Primary Care Accelerated Track Program (PC-ACT)
Mercer University School of Medicine
Christina Kelly, MD, FAAFP and Robert Pallay, MD, FAAFP

Program Overview
The Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) Primary Care Accelerated Track is an innovative 3-year accelerated medical school curriculum that culminates to a Medical Degree and prepares students for early entry into a traditional primary care residency. The program currently has two tracks: Family Medicine and Internal Medicine. The accelerated curriculum builds upon the strengths of the MUSM problem-based curriculum, which includes clinical experiences and community medicine activities within the preclinical years and is reinforced through clerkships and selective and elective experiences. The students in this program will participate in activities during their 3-year curriculum to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to be fully qualified, highly competent primary care physicians.

State Funded Financial Support
Two years of medical school tuition scholarship provided in exchange for three years of primary care service in Georgia in a rural or medically underserved area.

Program Curriculum

Year 1
Accelerated Track
- Foundation of Medicine Block 1
- Professional Growth & Development (PGD)
- Organ Systems Block 2: Neurobehavioral/Musculoskeletal
- Option: Fulfill Community Health Focus

Year 2
Accelerated Track
- Organ Systems Block 3: Cardiovascular/Cerebral/Pulmonary
- Population Health and PGD
- Organ Systems Block 4: Gastrointestinal/Eye/Ear/Neuro/Oral

ACT Longitudinal Curriculum: Fourteen half-days of clinical experience at their residency site

Year 3
FM-ACT Clerkship Schedule
- Family Med (ACT 3), Internal Med, OB/GYN, Surg/Peds, Step 1 Study
- FMSub-I, Step 2, FMSub-II, Psych
- Transition to Residency: 20 weeks

IM-ACT Clerkship Schedule
- Internal Med Block A (ACT 2), OB/GYN, Int Med, Family Med
- Internal Med Block B, Surg/Peds, Internal Med Block C
- Study for Step 2, Psych, ICU, Family Med, Internal Med Sub-I
- Total Weeks: 48

Three Sites, Two Tracks, One Primary Care Mission!
Two Tracks (Family Medicine & Internal Medicine) at Three Sites to Increase Primary Care
- Columbus – Family Medicine
- Macon – Family Medicine, Internal Medicine
- Savannah – Family Medicine, Internal Medicine

Advice for Other Institutions & Future Plans
- Good communication with everyone involved, including: Campuses, Medical Education, Medical school, and Residency programs
- Involvement with each residency program’s faculty and staff will make the transition from student to resident easier.
- Support and buy-in from Hospital, Medical School, and Residency Leadership make the development of the program smoother.
- We hope to add Pediatrics to the PC-ACT family in the future.

Program Status and Accomplishments
- 23 students accepted into the PC-ACT Program (2013-2020)
- 15 FM-ACT and 8 IM-ACT currently in the program
- 2 residency graduates in 2017 and practicing in rural areas
- 3 currently in Residency
- 2 have been counseled to return to the traditional curriculum

Program Contact
Primary Care Accelerated Track Website: http://medicine.mercer.edu/academics/primarycare/
Program Contact: Dr. Christina Kelly, PC-ACT Director
E-mail for information or questions: primarycareact@gmail.com
# Program Curriculum

## Year 1

### Accelerated Track Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Modules 1-4</th>
<th>Comprehensive Assessment</th>
<th>Winter Break</th>
<th>Professional Growth &amp; Development (PGD)</th>
<th>Organ Systems Block 2 Neuro/Behavior/MS/Derm</th>
<th>ACT-1 Includes QI and Population Health Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>16 weeks</td>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>Modules 1-4 16 weeks</td>
<td>9 weeks clinical experience 2 weeks vacation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Traditional Curriculum Differences

- Students accepted into the program in the Spring of Year 1
- 3 weeks Population Health
- 8 weeks Personal Development

## Year 2

### Accelerated Track Curriculum for Course Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modules 1-4</th>
<th>Comprehensive Assessment</th>
<th>Population Health and PGD</th>
<th>Winter Break</th>
<th>Organ Systems Block 4 GI/Repro/Endo/Heme Onc</th>
<th>Step 1 Study</th>
<th>ACT-2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 weeks</td>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>Modules 1-4 17 weeks</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Longitudinal Curriculum for ACT Students

- Fourteen half-days of clinical experience at their residency site

### Traditional Curriculum Differences

- Population Health
- 3 weeks PGD

## Year 3

### FM-ACT Clerkship Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Med (ACT 2*)</th>
<th>Internal Med</th>
<th>Peds/Surg</th>
<th>Surg/Peds</th>
<th>OB/GYN</th>
<th>Study and Step 2</th>
<th>FM Sub-I</th>
<th>Psych</th>
<th>Transition to Residency</th>
<th>Total Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 weeks</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IM-ACT Clerkship Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal Med Block A (ACT 2*)</th>
<th>OB/GYN</th>
<th>ER Selective</th>
<th>Peds/Surg</th>
<th>Surg/Peds</th>
<th>Internal Med Block B</th>
<th>Study for Step 2</th>
<th>Psych</th>
<th>ICU</th>
<th>Family Med</th>
<th>Internal Med Sub-I</th>
<th>Total Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 weeks</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Longitudinal Curriculum at Residency Site for 7 half days

- 4 weeks
Mercer Celebratory Event to honor our first PC-ACT Residency Graduates with
## Program Team

**PC-ACT LEADERSHIP:**
- Christina Kelly, MD – PC-ACT Program Director
- Robert Pallay, MD - PC-ACT Program Founder
- Kelli Lemieux - PC-ACT Administrator

### Columbus:
- **Family Medicine:**
  - Alice House, MD – Regional Dean
  - John Bucholtz – Family Medicine Residency Midtown Medical Center Program Director
  - Janine Burgher-Jones – FM-ACT Director
- **Internal Medicine:**
  - David Mathis, MD – Navicent Health Internal Medicine Residency Program Director
  - Allen Tindol, MD – IM-ACT Director
  - Justin Ertle, MD – IM-ACT Co-Director

### Macon:
- **Family Medicine:**
  - Monique Davis-Smith, MD – Navicent Health Family Medicine Residency Program Director
  - Roberta Weintraut, MD – FM-ACT Director
- **Internal Medicine:**
  - David Mathis, MD – Navicent Health Internal Medicine Residency Program Director
  - Allen Tindol, MD – IM-ACT Director
  - Justin Ertle, MD – IM-ACT Co-Director

### Savannah:
- **Family Medicine:**
  - Robert Pallay, MD – Memorial Health Family Medicine Residency Program Director
  - Christina Kelly, MD – FM-ACT Director
- **Internal Medicine:**
  - Michael Wilkowski, MD – Memorial Health Internal Medicine Residency Program Director
  - Callie Downing, MD – IM-ACT Director