

VA Center of Outstanding Education Track

Program Description

Thank you for your interest in the **Center of Outstanding Education (COE) track (aka the VA Track)**. Residents are paired in teams and together function as the primary care provider for a panel of patients at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. Residents work seamlessly with nurses, social workers, psychologists, and pharmacists to provide a patient-centered approach to care. This program offers robust clinical experience and dedicated medical education and QI curricula.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply to both the Categorical and VA/COE Tracks?

Yes, many people choose to rank one or both tracks.

You must apply to each Program Code to be considered for the Track.

Categorical: 1968140C0; VA Track: 1968140C2

Do residents in the COE program receive adequate training in subspecialty and inpatient medicine?

Absolutely! Participants of the program receive ample time on the wards at their respective hospitals and are indistinguishable from categorical residents when not participating in the COE block. The only difference is that COE residents have their primary care clinic in a different health system (the VA). COE residents will come to the VA for 4 different three-month continuous primary care blocks – once as a PGY-1, twice as a PGY-2, and once as a PGY-3. When they are not on a COE block, residents are back at their home institution following their usual X+Y schedule.

How many residents are in COE track?

We accept 6 residents from University Hospitals (UH) and 6 residents from Cleveland Clinic (CCF) every year.

What is a typical weekly schedule during COE?

Below is a sample schedule of a typical week on COE. During the elective blocks, residents can choose to go to any subspecialty clinic at the VA, Cleveland Clinic, or University Hospital, or work on research projects.

Sample Schedule					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM (8a-12p)	Panel Management	Elective	Primary Care	Primary Care	Didactics
PM (1p-4p)	Elective	Hepatology	Women's Health	Self-Directed Learning	Primary Care

Graduate Thoughts

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"My favorite part of my training has been the ability to build relationships and build confidence to be the primary provider for a patient panel. Saying goodbye to my patients has been the hardest part of the program. I'm planning to take everything I have learned into general cardiology to manage chronic cardiac diseases. I highly recommend this program to anyone, regardless of your career."
– Toral Patel

"The COE track has played an enormous role in shaping my career goal. My clinical interest is in cardiovascular medicine, and I rotated through cardiology clinics and engaged in cardiology related QI projects which was a terrific addition to my fellowship application. Choosing to pursue residency in the COE track was the best decision and has enhanced my confidence in practicing under any setting across the country."
-Vittal Hejjaji

"Although most traditional IM residency programs focus heavily on inpatient medicine, most specialties have components of both inpatient and outpatient medicine. Learning how to manage patients in the outpatient setting is an important skill for future practice regardless of your field of medicine."
-Yuri Shindo

What do COE graduates do when they finish?

The program is designed to prepare graduates for any career, whether it be Primary Care or a subspecialty. Many subspecialties have a significant outpatient component, and our graduates are comfortable in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Below is a sample of the variety of career paths from residents who responded to survey requests (both Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals residents) over the past few years.

<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cardiology Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleveland Clinic• Duke University• Ohio State• University Hospitals• University of Virginia• Washington University in St. Louis
Gastroenterology Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baylor Medical Center• Dartmouth University• UCLA Medical Center• University Hospitals• University of Minnesota• Vanderbilt University
Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleveland Clinic• Temple University• University Hospitals• University of Virginia
Hematology/Oncology Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center• Cleveland Clinic• Indiana University• Mayo Clinic Rochester• University of Pittsburgh Medical Center• University of Texas MD Anderson
Infectious Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleveland Clinic
Nephrology Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Texas Southwestern
Endocrinology Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baylor Medical Center• Emory University• Mayo Clinic Rochester
Allergy and Immunology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rush University• University Hospitals
General Medicine Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harvard University
Chief Medical Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COE Chief Resident of Quality and Safety at Cleveland VAMC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleveland Clinic • University Hospitals
Primary Care / Hospitalist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleveland Clinic • Cleveland VA Medical Center • Ohio State University • Orlando VA Medical Center • University Hospitals

What makes the training within the VA COE track special?

We have several unique teaching strategies and training opportunities for residents in their COE blocks:

