

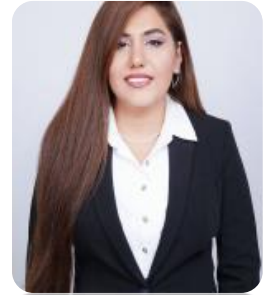
Aurora Graduate Medical Education Resident Biographies

Internal Medicine Residency • *First Year Residents*

Rana Alrubaye, M.D.

- Hometown: Baghdad, Iraq
- Undergraduate Degree: None
- Medical School: Baghdad University College of Medicine

I chose Internal Medicine because it's a discipline that offers great training for leadership and stresses on the importance of variety of knowledge and visions. Internal Medicine allows me to think deeply about diagnosis and treatment while considering the needs of patient in my management plans. The flexibility of the field also enables me to work closely with my colleagues from several medical and non-medical areas to contribute significantly to my professional and personal growth to serve my community. In my free time I like to cook and enjoy gathering with my family and friends



Mahmoud Awad, M.D.

- Hometown: Oak Lawn, Illinois
- Undergraduate Degree: None
- Medical School: Misr University for Science and Technology

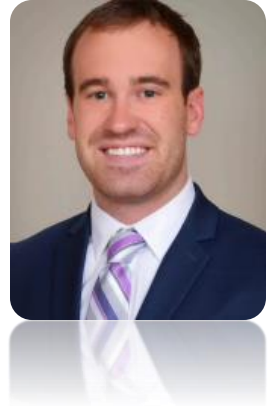
Early in medical school, one of our professors asked my classmates and I a rather memorable question: are you a blade or a book? I like to think I was (and still am) a book. I was born in Florida, partially raised in Chicago, and then moved to Egypt where I completed medical school. I knew Internal Medicine was right for me because I aim to learn and diversify - gathering experiences from books and beyond. I knew before I even applied that Aurora was where I wanted to be because of its emphasis on providing care to a diverse patient population through the two-hospital system. On my interview day, I just knew I belonged here because they cared about who I was as a person. Being with my family and friends in Milwaukee is also incredibly important to me. I hope my experience here helps facilitate more growth personally and professionally.



After residency, I hope to practice as a hospitalist or perhaps pursue a fellowship (thinking of Immunology). Outside of the hospital, I love playing basketball, reading poetry, listening to music, and memes. Please talk to me about Sylvia Plath, NBA, UFC, FC Barcelona, Kid Cudi, your pet(s), and anything in between.

Blake Brown, D.O.

- Hometown: Hampton, Iowa
- Undergraduate Degree: Neuroscience
- Medical School: Kansas City University



Hi, I'm Blake! I'm a Midwest native, born and raised in Iowa. I spent the past few years bouncing around the Midwest for school and I wouldn't rather live anywhere else. I think it's rare for medical students to know what specialty they will choose right off the bat in their first year of medical school. That was especially true for me. My path was somewhat winding, but I eventually found my perfect fit in Internal Medicine. I love the variety. We have the opportunity to help patients with everything from their commonplace medical problems to critical disease and we aren't limited by organ system. When I stumbled across Aurora's Internal Medicine residency program, I was immediately interested. But, having the opportunity to meet the residents and faculty during my interview is what really sealed the deal for me. The people are everything, and I was immediately struck by the kind and warm atmosphere. The program is great too. From the two-hospital system to their strong focus on resident wellness, to great faculty, and now the new Critical Care fellowship. Having strong interests in hospital medicine and possibly pursuing Critical Care fellowship following residency, I knew Aurora would be a great fit for me.

Robert Christiansen, D.O.

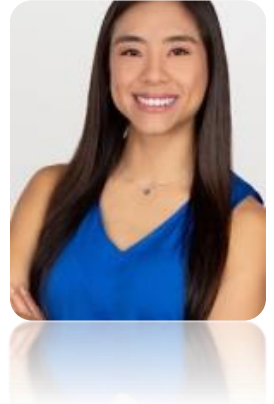
- Hometown: Manitowoc, Wisconsin
- Undergraduate Degree: Kinesiology
- Medical School: University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine



I was born and raised in Northeast Wisconsin but have spent the last decade moving state-to-state between my service in the Army, undergrad, and medical school. I'm excited to have the opportunity to be back here and train at Aurora. During my interview here, everyone was very welcoming and I knew I would be fully supported in my future goals as I completed my training. I chose Internal Medicine for its broad focus and ability to work with patients in multiple settings. After training, I plan to work as a hospitalist or pursue fellowship. For fun, my wife and I love to cook and host football game day events with our friends. We also just recently welcomed our first child and are excited to teach him everything about being a Packers fan in Wisconsin.

Alessandra Chung, M.D.

