DIMER Mission Statement

DIMER is reimagining medical education for Delawareans: creating opportunity and improving health for all Delawareans. The DIMER mission is to create opportunities for high-quality medical education for all Delawareans. In collaboration with our partners, we serve the current and future healthcare workforce needs of Delaware through innovation and inclusion.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

History and Background
The Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER) was founded in 1969, as an alternative to an in-state medical school, to address the concern of access to high-quality medical education for Delaware residents. Upon creation, DIMER formalized a relationship with Thomas Jefferson University for 20 admission slots for Delawareans at Jefferson Medical College (now Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC)). In 2000, DIMER expanded its education relationships to also include the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), further increasing access to medical education for Delawareans. Upon creation, PCOM held five admission slots for qualified Delaware applicants and in 2019, the number of admission slots was increased to 10. DIMER is incredibly grateful to both institutions, who continue to exceed their commitments in accepting highly qualified Delawareans into their respective medical education programs and provide the highest quality training to future physicians.

The DIMER Advantage
Delaware is one of four states that does not offer an in-state medical school. This would ordinarily present a disadvantage for Delaware residents seeking medical education and future careers in medical professions. However, through its innovative relationships with SKMC and PCOM, Delaware has secured a minimum number of slots for highly qualified Delaware applicants. In recent years, SKMC and PCOM have each seen an increase in annual applications received to an estimated 12,000 applications for ultimately no more than 280 slots per respective institution. As a DIMER applicant, Delaware resident applications are pulled from the overall 12,000 applications received and evaluated against Delaware only applicants. This significantly improves the odds, to being one of ultimately 30 or more slots out of approximately 90-100 Delaware applicants. DIMER therefore provides one of the best medical education admission advantages in the country for qualified applicants from the First State.

Delaware Branch Campus and Residency
DIMER is not only focused on providing medical education opportunities for Delawareans but also on the retention of Delaware physicians to serve our communities. DIMER’s relationships extend beyond its education partners and into Delaware’s health systems and Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) partners. DIMER Medical students at SKMC and PCOM have an opportunity to conduct their third- and fourth-year rotations at the Delaware Branch Campus. The Delaware Branch Campus provides medical students clinical training at ChristianaCare, Nemours, and the Wilmington VA Medical Center. In addition, PCOM clinical rotations also include Bayhealth’s Kent and Sussex Campuses as well as recently adding opportunities for rotation at Beebe Healthcare also in Sussex County.

The opportunities for residency training in Delaware are numerous and expanding. ChristianaCare and Nemours offer an array of residency opportunities. Delaware residency match opportunities are not limited to Delaware Branch Campus partners as St. Francis also has a residency program and Bayhealth launched its
family medicine and internal medicine residency programs in 2021. Beebe Healthcare is also currently planning for a launch of its family medicine residency program in 2023. Bayhealth also has plans to launch its general surgery residency program in 2022 and an emergency medicine program in 2023. Recruitment and retention of Delaware physicians is enhanced with the increased opportunities for Delawareans to complete their medical training and serve their community in their home state.

Abstract Data
The incoming class of 2021 represents the largest entering classes in DIMER's history with 49 students matriculating. DIMER’s medical education partners have again exceeded their commitments, with SKMC matriculating 31 students and PCOM matriculating 18 students. As noted in the DIMER 50th Anniversary Report, 38% of all time DIMER students were female. However, the entering class of 2021 is comprised of 61% female students.

The graduating class of 2021 provided 28 newly graduated physicians looking forward to residency training. For those Delaware medical students who graduated from SKMC and PCOM in 2021, 57% went into primary care and 43% entered specialty training.

DIMER Board Activity for 2021
The DIMER Board remained active in 2021 despite the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Directors held virtual meetings and met five times over the course of the year. There was broad Board participation on the DHSA-facilitated outreach events for prospective DIMER students in each of Delaware’s three counties which produced a record account of participation with over 220 individual households registered. DIMER leadership was also heavily engaged in virtual engagements for current DIMER students, solidifying its commitment to providing a network of support for DIMER Students in their journey to becoming a practicing physician.

The DIMER Board recognizes the high cost for medical education and enormous debt students face upon graduation. The DIMER Board continued to advocate and work closely with the Heath Care Commission, Delaware Legislators, and partners such as the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance, in support of the now passed legislature for a new robust State of Delaware Student Loan Repayment Program. This program will provide for increased participation and funding support for those physicians with Primary Care focused specialties, serving geographic areas of need throughout the First State. DIMER leadership looks forward to continued engagement and advocacy as the new loan repayment program is implemented increasing opportunities to support returning physicians to Delaware.

DIMER has a rich tradition of extending its activities beyond its mission to ensure access to quality medical education for Delaware residents. DIMER and its partners are committed to providing a network of support for its students and engage students throughout the academic year in a variety of ways. In collaboration with DHSA, DIMER provided care packages to each student; co-hosted virtual receptions with PCOM and SKMC for DIMER students to network with DIMER and institutional leadership; and conducted virtual awareness events in every county with prospective students and families to discuss the many benefits of DIMER.

Conclusion
The DIMER program continues to represent an incredible value for Delawareans’ medical education. The full annual report contains detailed information on the demographics and data relative to DIMER’s 2021 incoming and graduating classes, as well as personal stories from state and institution leadership, including DIMER students. DIMER’s approach to partnering with the DHSA, health systems and others has resulted in a robust array of services intended to facilitate Delawareans’ pathway to medical school and improved chances of returning to Delaware to practice medicine in geographic and specialty areas of need. We express our gratitude for all who have supported DIMER over its 50-year plus history and look forward to even greater achievements in the future.
The Delaware General Assembly created the Delaware Health Care Commission in June of 1990 to develop a pathway to basic, affordable health care for all Delawareans.

The Delaware Health Care Commission embodies the public/private efforts which have traditionally spelled success for problem solving in Delaware. The Commission consists of 11 members, 5 of whom are appointed by the Governor, 1 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, and 1 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Of the 5 members appointed by the Governor, at least 1 member shall be a resident of each county. The Insurance Commissioner, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary of Health and Social Services, and the Secretary of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families or their designees shall serve as ex officio members of the Commission.

By creating the Commission as a policy-setting body, the General Assembly gave it a unique position in State Government. It is intended to allow creative thinking outside the usual confines of conducting day-to-day state business. The Commission is expressly authorized to conduct pilot projects to test methods for catalyzing private-sector activities that will help the state meet its health care needs. To achieve its goals, the Commission strives to balance various viewpoints and perspectives.

In 1996, the Commission assumed administrative responsibility for the Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research, which serves as an advisory board to the Commission. Placing the administration of DIMER within the Commission enhanced its ability to accomplish its primary goal of providing Delaware residents greater opportunity for a medical education, while also expanding its mission to help the state meet its broader health care needs.

The Commission strives to balance access, quality and cost concerns, and develop recommendations that represent the best policy for the most Delawareans.
The last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic have provided the ultimate challenge for health care providers in our state. It has taken a toll on our communities, our residents, and the doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who care for them. The pandemic has highlighted our strengths, but it also has magnified our vulnerabilities. Today, one of the lessons from the pandemic is that we need the strongest health care team and the best doctors available to battle not only this health crisis, but all the other health threats facing Delawareans.

One way we can address that need is to continue working to increase the number of primary care physicians in our state and the share of overall health care spending on primary care. As the Cabinet Secretary for Delaware’s Department of Health and Social Services, I actively support addressing this need and the aggressive response through the Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER) program.

