

FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Residents

1st Year

Class of 2028



Madeline Feyrer-Melk, DO

Hometown: Fountain Hills, AZ

Medical School: A.T. Still – Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love that I can take care of patients from all stages of life and get to be involved in such a wide variety of medicine & procedures! And it's the perfect specialty to focus my passion of lifestyle & preventative

medicine for my patients.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work?

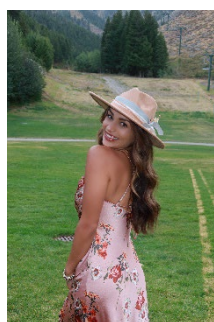
I enjoy hiking, country line dancing/swing dancing, and spending time with my loved ones!

Why HonorHealth?

The supportive culture of the faculty and residency program will provide me with great training so I can be the doctor my patients need me to be.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

The Superstition Mountains are just around the corner!



Catalina O'Toole, DO

Hometown: Long Beach, CA

Medical School: Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

From the miracle of pregnancy and the joy of newborns to the complexities and wisdom of the elderly, family medicine offers a unique opportunity to care for patients across every stage of life. I am deeply passionate about continuity of care and the meaningful relationships built over time with patients and their

families. One of the aspects I look forward to most is integrating nutrition, lifestyle medicine, and osteopathic principles to support whole-person health.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work?

Scenic walks & hikes, trying local coffee shops & restaurants, going to country concerts, spending quality time with my favorite people

Why HonorHealth?

I love that HonorHealth offers comprehensive, community-based training with a strong osteopathic foundation.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

Gilbert is home to Agritopia, a one-of-a-kind neighborhood with farm-to-table dining, local shopping, and a small-town feel (right in the middle of the desert)! It's a hidden gem that makes Arizona living feel extra special.

**Kyle Schultz, DO**

Hometown: Mesa, Arizona

Medical School: A.T. Still – School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love family medicine because of the continuity of care it offers, allowing me to build long-term relationships with patients and their families. I enjoy being part of their journey, supporting them through both routine care and challenges. My personality thrives in this specialty, as I enjoy connecting with people at all stages of life and making a meaningful impact on their health and

well-being.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work?

I have a strong passion for sports, especially baseball. Whether I'm watching, playing, or teaching my son how to hit and throw, it's something I truly love. Go D-backs!

Why HonorHealth?

I chose HonorHealth because of the strong camaraderie among residents and the teaching style of the attendings, which aligns well with my learning preferences. I believe the program's supportive environment will help me grow both personally and professionally.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

From 2023 to 2024, the Arizona Diamondbacks experienced the largest attendance increase of any MLB team! This is likely due to their World Series appearance in 2023 and their rising young talent. Snakes alive!

**Chad Thompson, DO**

Hometown: Yucaipa, CA

Medical School: Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love the variety Family Medicine offers—from treating a wide range of conditions to building meaningful relationships with patients. Every visit

is a chance to meet someone new and learn something different, which keeps each day exciting and fulfilling.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work? I'm passionate about sports and staying active. I grew up playing baseball, basketball, and football, and still enjoy anything competitive. When I'm not moving, I'm spending time with family and friends, reading, or getting into a good TV series.

Why HonorHealth?

During my interview, I immediately felt the family-like atmosphere. That sense of closeness and support was exactly what I was looking for, and it made my decision an easy one.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

One of the coolest things about living in Arizona—especially in the Mesa area—is how many people come from all over the country. It makes for a really interesting mix of backgrounds and experiences.

**Madison Uli, DO**

Hometown: Peoria, Arizona

Medical School: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I have always viewed medicine as a tool that we use so our patients have more quality time with their loved ones and their personal passions. Family medicine is the specialty where I can help my patient's improve their daily lives and also get to hear about exciting life developments. Whether it be stories of finding a new love for tennis or attending their daughter's first dance recital, I love being a part of my patient's village!

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work?

I love all things creative, traveling, and spending time with my partner! I love shopping and am often on the hunt for a new designer piece or thrifting fabric to sew something “new to me”. My partner and I both enjoy traveling and trying celiac friendly foods across the globe!

Why HonorHealth?

