million people in 29 eastern North Carolina counties, and Maynard Children’s Hospital is the only pediatric hospital in eastern North Carolina. This offers a wide scope of learning opportunities for residents, ensuring that they are well-prepared to pursue careers in either general or subspecialty pediatrics.

Thank you again for your interest in our program! We consider ourselves so fortunate to be here at ECU/Vidant Medical Center and we look forward to introducing you to our amazing residency family.

Linh Nguyen, DO
Mobby Chakanyuka, MD
Nusiebeh Redpath, MD
Nick Preziosi, MD
Chief Residents, Department of Pediatrics
The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
Maynard Children’s Hospital, Vidant Medical Center
Residents
Our Team

Leadership

Mathew Ledoux, MD
Interim Chair, Department of Pediatrics

Sarah Leonard, MD, MPH
Program Director

Inga Aikman, MD, MPH
Associate Program Director

Jennifer Crotty, MD
Associate Program Director

Kathryn Kunzmann
Residency Coordinator

Karin Hillenbrand, MD, MPH
Program Director Emeritus
Our program boasts many unique experiences you may not find at other residencies:

- **The TEDI Bear Clinic**: ECU’s child abuse advocacy center

- **The Center for Children with Complex and Chronic Conditions (C5)**: Eastern North Carolina has a large population of medically complex children who are dependent on advanced medical technologies. The C5 serves these patients with dedicated interdisciplinary teams, including case managers, respiratory therapists, nurse practitioners and home health specialists.

- **Pediatric Research**: The Department of Pediatrics has its own dedicated research team that is specifically trained to assist our faculty and residents in regards to research and publication.

- **Community Pediatrics Rotation**: Completed in your intern year, this rotation exists primarily to acquaint the learner with their community through the pediatric lens. Whether you’re inspecting parks for safety or changing gastronomy tubes and tracheotomies with staff at the local Residential Health Agency, this rotation will show you how many children in Eastern North Carolina experience their world.
What are our residents saying about our program?

“Greenville is the PERFECT place for residency. Our people are great and we get a lot of experience taking care of a wide variety of patients, but for the more pragmatic people, you truly cannot overestimate the importance of minimal traffic and a low cost of living.”

-Sam McClease, Alum
Private Practice, Raleigh, NC

“We are all one big happy family!”
-Jessica Eubanks, Alum
NICU Fellow

“I went to medical school at ECU and chose to stay because the people here are truly incredible! It really does feel like a family. I know I will always be supported, and I have already seen the support that some of my co-interns have received. Greenville is a small town, but really does have all the stores and things you will need on a daily basis – we are a super short drive away from awesome beaches, cute towns, and the big city!! (Raleigh lol). Seriously though, I love the program here and wouldn’t change a thing about my experience so far!”

-Chloe Opper, PGY2

“We love all the other residents and med peds colleagues. Everyone gets along so well and we have a blast inside and outside of work. All the fellows and attendings really respect you and care about you”

-Nick Preziosi, PGY3/Chief

“I am sure everyone will say this, but the people! As medical student, all the residents and attendings I worked with were amazing. Everyone was very approachable and willing to teach. If I am going to spend the majority of my time with the people for 3 years, I would rather do it with people who I know I am going to enjoy spending with! Also, one of the important factors that I considered during interviews was protected study time (this is very important as a resident, because this means I can concentrate and learn while attending the conferences and lectures. I still have a lot to learn and with all the interruptions throughout the day, learning would not be very easy). This tells us a lot about how much the program cares about education of the residents. As a bonus, our program also pays for Step 3.”

-Uri Cho, PGY2

“As a North Carolina native, I was drawn to ECU/Vidant because as the only pediatric tertiary care center in the eastern third of the state, I knew this program has the unique ability to provide the well-rounded education I need while also providing a close-knit and supportive academic environment. I have felt fully supported by all faculty and my co-residents since day one, and I am so happy to be a resident in this program!”