Now over 52 years old, the DIMER program was founded in 1969 to afford qualified residents of Delaware the opportunity to receive a quality medical education. As Delaware remains one of very few states in the country without a medical school within its borders, we are fortunate to have exceptional and long-standing partnerships with Sidney Kimmel Medical College and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. The ultimate goal is to improve health care access for our communities with the best-trained medical workforce anywhere.

Each year, DIMER provides for 20 admission slots for Delaware residents to attend Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and 10 admission spots for Delawareans at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM). We are pleased that in the last few years, both schools have accepted more students than they committed to accept, and that the diversity of the Delaware class has grown as well. This is good news for Delaware and good for the health of Delawareans.

From my lens at the state agency responsible for promoting health and well-being, it is essential that DIMER succeeds in its mission to ensure admission to medical school for highly qualified Delawareans. DIMER plays a critical role in workforce development, so these future doctors can return to Delaware to serve our communities.

Through the partnership with the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance, DIMER is helping to meet its objective of informing Delawareans about the program and building a pipeline of qualified applicants. All of that groundwork is enabling qualified Delaware residents to access medical school. Many of the DIMER graduates are returning to practice in Delaware, with at least a third ultimately returning.

It is important for us to do everything we can to help develop a diverse, well-trained workforce to serve our state. Part of the future of the health care system in Delaware – the future health of Delawareans – is tied to the success of the DIMER program and its partnerships. On behalf of all of us at the Department of Health and Social Services, I wish the DIMER program much continued success.
As Delaware entered into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 was the year the Delaware Health Care Commission, along with DIMER, its other affiliated organizations, and the health care delivery system overall, settled into a “new” normal. While most, if not all, meetings in 2021 continued to be virtual, the work of DHCC focused on the priorities from the 2020 strategic retreat. These included initiatives which would expand health care access for patients and strengthen the overall health care workforce. As noted, the pandemic has continued to exacerbate both of these pressing issues, with widening health disparities in the health outcomes from COVID disease, partly due to difficulties with access to care; and a shrinking healthcare workforce, as providers across all levels, including physicians, nurses and assistants, leave the health care system at alarming rates. During the General Assembly session of 2021, which was a hybrid of in person and virtual, several legislations were successfully passed, which support this crucial work of DHCC and its affiliated organizations. Of these, the most impactful for DIMER students was HB48. Governor Carney had included in his budget funding for a state-sponsored Healthcare Provider Repayment Loan Program (HCPLRP) but the funding was expanded and codified by HB48. This legislation provides a loan repayment program for recent graduates, including physicians, nurses and physician assistants, who specialize in primary care fields, such as family practice, internal medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, psychiatry and obstetrics/gynecology. By providing financial support for recent graduates, the HCPLRP will be a valuable tool in incentivizing providers to practice in Delaware and build a sustainable primary care workforce.

Additionally, the Health Workforce subcommittee, chaired by Nick Moriello and Secretary Rick Geisenberger, started their work in 2021. The subcommittee provided initial recommendations regarding a systemic approach to accurately assess the current status of workforce needs across all aspects of health care delivery. DHCC anticipates that this subcommittee will be able to provide valuable recommendations for possible future public-private initiatives, which may collaborate with current DHCC programs, such as DIMER, and establish greater opportunities for workforce development in Delaware.

DIMER’s success in providing an avenue for medical education for Delawarean students is well established. DHCC strongly supports DIMER as this organization continues to develop a broader approach which expands this success to outreach work with high schools students to garner an early interest in a medical career; and to connect DIMER students with the rapidly growing in-state graduate medical education/residency opportunities, through in-state clinical rotations, which may peak their interest to return to Delaware to practice. Throughout this continuum from high schools to DIMER medical students to DIMER graduates, DHCC will continue to work with DIMER in optimizing diversity and equity in educational opportunities for our Delawarean students. Weaving the value of diversity, equity and inclusion into all our initiatives is a priority strategic goal for DHCC. As we move into 2022, progress to improve access and provide quality and sustainable health care workforce will continue to be the mainstay of the invaluable collaboration of DIMER and DHCC.
2021 and the 51st year of the DIMER program continued to provide educational opportunities for Delaware students. Many thanks to our partnering institutions, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University (SKMC) and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) for providing 49 more Delawareans a medical education opportunity as first year medical students.

We also thank the many healthcare providers, educators, and their families who continue to provide needed care to our communities during the pandemic.

The success of the branch campus programs continue to provide a clear path for our students to further their medical education and careers in Delaware. The increased residency opportunities by Bayhealth in Dover and Milford in 2021 will also assist recruitment of the workforce since many of those residency physicians are likely to stay in Delaware for their medical careers. Beebe Hospital is also on track to start a residency program in 2023 further advancing opportunities for our students and the workforce.

We also want to thank the legislature and the Governor for the creation of the Delaware student loan repayment program to assist with the recruitment of our highly educated and qualified students to return to Delaware to practice and raise their families.

DIMER, through our partnership with the Delaware Health Science Alliance* (DHSA) and support from the Delaware Health Care Commission and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services also continued its outreach program during 2021 to all three counties during the year. The goal was to inform potential medical students and their families of the DIMER program which provides a significant advantage to them in being accepted by one of our partnering institutions in Philadelphia.

We also appreciate the continued support and partnership with the DHCC as we work together to assist the medical workforce needs of our communities throughout Delaware.

* DHSA member organizations: ChristianaCare, Nemours Childrens Health, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Delaware, Bayhealth, Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association, and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.
On behalf of the Board of the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA), we are pleased and proud to introduce the DIMER 2021 Annual Report.

It has been a year of incredible health challenges to our community and to the way we seek and provide care. In this unprecedented time, we are especially honored to lend DHSA’s efforts towards fulfilling the promise of DIMER and to maximize the impact of medical trainees and professionals on health throughout the First State.

This starts from the basics: to re-engineer the traditional model of outreach and go all-virtual in so many ways. We reached out to high schools to ensure Delaware students and families consider medicine and health care as a future career path - and in doing so, reached more families than ever before, by eliminating the need to travel. We help prepare those students for their college years and beyond, by partnering with our exceptional research universities for their foundational pre-medical education. This year, we focused more intentionally on barriers that students of color face in achieving admission, by creating an MCAT scholarship program. With significant input from our colleagues at the Delaware State University, we have paired with the excellent prep courses run by our DHSA partners (University of Delaware and ChristianaCare), to increase highly qualified Delawareans from all counties and all backgrounds attending medical school.

Our 2 outstanding DHSA member institutions and DIMER partners, Sidney Kimmel Medical College (Thomas Jefferson University) and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) are active participants in this arc of medical education. Together, we offer medical students the option of returning to the state through branch/clinical campus programs that bring them home to their communities, to train and learn. This also increases their exposure to the state’s growing residency programs, including 4 (soon to be 5) Delaware health systems offering primary care training!

The mission of the Alliance and the strength of our partnerships has never been more vital or more clear. Supporting workforce through the finest medical and health sciences education is a central pillar. We remain committed to the highest-quality research, being supporters of NIH-funded large institutional grants (DE-INBRE and DE-ACCEL). Through initiatives such as our annual research competition, we support innovation and advancement especially in these uniquely challenging times. We also support the work of our DIMER students through features in the state’s only PubMed-indexed journal, the Delaware Journal of Public Health (www.djph.org), which is open access for readers and authors. This is made possible through the generosity of another DHSA member, the DE Academy of Medicine/DE Public Health Association.

My personal commitment and that of our team, is to ensure a fully representative Delaware healthcare workforce: the best trained doctors serving our community. We will remain attentive to improving our representation from all groups in the State, ensuring equity, quality, and community engagement. We are incredibly proud of our partnership with DIMER to help make this happen. The DIMER Board, led by Mr. Sherman Townsend, and comprising friends and colleagues from all areas of the state, works tirelessly to
advance opportunities for Delawareans. I encourage you all to keep up on all our great programs through the highlights in this Annual Report, and via our website (www.dhsa.org).

