AJ Abcejo, DO, PGY2
Undergrad Degree
Biology – Iowa State University
Medical School
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences
Professional Interests
Sports Medicine

Abi Adebayo, MD, PGY1
Undergrad Degree
Medicine – Igbinedton University
Medical School
Windsor University School of Medicine

Saeed Afaneh, MD, PGY2
Undergrad Degree
Bioengineering – University of California, San Diego La Jolla
Medical School
Ross University School of Medicine

Kimberly Baker, MD, PGY3
Undergrad Degree
Biology & Chemistry – University of Missouri – Kansas City
Medical School
University of Kansas
Professional Interests
Rural Medicine
Interests Outside of Medicine
Embroidery and Sewing
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“Mercy and Des Moines are close to my family. There are rural medicine and procedure opportunities here.”
Julia Black, DO, PGY2

Undergrad Degree  
Nutrition Science & Gerontology – Kansas State University

Medical School  
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences

Professional Interests  
Sports Medicine, Emergency Medicine & Integrative Medicine

Interests Outside of Medicine  
Indoor rock climbing, cooking, and watching Marvel shows with my husband.

Tara Blalock Burgher, DO, PGY3

Undergrad Degree  
Communication Sciences and Disorders – Appalachian State University

Audiology – University of Louisville

Medical School  
Des Moines University

Professional Interests  
Rural Medicine

Bryan Blumell, MD, PGY3

Undergrad Degree  
Neuroscience – Brigham Young University

Medical School  
Ross University

Professional Interests  
Rural Medicine & Mission work

Interests Outside of Medicine  
The outdoors, camping, reading & traveling

Why Mercy & Des Moines?  
“There is plenty of good pathology to learn from at Mercy. Des Moines is a good sized city with plenty of bike trails.”

Meryem Chaudhry, MD, PGY1

Undergrad Degree  
Chemistry – Brooklyn College

Medical School  
Windsor University School of Medicine

Professional Interests  
Family Medicine, Women’s Health & Urgent Care

Interests Outside of Medicine  
Religion and spirituality

Why Mercy & Des Moines?  
“Mercy gives me full exposure to family medicine with ample opportunities with OBGYN & Pediatrics. I am able to work with the underserved population. The program has a friendly atmosphere and people are very nice. Des Moines is a capital city with a small town feel.”
Catherine Del Rosario, MD, PGY1
Undergrad Degree
Biological Sciences – University of California, Riverside
Medical School
University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Philippines
Professional Interests
Clinician or Hospitalist
Interests Outside of Medicine
Playing board games, traveling, eating, playing basketball, watching movies, tv and dog/puppy videos

Stephanie Ezebuiro, MD, PGY1
Undergrad Degree
Public Health – University of Maryland, College Park
Medical School
American University of Antigua
Professional Interests
Women and Children’s Health, Diabetes, Serving the Underserved
Interests Outside of Medicine
Dancing, enjoying time with my family, praising God, writing & traveling
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“Mercy and Des Moines are new environments to grow, explore and be amazing in.”

Ali Feili, MD, PGY3
Undergrad Degree
Biology – University of Texas at San Antonio
Healthcare Management MBA – Westerns Governor’s University
Medical School
IAU School of Medicine
Professional Interests
Emergency Medicine
Interests Outside of Medicine
Drawing, playing guitar, sports (especially soccer), spending time with my friends and colleagues
These are two websites I have designed and maintain:
- http://www.medical-institution.com
- http://freemedicalvideos.com
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“I chose Mercy for two main reasons. The first reason was my warm encounter with the residents and faculty when I initially visited the program for my interview. There was a great sense of respect and camaraderie between the residents and the faculty. It felt as if the residents were more like a family than colleagues, which was very refreshing and important to me. My second reason was having the opportunity to work at one of the best and busiest hospitals in the Midwest, alongside many specialists who are always available and helpful.

I had my speculations prior to moving to Des Moines since I have always lived in major cities. However, I was in for a nice surprise. The cost of living is very reasonable and most importantly there is hardly any traffic on the roads. People are nice and friendly and pretty much everything that is available in a big city is also available here in Des Moines. Many of us who have moved to Des Moines refer to it as ‘the small big city.’”
Matthew Ferguson, DO, PGY2
Undergrad Degree
Biology – Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville
Medical School
Des Moines University

Mohamed Humad, MD, PGY1
Undergrad Degree
Biochemistry – Iowa State University
Medical School
Windsor University School of Medicine
Professional Interests
Rural Surgery, Emergency Medicine
Interests Outside of Medicine
Enjoy playing soccer and swimming
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“Des Moines is home to me. I picked Mercy because of the people here. They are wonderful to work with. We are all a big family.”