Growing up in Arizona I have been on the patient side of HonorHealth and also rotated with the program during medical school. In both these two very different experiences I always felt comfortable, respected, and happy - which are qualities I looked for in a residency!

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

I plan to be based out of Phoenix for the rest of my life because I absolutely adore our weather, dining scene, shopping, and pace of life here. I think our state has a fantastic emphasis on physical activity from pilates, hiking, or even disc golf there is something here for everyone!

2nd Year

Class of 2027



Hannah Carlson, DO

Hometown: Surprise, AZ

Medical School: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love how versatile Family Medicine is and how it allows you to take care of patient's at every age and stage of life. You can really tailor it to your strengths and interests and make it your own; which is exciting and allows you to provide better care to your patients!

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work? I enjoy spending time with my husband, Tyler, and our dog, Denver. We love to explore Phoenix and try new restaurants. I also did some graphic design during college and still like to create things whenever I get the opportunity!

Why HonorHealth? I chose this program because I loved the community of residents. They made me feel welcome starting from when I was a rotating student. Each of them, and the all of the faculty members, truly want to see you succeed.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

The day trip possibilities are endless!



Jeremy Dost, DO

Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Medical School: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty? What draws me to family medicine is the opportunity to form meaningful, long-term relationships with patients. I appreciate the continuity of care and the

privilege of being part of someone's health journey over time. I also enjoy the breadth of the specialty—being a "jack of all trades" allows me to see and treat a wide variety of conditions across all ages and stages of life, which keeps every day interesting and fulfilling.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work? Outside of medicine, I enjoy playing golf, watching my favorite sports teams (go Nuggets and Broncos!), hiking, kayaking, exploring local breweries with friends, and spending quality time with my wife Hailey and our family.

Why HonorHealth?

I chose HonorHealth because the Mesa program stood out for its strong sense of community and supportive culture. The faculty and residents have a close-knit relationship, and the attendings genuinely care—not just about your growth as a physician, but also about you as a person. From the moment I joined, I felt welcomed into an environment that encourages learning, connection, and success.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona: One of my favorite local spots is the Salt River—just a 30-minute drive away! It's a great place to unwind by tubing or kayaking with friends, and if you're lucky, you might even spot wild horses along the riverbanks.



Gabrielle Hawes, DO

Hometown: Cornwall, Ontario, Canada

Medical School: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

Family Medicine allows me to treat a wide range of conditions across all ages and life stages which keep my work dynamic and intellectually rewarding.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work? I enjoy spending time with my two English bulldogs, Piggy, and Mr. BooBoo, as well as spending time with my new baby. I enjoy hiking, squash and cooking.

Why HonorHealth? The Family Medicine program at HonorHealth Four Peaks Medical Center is filled with kind and supportive people. The program prioritizes a great work life balance and positive work culture.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona: Mesa is one of the few US cities where you can kayak through the desert! The nearby salt, River offer, stunning, paddling roots with use of wild horses, red rock, formations, and Sonoran Desert landscape.



Emily Perez, DO

Hometown: The Woodlands, TX

Medical School: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I chose FM because I love having relationships with my patients and the ability to practice multiple areas of medicine including preventative care, managing chronic diseases, women's health, and office procedures.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work? Hanging out with my dogs, trying new restaurants, & cooking/baking.

Why HonorHealth?

I chose my program because of the priority placed on clinic and training excellent outpatient primary care physicians because this aligns with my career goals. I also love the class size of 5 residents- it allows me to be close with all of my co-residents! The food is great as well

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona: There's such great food and a lot of outdoor activities.

**Joseph Ruiz, DO**

Hometown: Phoenix, AZ

Medical School: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love family medicine because it offers the unique opportunity to build lasting relationships through continuity of care, make a meaningful difference in each patient's life, and grow both personally and professionally. It also aligns with my long-term vision of opening my own clinic and launching a non-profit organization to provide medical aid to underserved communities through medical missionary trips.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work? Outside of residency, I enjoy exploring new coffee shops, going on road trips in search of adventure, and spending quality time being the best dad I can be. I also love reading, discovering inspiring new music, and hunting for Funko Pops to grow my collection.

Why HonorHealth?