The institutional leadership of the DHSA stands ready to support the great work of Delaware medical education and to further our initiatives in the First State. I thank you and acknowledge the guidance of our other DHSA Board members: Dr. Janice Nevin (ChristianaCare), Dr. Mark Tykocinski (Thomas Jefferson University), Dr. Dennis Assanis (University of Delaware), Mr. Mark Mumford (Nemours), Dr. Jay Feldstein (PCOM), Mr. Terry Murphy (Bayhealth), Dr. S. John Swanson (DE Academy of Medicine/DPHA).

DHSA is also proud of its ongoing and strengthened strategic partnerships across the state with intuitions including but not limited to Beebe Healthcare, Delaware State University and Delaware Technical Community College.

This report is made possible by the leadership of our Lead Program Manager, Pamela Gardner MSM. The expertise of Dr. Kate Smith, Mr. Timothy Gibbs and Mr. Matthew McNeill of the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association, are also sincerely appreciated.

It is a joy to work on the next generation of Delaware medical education with our partners at DIMER, the Delaware Health Care Commission, and the State of Delaware. Together, we are making Delaware a healthier place for us all.

Sincerely,

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DHSA member organizations: ChristianaCare, Nemours, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Delaware, Bayhealth, Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.
2021 Matriculant Demographics

Key metrics are self-reported and tracked. The following infographics help to illustrate some characteristics of the incoming class.

**Gender**

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**Race**

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**County Representation**

- Sussex: 4
- Kent: 6
- New Castle: 39
Key metrics are self-reported and tracked. The following infographics help to illustrate some characteristics of the graduating class.

Residency State

Medical Specialty

Gender

Race

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For nearly 200 years, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University (SKMC) has been educating physicians and has awarded more than 31,000 medical degrees. As DIMER’s founding medical education partner, SKMC is pleased the relationship and collaboration continues more than 50 years later. Delaware continues to provide highly qualified and competitive applicants and SKMC looks forward to educating Delaware physicians for many years to come.

In 2021, nine SKMC students matched to first year postgraduate positions in Delaware, one each in family medicine, psychiatry, medicine-emergency medicine, emergency medicine, surgery, and medicine, all at Christiana Care, and three students matched to the duPont Hospital for Children in pediatrics.

For the incoming Class of 2021, we had 11,768 applications, including 95 from DIMER applicants, approximately 0.8% of the total pool. We made 411 offers of admissions last year, 34 of them to Delaware residents. That means that approximately 36% of the DIMER applicants received an acceptance compared to an acceptance rate of 3.5% for the general application pool.

By way of comparison, for the incoming Class of 2020, we had 9,916 applications, including 93 from DIMER applicants, approximately 0.9% of the total pool. For that class, we made 432 offers of admissions, 33 of them to Delaware residents. That means that approximately 35% of the DIMER applicants received an acceptance compared to an acceptance rate of 4.4% for the general application pool.
“As the new dean of Sidney Kimmel Medical College’s Office of Admissions, I have a deep commitment to Delaware and the DIMER program. This stems from my personal experience as a medical student, resident and attending physician. As a third-year medical student, I rotated through Christiana for Internal Medicine, where I grasped the concept of the coagulation cascade for the first time as explained by my chief resident, Tim Hennessy, who now is a practicing internist in Wilmington. As a pediatric resident at duPont-Jefferson, I was very grateful to be able to care for the children of Delaware and its surrounding areas. duPont Hospital for Children then and now holds a very special place in my heart.

I went on to work for Nemours and Jefferson, running the pediatric clerkship where I relied on a strong network of pediatricians in Delaware to educate SKMC medical students and to share their passion for pediatrics. In joining the Admissions Office three years ago, I was thrilled to know that SKMC was the medical school for the state of Delaware.

The students applying through the DIMER program, as well as through the University of Delaware’s Medical Scholars program, have already demonstrated such amazing community engagement and immense enthusiasm for their future careers. My entire team in the admissions office makes it a priority to support these students in realizing their dreams of becoming doctors.”
Chartered in 1899, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine has served as the official osteopathic medical school for the State of Delaware for nearly 20 years through its partnership with the Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER). PCOM has an emphasis on the training of physicians for primary care or family practice with over 60% of our graduates engaged in family practice or a primary care specialty. In these 20 years, 245 PCOM medical school graduates have moved through the DIMER program. PCOM has graduated more than 10,000 physicians.

Once again, PCOM has exceeded its enrollment goal of 10 DIMER candidates. For the 2020-2021 application cycle, we received 60 applications from DIMER candidates, interviewed 34 candidates, accepted 27, and matriculated 18 students to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program in Philadelphia. Delaware residents who submitted a completed application to the Philadelphia Campus osteopathic medical program had a much higher rate of invitation for interview. The Philadelphia Campus osteopathic medical program had a 5.06% acceptance rate while the Delaware residents had a 61.01% acceptance rate.

Each year we strive to increase diversity in our DIMER candidates and to secure candidates from all of the counties of Delaware. As part of the PCOM DIMER recruitment effort, we launched the Return to Delaware (RTD) initiative, which began with sprinkling breadcrumbs back to Delaware. We created a brand new PCOM DIMER Committee, which features all the PCOM departments, that work together to make the DIMER program a success. Our newly enrolled, 2021 DIMER M-1, students received “homesick kits” which featured a personalized Delaware t-shirt and “Homesick Delaware Candle.” The goal will be to build a presence of all of our DIMER students. The focus is on keeping them engaged and included in events related to DIMER and happenings in Delaware. In November of this year, the PCOM Speakers Series relaunched with a kick-off featuring Dr. Omar Khan, President and CEO, Delaware Health Allinace, as our keynote speaker. This is just a start, there is more to come. We are proud of these results and thrilled that these caring, competent doctors will return to Delaware to serve their hometown communities.
Since joining PCOM in April 2020, I serve as chief admissions officer. As a member of the Executive Leadership Team, I report directly to Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, president and chief executive officer. My responsibilities include oversight of the admissions and enrollment processes for all programs on all three PCOM campus locations in Philadelphia, PA; Suwanee, and Moultrie, GA.

As an undergraduate at Southwestern University, I served as a student representative on the admissions committee. After graduation, I entered the field of education as a high school English teacher. I was recruited back to Southwestern to work as an admission professional and that sealed a journey in the profession that would take me to increased responsibility in admissions positions. In my professional journey, I have worked with undergraduates at Southern Methodist University, Vanderbilt University and later Walden University. I spent many years in consultative retail sales with The Container Store which provided an excellent business foundation and developed my talents in creating a meaningful consumer experience. My healthcare experience was gained with a focus on graduate education and preparing students for careers and post-baccalaureate options at the Maryland Institute of Integrative Health, the University of St. Augustine, and now PCOM.

Thirty-five years later, my collective experience in teaching, college counseling in public-private high schools, and admission and academic advising at various education levels has equipped me with a unique combination of skills for a chief admissions officer. This blend of working with nonprofit and for-profit institutions coupled with more than 10 years of consultative retail sales experience has provided me with a great foundation. I also credit my liberal arts education to reinvent my skills, infusing technology and innovation.