Huda Jarmakani, DO, PGY1
Undergrad Degree
Biology, Psychology & Chemistry – Briar Cliff University
Masters of Biomedical Science – Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences
Medical School
Des Moines University
Professional Interests
OB, Pediatrics, Adolescents, Emergency Medicine, a little bit of everything!
Interests Outside of Medicine
Hanging out with my husband and family, traveling all over the world, trying new restaurants, Netflix nights, biking on the many trails of Des Moines
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“I came here as a student, and the faculty and residents were so welcoming. I felt right at place. I am interested in everything and Mercy allows me to cater my studies to what I want. My family is nearby. Having lived here for medical school, I fell in love with the atmosphere of Des Moines – it has a little bit of everything – art, culture, restaurants, farmers market, concerts and so much more.”

Denni Fitzsimmons, DO, PGY3
Chief Resident
Undergrad Degree
Biology – University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Medical School
Des Moines University
Professional Interests
Pediatrics, Women’s Health, Diabetic care
Interests Outside of Medicine
Spending time with my husband and 2 kids, scrapbooking, crafting & biking
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“Des Moines is home for me so it is very nice to match into a residency in Des Moines.”
Chris Ketter, DO, PGY3
Chief Resident
Undergrad Degree
Biology – Kansas State University
Medical School
Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Professional Interests
Sports Medicine
Interests Outside of Medicine
Running, biking, weight lifting, basketball, swimming, hiking, reading & movies
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“Des Moines is a great location in the Midwest.”

Neal Naik, MD, PGY3
Undergrad Degree
Biology & Art Studio – Saint Louis University
Medical School
Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara Facultad de Medicina & New York Medical College

Micah Price, MD, PGY1
Undergrad Degree
Neuroscience – Brigham Young University
Medical School
St. George’s University School of Medicine

Marissa Pyle, DO, PGY2
Undergrad Degree
Biology and Psychology – Iowa State University
Medical School
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences
Professional Interests
Preventative Medicine
Jasmina Sabic, DO, PGY2
Undergrad Degree
Biology & Chemistry – Grand View University
Medical School
Des Moines University
Professional Interests
Outpatient Family Medicine
Interests Outside of Medicine
Spending time with my family, my dog and traveling
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“I grew up in the Des Moines area. I really didn’t have a desire to leave town as my family and friends live in Des Moines. Additionally, Des Moines is a beautiful city, with lots to do. I chose Mercy because I wanted to be in a facility that provided a great amount of exposure as well as the ability to work alongside and learn from a variety of specialists.”

Dania Siddiqui, MD, PGY2
Undergrad Degree
Communication Studies – Wilfrid Laurier University
Medical School
Saint James School of Medicine

Nayab Syed, MD, PGY2
Undergrad Degree
Philosophy – The Ohio State University
Medical School
Saint James School of Medicine

April Winters, DO, PGY3
Undergrad Degree
Biological Chemistry – Evangel University
Medical School
Des Moines University
Professional Interests
Serving underserved populations and overseas
Interests Outside of Medicine
Church activities and doing anything outdoors
Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“I love the many opportunities Des Moines offers to serve many different cultures.”
Nicole Zabrinas, DO, PGY1

Undergrad Degree
Biology, Chemistry & Spanish – Millikin University

Medical School
Des Moines University

Professional Interests
Women's Health, Preventative/Integrative Medicine, Hospital Medicine, Emergency Medicine

Interests Outside of Medicine
Gardening, cooking, exploring new restaurants, dog activities, yoga, running, dancing, spending time with family, traveling, watching the Chicago Blackhawks

Why Mercy & Des Moines?
“My fiancé and I met at DMU and are both from Illinois. We both fell in love with Des Moines during our time here and wanted to stay. We love the people here, and it’s been fun to watch the city grow and develop so much over the past years. We both chose Mercy because it has so much to offer. Since it’s a large hospital with almost every specialty, we see such a variety of patients and are exposed to a large range of pathology. Because we don’t have fellows, we get to work directly with specialists. We also get great education in pediatrics and obstetrics. Our clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) so we get to serve a diverse patient population and really give back to our community. We have a wonderful group of residents, faculty and staff. We are great at helping each other out so we can all enjoy some necessary time away from work!”