Choosing HonorHealth was the best decision for me because of its unwavering support, dedication to equipping residents with the medical knowledge and practical skills needed to provide the highest quality care, and the wealth of opportunities it offers for personal and professional growth.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

A fun fact about living in Arizona is the incredible access to the state's diverse and unique landscapes—from the iconic saguaro studded Sonoran Desert, to the lush pine forests of Flagstaff, and the breathtaking majesty of the Grand Canyon. In just a few hours' drive, you can experience vastly different climates and scenery, making Arizona a paradise for outdoor lovers and adventure seekers.

3rd Year

Class of 2026



Chase Adams, DO

Hometown: Show Low, AZ

Medical School: West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love chatting with people and encouraging them to be healthy, we become part of their family (truly an honor). We are always learning! We see everything in FM, which can be a challenge but it is accompanied by so many opportunities to learn.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work?

I love my faith, spending time with my family, being out on the lake wake surfing, checking out some cool reptiles, & playing some spike ball!

Why HonorHealth?

Our program really is the best! I am surrounded by great peers and attendings. It provides constant learning opportunities and the ability to explore & master a wide range of medical experiences.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

Arizona is filled with great hiking trails! The Salt River is great to explore (it even has wild horses roaming through it). Roosevelt Lake is only 2 hours away! If you want wintertime activities, you are only 3.5 hours away from snowboarding (Sunrise Ski Resort) near my hometown. Another great place for snowboarding is Snowbowl in Flagstaff!



Ben Claussen, DO, *Chief Resident*

Hometown: Cambridge, IA

Medical School: A.T. Still – Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love Family Medicine because of the variety! I also enjoy the continuity of care and the lasting relationships you create with each patient.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work?

Hiking, trying new restaurants, attending Suns and Diamondback games, and cheering on the Denver Broncos and Iowa Hawkeyes!

Why HonorHealth?

HonorHealth stood out for its supportive culture, dedication to patient care, and strong focus on education. HonorHealth offers the resources and opportunities needed to develop into a well-rounded physician.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

It's not only a great place to train, but also a great place to unwind! Whether it's catching a Cubs spring training game, dining at some of the best restaurants in town, or taking a quick trip to Sedona, the Grand Canyon, or even the California coast. There's no shortage of opportunities to explore.



David Hager, DO

Hometown: Chandler, AZ

Medical School: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love the continuity of care offered by family medicine as well as the comprehensive care that is offered by family med docs. I look forward to making long term relationships and taking care of generations of families.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from

work? Pickleball, Golf, Hiking, Gym, Travel, Cooking, board game nights, lounging in the pool, trying new restaurants

Why HonorHealth?

I most appreciated the culture of the program, quality of the training, and the great mountain views!

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

Gilbert Farmer's Market on Saturday Mornings is a happening place (before it gets too hot in the summer)!



Jay Knox, MD

Hometown: Central Coast, California

Medical School: Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

Family medicine is the specialty that covers ALL specialties! The scope of practice can be as broad or narrow as you choose. The diversity of cases received never allows for a boring day and when I go home, I feel like I've learned something new each day.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work? I love to golf, spend time outdoors doing activities with my wife & kids, playing pickleball, and gaming.

Why HonorHealth? I love this program because of the deeply held spirit of community & involvement with all of the faculty. They are all so invested in our education & growth.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

Mesa was named after the Spanish word for "table," because the city is located on a high plateau or table.

**Gary Smithson, DO, *Chief Resident***

Hometown: Gilbert, AZ

Medical School: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Passions in Family Medicine – why do you love the specialty?

I love being able to take care of patients over the course of many years and help direct them in all their healthcare goals. I love the diversity of patients and diagnoses.

Hobbies outside of residency/How do you spend your time away from work?

When I'm not at work, I love spending time with my family. Any time I am not with them, you can find me at the golf course with my friends.

Why HonorHealth? This program has a strong emphasis on outpatient primary care, which is exactly what I want to pursue. We also have a strong leadership that puts great value on taking care of yourself, your family, and your patients.

Fun Fact about living in Mesa/Arizona:

Growing up in Arizona, I once went snowboarding and wakeboarding in the same weekend.