DIMER is one of my major responsibilities as the PCOM chief admissions officer. The DIMER partnership begins with the PCOM Office of Admissions. The value of this relationship is summed up in this question. Who gets to grow their own physicians? DIMER and PCOM join together to take on this awesome responsibility for the state of Delaware. The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine has served as the official osteopathic medical school of the State of Delaware for nearly twenty years through the partnership with the Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER). The value of the DIMER/PCOM connection continues with the emphasis on over 60% of our PCOM graduates engaged in primary care or family practice. The plat de résistance is our focus on osteopathic medicine, the whole person and preventative health. There is such a great demand for primary care physicians (PCP). A primary care physician sees many patients with common medical problems and is often involved in your care throughout most of your life. The pandemic showed us that primary care physicians are at the heart of our community.

Chartered in 1899, with a focus on training physicians for primary care or family practice, PCOM has graduated more than 10,000 physicians. The result of this 20-year DIMER partnership is 245 PCOM medical school graduates moving through the program. What a gift to grow your own! I am so excited to continue to support PCOM’s legacy with DIMER.

DIMENT ADVANTAGE

60.01% of the DIMER applicants received an acceptance compared to an acceptance rate of 5.06% for the general application pool.
As we creep up on two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, ChristianaCare continues to strive to provide medical students with a high-quality clinical experience. This March 2021 we continued to shatter records with the largest group of Delaware Branch Campus students matching into our ChristianaCare residency programs. An additional (4) Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) students and (7) Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) students also matched with us. We are proud to say that this year’s match increased the presence of Branch Campus Alumni to 13 current residents within all specialties.

ChristianaCare was able to slowly return to some semblance of normal with respect to the Branch Campus curriculum. Small in-person sessions or virtual sessions are held monthly to offer students unique mentorship and opportunities to learn through hands on skills and didactic lectures. Lecture topics included ERAS Application Workshops, Interview Prep and One-on-One review of personal statements and CVs for our 4th year students. Broader topics that were open to all Branch Campus students included, Introduction to Genetics, Women in Medicine Today, Skills Lab- Suturing and Airways, EKG reading/interpretation and a confidential Wellness session with our Care for the Caregiver Psychologist, Dr. Mark Mason. Evaluations received from our students are once again the highest amongst the affiliate systems for both medical schools.

As the 2021-2022 academic year comes to a close, we are excited to announce that we will be welcoming the next cohort of thirty-two 3rd year Branch Campus students, (21) Sidney Kimmel Medical College and (11) Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Enrollment of 21 Sidney Kimmel Medical College is one of the highest enrollment numbers in the history of the Branch Campus program, with 11 students identifying as Delawareans.
Virtual Education and Simulation Training at Christiana Hospital
Above: From left to right- Brian Levine, MD; Caroline Lawless, MSIII PCOM, Laura Meissner, MSIII SKMC, Andrew Patterson, PA

Above: Lauren Davis, MSIII PCOM; Laura Meissner, MSIII SKMC; Sergiu Costinas, MD PGY-3 Emergency Medicine; Andrew Patterson, PA Student Jefferson; Danica Smith, MSIII PCOM

Virtual Education and Simulation Training at Christiana Hospital
Above: Brian Levine, MD and Earl Bampo, MSIII SKMC
In 2021, the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, changed its name and brand. The hospital is now known as the Nemours Children’s Hospital, DE. This is a multispecialty, tertiary care, 200-bed free-standing children’s hospital located in Wilmington, Delaware. As the only children’s hospital in Delaware, our hospital offers the entire spectrum of pediatric medical and surgical subspecialties. We are fortunate to have been recognized by a variety of national organizations as a site for outstanding teaching and clinical care.

We have pooled the considerable resources of three major institutions to create exciting, high-quality programs in patient care, biomedical research, and medical education. We enjoy the strong financial backing of Nemours, the broad patient base of the Nemours Children’s Hospital, DE and Christiana Care, and the rich academic heritage of Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) of Thomas Jefferson University. These partnerships have enabled us to develop a unique education program. DIMER students who train with us are able to gain a wealth of experience working with nationally-recognized physician-educators in a variety of pediatric disciplines and with patients in the hospital, clinic, and private practice settings. Students rotate through the medical/surgical units, general pediatrics clinics, newborn nurseries, and private practitioners’ offices. They gain experience with the various aspects of well-child care and normal growth and development, as well as common and uncommon pediatric diseases. We also offer advocacy training for students and residents to learn to become a voice for children’s health in the clinical setting and the community.

The DIMER program continues to be an excellent resource for Nemours Children’s Hospital, DE, providing numerous local trainees who are passionate about serving the population of Delaware. We are very happy to have DIMER students from SKMC rotate with us during their clinical (third) year. We welcome senior medical students (4th year) from SKMC and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in a variety of clinical and research experiences. Through rotations as 3rd and 4th year medical students, we are able to introduce the students to our renowned children’s hospital and expose them to the broad scope of Pediatrics.

Many DIMER students continue their training as residents in Pediatrics at Nemours Children’s Hospital, DE. DIMER students who enter specialties such as Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine at local residency programs, such as Jefferson or Christiana Care, also gain valuable pediatric training at Nemours. Some DIMER graduates of our Pediatric Residency Program have become our Chief Residents and many have pursued fellowships and attending/faculty positions here and at other prominent institutions. One even served as a leader in our pediatric residency program, and helped to train the next generation of Delaware physicians. Through DIMER, we have been able to recruit physicians who go on to serve their home communities in a myriad of ways, including teaching and advocacy.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on medical education remained significant in 2021. All of our students and residents are protected by a vaccine and we began to resume our traditional teaching methods. Residents and medical students were present in the hospital for almost all rotations and assignments. For the first 6 months of 2021, patient volume was decreased compared to previous years. By June 2021, outpatient visits and Emergency Department visits increased, as did admissions to the inpatient units. By early fall, the volume exceeded most years and at times was difficult for our staff to manage. We initiated an extra inpatient care team and set up special overflow clinics to handle the unusual increase in patients. Residents and students saw numerous cases of Respiratory Syncytial Virus, which was very atypical for summer. We had many interesting cases for students and residents, but teaching time was somewhat
limited due to the tremendous increase in patient volume. By late fall 2021, patient volume returned to a normal level and our inpatient census and outpatient visits provided a very good experience for our students and residents. Most of our conferences returned to in-person presentations with restricted attendance. Some faculty still present virtually while the residents and students are attending in the conference room. All in attendance are fully vaccinated and must wear masks at all times. Trainees may still attend virtually if desired, but the in-person format is much more rewarding. Family -Centered Rounds returned to the usual format with some limitations to prevent too many people in the patient rooms. Many students and residents participated in patient care via telemedicine. Fortunately, only a few of our residents tested positive for coronavirus and none were seriously ill. There were very few concerning exposures and none of our trainees became infected by a patient at our institution.

SKMC/Nemours Children’s Hospital, DE had an excellent match in March 2021. Of those matched, 21 were from US medical schools, representing 17 different medical schools and 9 different states. One resident is from Qatar. Of the newly matched residents, 9% are from underrepresented minorities. We matched one new resident into our combined program of Pediatrics / Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and one into our Child Neurology residency.

Our pediatric residents continue to participate in important research projects. Of those who graduated in 2021, 10/22 pediatric residents presented research abstracts at regional or national scientific meetings. In addition, 8/22 published case reports, book chapters and scientific publications.

We celebrated Pediatric Resident and Fellowship Graduation in June 2021. Graduates from our Pediatric Residency Program found excellent careers after training. This past year, 8/22 accepted fellowship positions in exceptional programs across the country, 1 accepted a position as a Hospitalist, 1 joined an Urgent Care Group, 10 joined office practices and 3 became our current Chief Residents.