1. **Unique community and learning environment**
 - Medical residents serve as the **leaders** of their primary care team working with nurses, social workers, and schedulers assigned to each team to direct patient care with attending supervision
 - We have a diverse group of learners including medical residents, nurse practitioner residents, psychology fellows, pharmacy residents, and more who participate in our educational sessions
 - Our learners come from various backgrounds and hail from all over the country and the world
 - CCF and UH residents become very close colleagues and friends during their time in the VA.
2. **Specialty clinics** (separate from electives) available to residents at the VA including
 - Women's Health, Geriatrics
 - Subspecialty clinics including GI/Hepatology, Rheumatology, Endocrinology and more
3. **Lean QI curriculum**
 - Residents will take formal Quality Improvement and Patient Safety lectures, conduct a QI project in a team, and obtain Lean Yellow Belt certification during their time in the VA
 - Residents have submitted their abstracts for presentations at local, regional, and national conferences. Some residents have won awards for their poster and oral presentations!
4. **Social Determinants of Health curriculum**
 - Residents will participate in didactics and sessions focused on the impact patients' social circumstances have on their health
5. **Patient video experiences**
 - Residents record a video of themselves with a patient in clinic (after obtaining consent) for feedback on patient interaction and communication skills. Videos are recorded during PGY-1 and PGY-3 blocks so residents can compare how they have developed
6. **Panel Management**
 - Residents have a dedicated half-day for Panel Management on Mondays that allows them to take a "bird's-eye view" approach to their panel of patients
 - We have a Panel Management curriculum that focuses on common primary care issues such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer screening, and loss to follow up, and residents will develop strategies and treatment plans to improve the care of their patients in these areas
7. **Special sessions** including
 - Leadership sessions with local healthcare leaders and visiting guests like Dr. Melvin Smith (Emotional Intelligence Expert), Dr. Peter Pronovost (Quality Improvement Expert), Jim Smith (The Executive Happiness Coach), and Caroline Carter (Leadership Coach)
 - Visit to the Cleveland Museum of Art for a session on professional satisfaction
 - Visit to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to explore the impact of climate and weather on population health
 - Ice cream socials ☺ *And more!!!*



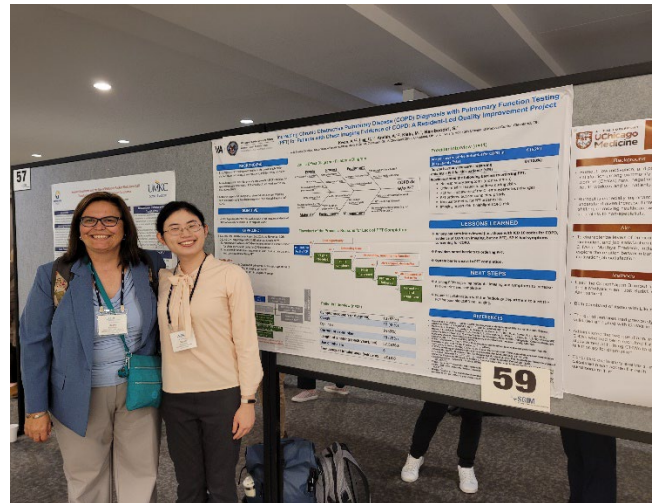
Residents at the Museum of Natural History



Residents at the Cleveland Museum of Art



Residents playing TopGolf after clinical duties were complete for the day!



Residents presenting their QI projects at a national conference



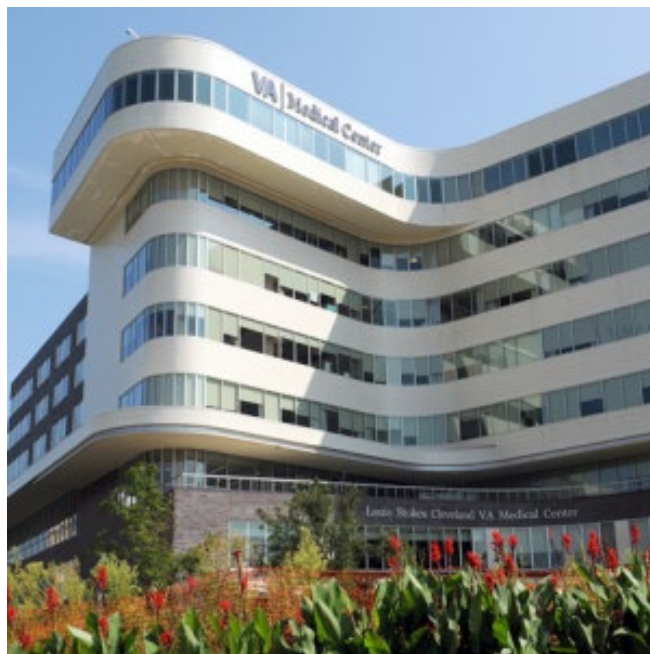
Resident with VA Attending at a national conference presenting QI



COE residents from UH and Cleveland Clinic enjoying the Cleveland food scene!

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center

Welcome to the Cleveland VA Medical Center, one of the largest and most esteemed VA centers in the country! As a Clinical Referral Level 1a (most complex) Facility, we are proud to offer tertiary care at the highest level. Our state-of-the-art teaching hospital provides a comprehensive range of patient care services, cutting-edge technology, medical education, and groundbreaking research. The Wade Park Campus, offers all inpatient general acute and tertiary care with 673 total beds.



The Wade Park Primary Care clinic is dedicated to the well-being of Veterans in Northeast Ohio, managing an impressive average of 600 visits per week in 2019. Our clinic is well-equipped with an abundance of resources to cater to some of the region's most underserved and medically complex patients, with services including mental health providers for immediate support, social worker and pharmacist appointments to address social and medical complexities, shared medical appointments for chronic conditions, and specialized programs such as homeless veteran aid and VARC for substance use disorders.

We thank you for your interest and look forward to working with you!

For further information regarding the program:

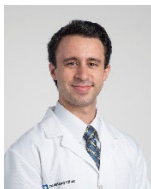
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