-Emily Cox, PGY2

“Diversity, teamwork, support.”
-Alex Hernandez, PGY3

“Incredibly supportive faculty, a population that truly needs you, and graduates that have achieved excellent fellowship opportunities”

-Travis Odom, Alum
PICU Fellow
What are our residents saying about our program?

“Mid size programs with very complex children and families which is great for learning”

~Nga Tran, PGY2

“My greatest joy has been having the opportunity to meet and work with all my co-residents and with attendings that truly enjoy teaching.”

~Linh Nguyen, PGY3/Chief

“This city is awesome from its Southern hospitality to its various restaurants. The pediatric program has grade A support for its residents. Resident wellness is important, which I quickly learned and appreciated during interview season. Also, you learn so much from the attendings, other residents, and even patients!”

~Ihinosen Edgal, PGY2

“Really enjoyed my interview day and the chair of our department was one of best interactions I had on my entire interview trail. I loved the college town atmosphere. It has a small town vibe but still a decent size at almost 100k people. I couples matched with my girlfriend and we really wanted somewhere with affordable housing that would allow us to buy a house with a nice yard for our doggo, and Greenville/Winterville offer just that.”

~Brandon Wright, PGY2

“Great people! Great training in an up-and-coming place with great cost of living”

~Sean Watson, PGY3

“Great people.”

~Brian Livingston, Alum
Pediatric Hospitalist
New Bern, NC

“What attracted me to the program was first that it is in NC. Second the size of the program. You could feel the comradery because everyone knows everyone. And third were approachable attendings, open and friendly. In this few first months it has been fun, interesting. Attendings are so understanding and supporting, accommodating, and same goes for the residents, they are awesome.

Definitely, program for good people.”

~Ivana Baumgarten, PGY2

“I liked the culture and the people here. We are like a big family. The attendings knew the residents well and they care about their residents.”

“I liked the lifestyle here. It was a small town and it was very convenient.”

“I do not have a lot of research experience in the past. Dr. Tumin helped me a lot. This is the strength of our program. There are resources for you.”

~Yingying Zheng, PGY3
Where are we from?

About Us

158 Plants

13 Dogs

12 Children

1 Cat
Recent graduates have completed or are currently enrolled in fellowship training at the following programs:

- **Allergy/Immunology:** The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Neurology:** Phoenix Children’s and St Christopher’s
- **Hematology/Oncology:** Duke, Nationwide Childrens’, St. Jude’s and Seattle Childrens’
- **Pediatric Critical Care:** CHOP, University of Wisconsin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, and Emory University, UT San Antonio, Nicklaus Children’s Hospital
- **Neonatal Intensive Care:** University of Rochester, University of Vermont, University of Kentucky, University of California-Irvine, Vanderbilt, East Carolina University, and University of Virginia, University of Illinous-Chicago
- **Forensic Pediatrics:** New York Medical College
- **Endocrinology:** Cincinnati Children’s
- **Infectious Disease:** University of Pittsburgh
- **Pulmonology:** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Pediatric Emergency Medicine:** WakeMed, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, MUSC
- **Cardiology:** University of Virginia
Scholarly Activity with ECU Pediatrics

#ECUPeds Does Research!

- 70 Original research papers accepted to healthcare journals in 2020 as of October
- 18 Original abstracts accepted to PAS in 2020
- 56% Clinical Pediatric faculty contributing to original research
- 14% Of all original research at the school of medicine done by Pediatrics

Dedicated Pediatric Research Division!

#ECUPeds leads the school of medicine in sponsored project awards!
Residents can pursue their own global health rotations or participate in our established faculty-led experiences in Zambia, Uganda, and Haiti.
Out and About Around Greenville, NC

Goose Creek State Park

The Greenway

Umbrella Market

Town Commons

Uptown Greenville

Washington, NC

Currituck, NC

North Carolina Outer Banks