We are currently conducting interviews for our Pediatric Residency Program for the Match in 2022, and all of these are done virtually via Zoom. (This is the procedure for all pediatric residency programs across the country in 2021). Although we regret not having students tour our hospital and meet directly with our staff, there have been very few technical issues with our virtual interviews.

Medical education remains a priority at Nemours Children’s Hospital, DE. DIMER students continue to receive an excellent experience in pediatrics, though this is limited by our temporary inability to conduct our usual interactive sessions at the bedside with our students. We plan to reimplement these rounds in the near future. For 2021, students participated in virtual case discussions in groups of 3 students to one faculty member. These were very effective teaching sessions.

Dr. Steven Selbst announced he will step down as Pediatric Residency Program Director in June 2022 after 24 years in this position. A national search for a replacement is underway.

We look forward to partnering with DIMER for many more years.
Despite the challenges that all of us in healthcare have faced, Bayhealth has remained steadfast in fulfilling our mission to strengthen the health of our community. 2021 has been a year of exciting developments and exponential growth in medical education at Bayhealth. As we continue to provide compassionate care to our community, we are actively and rapidly growing our Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) program and brought our Graduate Medical Education (GME) program live this year. By 2024, we expect to be placing physicians in practices to help with our severe shortage.

Now in its third year, UME at Bayhealth is flourishing and expanding. We continue to be a core clinical campus, and our main affiliate is Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM). We also have affiliations with Drexel Medical School and Arcadia Physician Assistant School. Most recently, we signed an affiliation agreement with Jefferson, and we will start building that program in April 2022. We currently have 85 physicians appointed to the faculty at PCOM and 35 at Drexel, and soon we will be starting appointments to Jefferson’s faculty. For the 2020-21 academic year, we hosted 334 medical students at Bayhealth for their clinical rotations, and are proud to have welcomed more than 400 students so far in 2021.

In our ongoing journey to bring top-notch medical school graduates to central and southern Delaware and expand local healthcare access, Bayhealth celebrated several significant milestones this past year. March 19 marked our very first Match Day, and our GME program went live on July 1 with our inaugural class of residents. Additionally, we opened Bayhealth Family Medicine, Dover and Bayhealth Internal Medicine, Milford—our new practices where residents are honing their specialty skills under the mentorship of our dedicated faculty while working to keep our community members healthy.

We have a total of 21 talented resident physicians—eight in family medicine and 13 in internal medicine—training and caring for patients in our Bayhealth facilities. In July 2022, our General Surgery Residency will begin with 3 residents per year. We are also awaiting approval to launch an Emergency Medicine Residency program in 2023.

A highlight this year was having three PCOM graduates, who were among our first UME class and made an exceptional impression during their rotations, match with us and continue their medical careers here in Delaware. Paulina Rudy, DO, joined Bayhealth’s Family Medicine Residency, and Mathew Moorman, DO, and Amanda Nguyen, DO, joined our Internal Medicine Residency. It is with great pride that we can finally say we are growing our own.

Bayhealth has made a major capital investment in medical education to prepare for our future and the medical needs of generations to come. Over the past year, we have spent more than $20 million on new lecture halls, call rooms, lounges, education offices, and the new outpatient practices. We will soon open a Sim Lab with the latest in computer simulation and robotics to enhance our learning environment. Bayhealth is grateful for the $4.7 million contributed by generous community donors and organizations toward this effort. We look forward to continuing to work with partners such as DIMER to further advance medical education at Bayhealth and support the healthcare needs of the communities we serve.

Visit BayhealthGME.org to learn more about Bayhealth’s UME and GME programs.
DIMER Health Panel Events
Prospective Student Engagement

The Delaware Institute for Medical Education and Research (DIMER) is committed to providing access to high-quality medical education for all Delawareans and ensuring awareness of the admissions advantages for our state’s student applicants. Through its partnership with DIMER, the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA), continues to implement a robust strategy for engagement, outreach, data collection, and evaluation, within the Delaware community of DIMER applicants, students, residents, and returning attending physicians.

The DHSA-led outreach events engage high school students and undergraduate students with an interest in future medical professions who reside in one of Delaware’s three counties. We have a commitment to ensuring Delaware is broadly and well represented in the DIMER applicant pool for whom we hope ultimately return to our State to serve our community. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, DHSA remained devoted to delivering high quality outreach programs in virtual formats. Through these events, we continue to create awareness and provide students valuable exposure to experts from across DIMER and DHSA.

DHSA carefully and intentionally curates a unique panel of experts for each event. Panelists include subject matter experts including DIMER leadership, DIMER alum, current DIMER medical students, health system and academic leadership from DHSA Members as well as DIMER medical education partners: Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Each event provides an opportunity for discussion by experts, many of whom reside and work within the communities where students are from as well. The panels provide not only insight into the DIMER program and admissions advantages for Delaware students, but an opportunity for direct contact with leadership from across our professional network. This high degree of exposure for students is unparalleled across the country and is one of the reasons we have an increasing number of exceptionally qualified Delawareans from all 3 counties successfully gaining admissions to the DIMER-partnered medical schools.

We also review recommendations for undergraduate studies, the application process for medical school, eligibility for DIMER, and the journey from medical student to resident to practicing physician. We also provide information on affordability of medical school and the options beyond, such as the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and other loan opportunities.

We have demonstrated how the DIMER-DHSA collaboration has significantly increased Delawarean student’ and families’ knowledge of “the Delaware advantage” for medical school application. We seek to have all counties and all walks of life represented in the amazing students we send to our partner schools, and then welcome back to Delaware for their Branch Campus clinical training and beyond. The success of our approach is evidenced by 2020 and 2021 representing the largest incoming classes of DIMER medical students in the 50+ year history of DIMER.

In a time for which healthcare and medical professionals have been called upon more than ever, we thank those who mentor them: we acknowledge and thank our 2021 panelists who took time from their schedules to invest in Delaware’s future medical professionals.

In closing, we thank all who have chosen and will choose a profession in medicine and health sciences. The world needs you more than ever, and Delaware needs and appreciates you.

Omar Khan, MD MHS
President and CEO
Delaware Health Sciences Alliance

Pamela K. Gardner, MSM
Lead Program Manager
Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
2021 Panelists

Sherman L. Townsend, Chair, DIMER Board of Directors
Brintha Vasagar, MD, MPH, Bayhealth Residency Director
Charlie D. Wilson, PhD, Delaware State University Associate Dean of Academics
Joyce Robert, MD, Beebe Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program Founding Director
Omar Khan, MD, MHS, President and CEO, Delaware Health Sciences Alliance

David Barlow, PhD, University of Delaware DIMER Board Member
Marsala Lee, MD, MPA, ChristianaCare, Director iREACH Harrington Community Partnership Fund
Tabasam Salam, MD, MBA, ChristianaCare Chief Learning Officer
Brian Levine, MD, ChristianaCare Associate Chief Academic Officer and Designated Institutional Officer

Kayla Morrell, DIMER Medical Student, Sidney Kimmel Medical College
Frank Mayer, DO, EM-2 Resident, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Kate Smith, MD, MPH, Programs Manager, Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association
The Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER) is committed not only to providing access to high-quality medical education for all Delawareans but is also to providing a framework of support for its DIMER medical students.

Through its partnership with the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA), DIMER strategically engages with current and former students. In a pre-Covid time, DIMER and its medical education partners hosted in-person receptions for students to network with academic, health system and DIMER leaders. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, DHSA quickly pivoted these engagements from in-person to virtual. It was imperative to DHSA and DIMER that the network of support and opportunities for connection were not lost in the new reality with which we were faced.

DHSA facilitated virtual “cocktails and conversations” events including Presidents of DIMER’s medical education partners, DIMER Board of Directors, Health System Leaders, Residency Program Directors and more. These virtual events provided an opportunity for students to partake in conversations with thought leaders, to engage through thoughtful discussion as well as network and secure shadowing and mentoring opportunities. The world may have changed, but DIMER’s unwavering commitment to ensuring its students were provided a network of support and opportunities for learning has not.

In 2021 in addition to virtual events, DHSA also facilitated tangible engagements for students in what was a virtual world. DIMER & DHSA have curated DIMER-branded care packages including a mask, hand sanitizer and coffee tumbler that were sent to each DIMER student as a show of our ongoing support and continued presence in the medical education journey for which students were embarking.
My name is Karthi Jayakumar, a current second-year medical student at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. As a resident of Delaware for 23 years, I have volunteered at Nemours, Christiana, and worked with many of the physicians in Delaware in both a student and patient capacity. Starting medical school during a pandemic was beyond challenging to say the least, but DIMER helped me feel a sense of belonging. The program helps students connect with their peers as well as develop vast connections with mentors and future colleagues. I look forward to the next two years of medical school, as it is both a privilege and an honor to have the opportunity to complete a few rotations in my hometown, Delaware.

Karthi Jayakumar, PCOM

As a lifelong Delawarean, I am incredibly grateful for DIMER and all that it has done for me throughout my medical career thus far as a student at Sidney Kimmel Medical College. Entering medical school without any physicians in my family to offer guidance and support was certainly a daunting challenge. However, the support that DIMER and its partners offer is incredible. Not only had DIMER members offered me guidance throughout the process of applying to medical school and deciding a program, but I have also received countless networking opportunities, publications, and scholarship awards, with passionate mentors that offer guidance and support every step of the way. There are always exciting things coming down the pipeline and I learn something new at every event, whether I’m attending a panel, being a panelist, or attending a dinner. Beyond all of the educational support and mentorship, DIMER sends the best care packages and really shows us that they are rooting for our individual success. I am forever grateful for all the opportunities that DIMER has provided me and can’t wait to continue my involvement throughout my entire career.

Kayla Morrell, SKMC

Being from Delaware this was always “our” hospital. Over the years I’ve seen how great this hospital can be as a patient, in a research role, and as a student. I love the people here and how there is a perfect blending of the community and academic environments.

Frank Mayer, DO, MBA

Frank Mayer, DO, MBA
The Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) recognizes the importance of pipeline development and the need to create and enhance access points for increasing Delaware’s medical workforce. Through innovative strategies and partnerships, DHSA continues to lead efforts supporting this pillar of focus and priority.

In 2019, DHSA launched Delaware Day. Delaware Day is a physician recruitment initiative bringing together all of Delaware’s health systems in a collaborative recruitment effort. DHSA works closely with recruiting partners to identify anticipated openings and targets its event to DIMER alumni, focusing on residents finishing training in Delaware and the mid-Atlantic region, to recruit key Delaware talent for the Delaware community.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 DHSA Delaware Day event was held virtually and included a live moderated panel discussion with partner recruiters. Delaware Day recruiting partners not only discussed opportunities available but also highlighted characteristics that make their organizations unique and supportive of the Delaware patients they serve.

DHSA is pleased to share that 100% of candidates who expressed interest through its 2021 Delaware Day event were extended first round interviews and for those candidates who progressed in the process, offers were extended. DHSA looks forward to providing this annual event to support recruitment and retention of Delaware’s qualified and talented physicians and would like to thank our 2021 Delaware Day partner institutions and participants.

*DHSA Delaware Day is a copyrighted activity of the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance 2022 All Rights Reserved
A special thank you to the following organizations for their partnership in the 2021 DHSA Delaware Day.
Each year Delaware Today asks physicians to vote for their peers, using a secure online balloting system. In another year of extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Delaware Today published their Top Docs list in October of 2021, and we reviewed the list to see who were DIMER alumni. We extend congratulations to all 2021 Delaware Today Top Docs recognized, especially the following DIMER physicians:

- Damian Andrisani, MD
- Jeremie Axe, MD
- Alfred Bacon, MD
- Joseph Belgrade, MD
- Bruce Benge, MD
- Alex Bodenstab, MD
- Kevin Bristowe, MD
- William Chasanov, DO
- Michael Conway, MD
- Seema Dattani, MD
- Steven Dellose, MD
- Phillip Dobson, MD
- Kevin Eanes, MD
- David Estock, MD
- Eric Gallagher, MD
- Andrew Glick, MD
- Angelo Grillo, MD
- Jeffrey Guarino, MD
- Neil Hockstein, MD
- Terry Horton, MD
- Patrice Hyde, MD
- Galicano Inguito, MD
- Erika Kutsch, DO
- Stephanie Lee, MD
- Christina Lehane, MD
- Sarah Matthews, MD
- Holly McKiel, DO
- Joseph Mesa, MD
- Christopher Mitchell, MD
- G. Robert Myers, MD
- Joseph Pennington, MD
- Michael Peters, MD
- John Powell, MD
- Matthew Rubino, MD
- Jonathan Sarik, MD
- Mark Sordi, MD
- Babak Vakili, MD
- Matthew Voltz, DO
- Peter Witherell, MD
We also wanted to go a bit deeper into the data, and the infographic below shows the distribution of specialty and general practice from in the list of Top Docs.

Special Thanks to Delaware Today for permitting us to extract data from their work.
The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) strives to promote access to high-quality affordable care, improve health outcomes for all Delawareans, and foster health care collaboration among the public and private sectors. A sustainable health care workforce is essential to an effective health care delivery system. Meanwhile, the pre-existing challenges in maintaining and growing Delaware’s healthcare workforce have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing Delaware’s health workforce challenges, the DHCC continues to address these challenges through various initiatives and programs.

DHCC Health Workforce Subcommittee

The Health Workforce Subcommittee, chaired by DHCC Commissioners Nick Moriello and Secretary Rick Geisenberger, was created in December 2020 to assess and address Delaware’s health care workforce deficiencies. The Subcommittee invited stakeholders from across Delaware to share their challenges in developing and sustaining the workforce in several health care fields including geriatrics, Alzheimer’s, child psychiatry, substance abuse, and mental health. These discussions revealed a desire to understand the data and motivational drivers for Delaware’s health care workforce. The Subcommittee recommended building a catalogue of Delaware healthcare professionals’ allocation across the State and predictive areas of need. In November 2021, the DHCC contracted with the Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association to develop Delaware Health Force, a database designed to document the distribution of health professionals in Delaware.

Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP)

In August 2021, Governor Carney signed House Bill 48 with House Amendment 1, establishing a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP) for new primary care providers. The DHCC is responsible for the administration of the program and may award education loan repayment grants to new primary care providers up to $50,000 per year for a maximum of four years. Priority consideration may be given to DIMER-participating students and participants in Delaware based residency programs. The DHCC established an Advisory Committee to assist with the development of the program parameters and ensure the program is consistent with legislative expectations and health workforce needs. The DHCC released a Request for Proposal in January 2022, to procure a vendor for development of an electronic application process. A marketing vendor was secured to develop a statewide brand and program awareness strategy.

“Access to quality health care is about having doctors in your community. In some areas of our state, we simply don’t have enough physicians,” said Governor John Carney. “In partnership with Representative Bentz, we created a health care provider loan repayment program to help attract some of the best and brightest young doctors to areas where they’re needed the most. Thank you to Members of the General Assembly for their support on this important issue.”

Governor John Carney

“When it comes to healthcare, Delawareans deserve to be treated by highly trained professionals at medical facilities statewide. Thanks to Governor John Carney’s signature on HB 48, we can work toward recruiting and retaining top primary care doctors. The bill offers an attractive incentive to Delaware students in residency programs here as well as establishes an education loan repayment program for medical professionals who currently work in Delaware. The Delaware Health Care Commission would run the grant program to keep a steady flow of healthcare workers going, even in underserved communities. As doctors retire or relocate, it’s important to be ahead of the game in offering people the best healthcare possible.”

Representative David Bentz
Delaware’s primary care shortfall crisis is causing long-term delays and service delivery gaps. Our primary care doctors and their teams are the first line of defense in our health care system and the personal time they spend with their patients helps create healthier communities one family at a time. Investing in the future of our local doctors, through this public-private partnership, will set a precedent in focusing on our local communities and the health of our local families. I am proud to join Rep. David Bentz (D-Newark, Christiana) on this legislation to advance health care access.”

Representative Byran Shupe

State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)
The DHCC continues to administer a State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP), an initiative supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. SLRP strives to create healthier communities by recruiting and retaining quality health care professionals to practice in rural and urban settings designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas. With a four-year commitment in the program, practitioners employed in underserved areas may be eligible for up to $200,000 in educational debt reduction.

DHCC Collaborations
The DHCC collaborates closely with our sister agency, the Delaware Division of Public Health, on the following programs designed to improve access to health care for Delawareans.

- **Conrad State 30/J-1 Visa Waiver Program**
  This program allows international medical graduates who have completed their medical education in the United States to practice in underserved areas. Without being approved for this program international medical graduates are required to return to their country of nationality for at least two years before applying to come back to the United States. In exchange for placement in this program, J-1 physicians must agree to practice medicine full time at a pre-approved Delaware sponsoring site for a minimum of three years. The home residency requirement can be waived for up to 30 physicians annually per state under this program. The practice sites must be in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area or Medically Underserved Area (aside from 10 “flex slots” which the state may place in any area in the state).

- **National Health Service Corps Program**
The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) places physicians in federally designated health professional shortage areas around the country, providing health care professionals with practical experience and the following financial rewards:

  1. **NHSC Loan Repayment Program**: $50,000 (up to the outstanding balance of qualifying student loans if less than $50,000) provided tax free, to primary care medical clinicians in exchange for two years of service at an approved site in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area.

  2. **NHSC Scholar Program: Tuition**, required fees, and other education costs (including books, clinical supplies, laboratory expenses, instruments, uniforms, and travel for one clinical rotation) provided tax free, for up to four years. Recipients also receive a monthly living stipend ($1,434 in 2021/2022). The stipend is taxable. National Health Service Corps scholars are committed to complete a primary care residency (family medicine, general pediatrics, general internal medicine, or obstetrics/gynecology), become licensed, and serve one year for each year of support (minimum of two years’ service) at an approved site in a high-need Health Professional Shortage Area upon graduation.

  3. **NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program** – Two Options:
    1) Three-year Full-Time Clinical Practice. The NHSC will pay up to $75,000 for 3 years of fulltime clinical practice to clinicians serving at an NHSC-approved SUD treatment facility that is in a designated Mental Health or Primary Medical Care HPSA.
    2) Three-year Half-Time Clinical Practice. The NHSC will pay up to $37,500 for 3 years of halftime clinical practice to clinicians serving at an NHSC-approved SUD treatment facility that is in a designated Mental Health or Primary Medical Care HPSA.
Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER)
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Board members are subject to serve three (3) year terms or until reappointment by the representing organization.
Contact DHCC@delaware.gov or (302) 739-2730 for details about appointments and/or vacancies.
It is truly an honor to be a member of the DIMER board. We are all fully aware that DIMER was developed to fund and provide valued medical school applicant spots at the two medical schools (Sidney Kimmel/Jefferson and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine). The goal is to educate medical students about our opportunities, so they utilize our branch campus (rotating their entire third year of medical school at ChristianaCare) and eventually train and stay here at Christiana or within Delaware. The key is to develop an infrastructure of education that starts well before medical school and residency; to create a pipeline of competent, caring physicians for our community.

Brian Levine, MD
Designated Institutional Official
Associate Chief Academic Officer
ChristianaCare

As a Pediatric Hospitalist at Nemours Children’s Hospital and Pediatric Clerkship Director for Sidney Kimmel Medical College, some of the most important work I participate in is medical education. The DIMER program not only creates opportunities for education for our Delaware-based students, but also for mentorship and connection, which is so meaningful for our future physicians. This outreach can support and bring purpose to both the current and future in healthcare, particularly in a time when such support in crucial. I am very excited to participate in these efforts.

Jessica Tomaszewski, MD
Pediatric Hospitalist
Nemours Children’s Hospital, Delaware
The following pages contain a working list* of DIMER students who have completed their medical education and their degree type (M.D. from SKMC, and D.O. from PCOM), and the year that they matriculated (entered) into medical school. We use matriculation rather than graduation date as not everyone who enters a given medical school graduates from it due to transfers and medical school duration is not 100% consistent for all students. This section of the directory does not include current DIMER medical students. Resident and student directories can be found on pages 46 and 47. These physicians are, or have, practiced in Delaware, elsewhere in the United States, or globally.

Entries are listed alphabetically by last name, and in order to economize on space, we have used only married last names if we found a maiden name as well.

*this list has been researched and collated. Information has come from a variety of sources, and while we have attempted to be both accurate and comprehensive, errors and omissions may have occurred.

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<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Semaan Abboud</td>
<td>M.D. - 1987</td>
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<td>Ari Abel</td>
<td>M.D. - 1997</td>
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<td>Bradley Albertson</td>
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<td>Christopher Aleman</td>
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<td>Evaline Alessandrini</td>
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</table>
DIMER Residents*

Trevor Aldred - M.D.
Hannah Anderson - M.D.
Robert Anderson - D.O.
Elyse Andrews - M.D.
Gulsedef Arslan - D.O.
Haseeb Bajwa - D.O.
Jessica Beadle - M.D.
Ayla Benge - D.O.
Hamza Bhatti - D.O.
Talha Bhatti - D.O.
Andrew Blake - M.D.
Brian Blazovic - M.D.
Emily Bollinger - M.D.
Brandon Boyer - D.O.
Charles Brodowski - M.D.
Rachel Brown - D.O.
Mark Burgess - D.O.
Samantha Bush - D.O.
Brian Calio - M.D.
Alisa Chanchenchop - D.O.
Alexander Chau - M.D.
Xian Cheung - D.O.
Evan Cohen - D.O.
Ryan Cotto - M.D.
Alicia Cox - D.O.
Stephanie Cramer - M.D.
Marcus Dal Nogore - M.D.
Christine Dang - M.D.
Daniel Eddins - M.D.
Alexis Esbitt - D.O.
Megan Feick - M.D.
Grace Firestone - M.D.
Henry Gemino - M.D.
Michael Gerges - D.O.
Julie Gianakon - M.D.
Gerald Gibbons - M.D.
Amanda Grigoli - M.D.
John Hafycz - M.D.
Sarah Halbert - M.D.
Katrina Hansen - D.O.
Joshua Harman - D.O.
Georgette Hattier - M.D.
Clifford Hagedus - M.D.
Meghan Holliday-Minderlein - D.O.
Travis Hunt - M.D.
Gabrielle James - M.D.
Jarrett James - D.O.
Shreya Jammula - M.D.
Kathleen Jarrell - M.D.
Nicholas Jennelly - M.D.
Clinton Jordan - M.D.
Florina Krainer - D.O.
Pavitra Krishnamani - M.D.
Elizabeth Kuhn - M.D.
Patrick Kukulich - M.D.
Christine Kurian - M.D.
Abigail Kushner - D.O.
Kristine LaRocca - D.O.
Arooj Latif - D.O.
Michelle Leach - M.D.
Ryan Lee - M.D.
Thomas LeNoir - D.O.
Bryan Lerner - M.D.
Philip Lieberman - M.D.
Zachary Magner - D.O.
Saleena Malik - D.O.
Navneet Mann - D.O.
David Matera - D.O.
Frank Mayer - D.O.
Kyle McCormick - D.O.
James McNinch - M.D.
Christopher Mitchell - M.D.
Jaymin Modi - D.O.
Nidhi Mody - D.O.
Fazad Mohamed - D.O.
Amanda Nemecz - M.D.
Arjun Patel - M.D.
Nirali Patel - D.O.
Gabrielle Perrotti - M.D.
Taylor Phillips - D.O.
Sky Prestowitz - D.O.
Natasha Qureshi - M.D.
Nandini Razdan - D.O.
Nathaniel Rosal - D.O.
Erin Royal - M.D.
Rebecca Russell - M.D.
Taylor Russell - D.O.
Harold Salmons - M.D.
Austin Schatzman - D.O.
Karim Shafi - M.D.
Maryanne Shorey - M.D.
Matthew Sikina - M.D.
Shilpa Singh - D.O.
Andrew Singles - D.O.
Hope Skibicki - D.O.
Shelby Smith - M.D.
Kathryn Sommers - M.D.
Michelle Stickler - M.D.
Devin Sullivan - D.O.
Lauren Szeto - M.D.
Stephy Thomas - M.D.
David Truscello - D.O.
Siddardth Umapathy - D.O.
Meredith Vieira - M.D.
Kevin Walpole - D.O.
Amanda Walsh - M.D.
Blen Weldekidan - D.O.
Christopher West - M.D.
Matthew Wiltshire - M.D.
Hunter Witmer - M.D.
Cullen Worsh - M.D.
Kathie Wu - D.O.
Yuchen Yang - D.O.
Victor Ye - M.D.
Yuchen Yang - D.O.
Andrew Young - D.O.
Joseph Zarraga - D.O.

New Residents - 2021

Yara Aboubakr Abdelaal, D.O. - 2021
Megan Aidoo, D.O. - 2021
Farha Ali, D.O. - 2021
Alyssa Alicea, D.O. - 2021
Bradley Bakst, D.O. - 2021
Melissa Chai, M.D. - 2021
Noah Christian, M.D. - 2021
Taylor Paskey, M.D. - 2021
Michael Corcoran, D.O. - 2021
Ashley Foreman, M.D. - 2021
Emily Romano, M.D. - 2021
Jay Subramoney, M.D. - 2021
Abhishek Surampudy, M.D. - 2021
Julian Tanjuakio, M.D. - 2021
Vishwant Tatagari, D.O. - 2021

*As of January 2022. This list is all-inclusive and contains names of inactive, lapsed and deceased individuals.
Sidney Kimmel Medical College

Robert Abishek
Jeremiah Adams
Deanne Almeida
Brigittie Anderson
Sambina Anthony
Ari August
Richard Bai
Earl Bampo
Basilio Bautista
Camryn Bernheimer
Aleeya Bheemreddy
Priyanka Bheemreddy
Mary Blumenfeld
Katherine Bodycot
Zachary Bopp
Krystina Callahan
Hui Chen
Keshav Choudhuri
Thomas Connelly
William Connolly
Daniel Courtney
Bryn Cross
Devon Cross
Darren D’mello
Sean Daniels
Jessica Dixon
John Douds
Grayton Downing
Frank Duan
Elizabeth Eppley
Umma Fatema
Ananya Garg
Alyssa Givens
Timothy Gouge
Gillian Grant
Emily Gripp
Tyler Gross
Nicola Habash
Patricia Hayes
Kurt Hill
Zachary Howell
Zubin Hussain
Galacano Kai Inguito
Julian Jackson
Adrienne Johnson
Ki Chang Kang
Humaal Khan
Jacqueline King
Meera Kohli
Varsha Kripalu
Renee Li
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Sabrina Luther
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Arlene Maheu
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Nikhil Mehta
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Kishan Patel
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Kyle Plusch
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Lucy Qi
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David Nathan Ribaya
Chelsea Richards
Drew Sanclemente
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Erlin Schulze
Jacqueline Sinnott
Shruti Sirapu
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Christina Stiebris
Anna Sung
Rashiqah Syed
Alexander Tang
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Ana Tegtmeier
Volkan Tekmen
Shiori Tomatsu
Dunia Tonob
Nikolas Tsiouplis
John Vaille
Jasmine Wang
Kerith Wang
Makala Wang
Sarah Wenyon
Mason Willey
Ashley Wong
Michael Xu
Alexander Xu
Dani Yellanki
Peter Zdunek

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Edward Addison
Chelsea Adebigi
Bhavana Aitha
Marwan Allali Hassani
Ariella Anthony
Samichhya Aryal
Laxmisupriya Avadhani
Omneya Ayoub
Bianca Bettina Lacay
Shivangi Bhatt
Lauren Bowser
Mary Callahan
Anthony Caruso
Olivia Chase
Peter Cloney
Sarah Coughlan
Mara Crispin
Andre Cunningham
Rebecca DePierro
Jyotsana Dhanawade
Saurab Dharmadhikari
Steven DiStefano
Adrienne Fraczkowski
Jordan Franklin
Olivia Garcia
Christine Gibson
John Gilligan
Hannah Griffiths
Lindsay Gugerty
Devika Gupta
Amelie Harpey
Hannah Harrell
Sarah Hayes
Jamie Hedrick
Abigail Jawahar
Karthi Jayakumar
Karanveer Johal
Nathan Jones
Kyle Joseph
Harshita Kandarpa
Ruby Kelly
Kristen Kerr
Ethan Kirk
Pierce Knox
Nomerra Koreshi
Nicole Kushner
David Lahijani
Alexa Lapointe
Caroline Lawless
Hanxiong Lin

Rachael Molitor
Benjamin Murray
Ngoc Nguyen
Anna Nowak
Nicholas O’Connor
Corey Olsen
Ezra Rudinoff
Demetria Ruhl
Shreya Sakthivel
Vasant Sarthi
Trent Sewell
Gelan Shamloul
Yousef Sheikh
Alexander Siegelman
Danica Smith
Kenneth Staab
Melissa States
Michael Suarez
Robert Taylor
Nathalie Torres
Jacob Valvis
Dorothy Vosik
Shefali Waghray
Ioannis Zerefos
The DIMER Board wishes to thank and acknowledge the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance and the Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association for their continued leadership and partnership in developing this report, based in part, on a separate study they independently undertook. In particular - Dr. Omar Khan, Ms. Pamela Gardner, Mr. Timothy Gibbs, Dr. Kate Smith and Mr. Matthew McNeill were instrumental in this work and we are deeply grateful.

Thank you to our healthcare colleagues!

COVID-19 has made this a challenging time for everyone. But no one has faced the realities of the pandemic more continuously and more completely than our frontline healthcare workers. They face the same fears and restrictions we all do at home, but they’re committed to dealing with the virus face to face every day at work as well. These include residents and medical students as they pursue their education, and we thank everyone for their compassion, dedication, and service - our key values.

Acknowledgements

“The DIMER Board wishes to thank and acknowledge the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance and the Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association for their continued leadership and partnership in developing this report, based in part, on a separate study they independently undertook. In particular - Dr. Omar Khan, Ms. Pamela Gardner, Mr. Timothy Gibbs, Dr. Kate Smith and Mr. Matthew McNeill were instrumental in this work and we are deeply grateful.”