- Hometown: Lima, Peru
- Undergraduate Degree: None
- Medical School: Universidad de San Martin de Porres Facultad de Medicina Humana

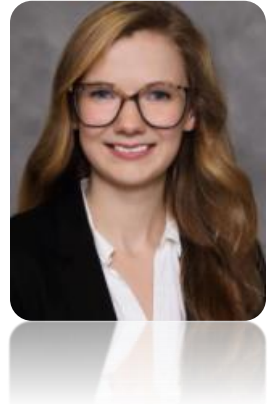


I chose Internal Medicine for the wide variety of knowledge, collaborative work and comprehensive skill sets it fosters. It provides exposure to several specialties and will allow me to continuously learn and teach future physicians. I chose the program because of our shared goals and the variety of exposure. The city of Milwaukee has a lot to offer; the food, the fascinating scenery, and its beautiful people, just to name a few.

A couple of fun facts about myself are that I speak 3.5 languages and enjoy dancing Zumba! After residency, I hope to provide care as a hospitalist but also considering pursuing a fellowship. Ultimately, I plan to work in a nonprofit organization to reach underserved communities.

Gretta Colby, M.D.

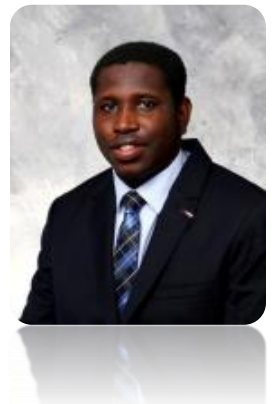
- Hometown: Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
- Undergraduate Degree: Biochemistry
- Medical School: Medical College of Wisconsin



I chose Internal Medicine because I love the diversity it provides! You never know what you will encounter or who you will meet. I'm excited to be at Aurora because I think their patient volume will provide me with experience and exposure that will ensure I am well trained, while also maintaining the more personal atmosphere of a community hospital. In my free time, I am a game enthusiast - card games, board games, etc - I love them!

Ekow Essien, M.D.

- Hometown: Kumasi, Ghana
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology
- Medical School: University of Ghana Medical School



I believe that providing health care to a fellow human being is a privilege that should be respected and cherished always, and this has been my driving force throughout medical school. The versatility, heterogeneity, and breadth of knowledge in Internal Medicine initially caught my attention. I learned firsthand how internists are entrusted with coordinating and managing the most complex patients in the hospital. My love for Internal Medicine was reinforced when I saw how the internists' versatility, comfort with complexity, and commitment, significantly improved patient outcomes.

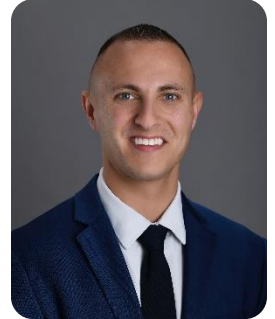
Choosing the Aurora Health Internal Medicine program as my first rank was easy and natural. During the interview day, Dr. Hamel and the team I interacted with were kind, genuine, supportive, and invested. The positive energy and enthusiasm for residents' success and well-being was palpable.

I am a strong advocate of community and patient healthcare needs, especially marginalized individuals with high social needs that the Milwaukee patient population represents. My experiences in the United States and Ghana in West Africa, where I grew up, has exposed me to a diversity of thought, particularly conceptions about health care. These experiences will aid me in working with a diverse patient population and a diverse team of health care professionals. It's a privilege to train and provide health care to the people of Milwaukee and its environs. I am a fan of the Packers, Bucks, and Brewers. In addition, I love playing soccer, and I am a die-hard fan of Manchester United. After residency, I plan to pursue a fellowship in Cardiovascular Medicine.

Nicholas Gibson, M.D.

- Hometown: De Pere, Wisconsin
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology
- Medical School: Medical College of Wisconsin

When providing patient care, I always take the holistic approach with a goal of trying to understand every facet of each patient's unique presentation. Internal Medicine provides me with the opportunity to use this approach in every patient encounter, while fueling my curious mind through the diagnosis and management of complex multisystem disease etiologies. Pursuing my training in Internal Medicine at a community program with a "family feel" and strong colleague support was important to me. Equally as important was training in the Milwaukee area, as I attended undergrad at Carroll University and thus the area became a second home to me. I couldn't be happier to have the opportunity to complete my training at Aurora St. Lukes. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, skiing, traveling, and spending time with my wife, Megan, and our dog, Winston. After completing my training in Internal Medicine, I hope to pursue a career in hospital medicine.



Marek Lisek, D.O.

- Hometown: Roscoe, Illinois
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology
- Medical School: Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine

I chose Internal Medicine because I love being able to solve patient problems as they present from admission and work with them long-term either in the hospital or in an outpatient clinic. After doing my Sub-I in Milwaukee, seeing firsthand the phenomenal work-life balance residents had, how much the faculty enjoyed teaching, and the opportunities to learn and grow as a physician, I knew it was the program for me. A fun fact about me is in my free time I enjoy learning about business and the stock market. A future goal would be to become the best internist I can be and hopefully get into a role where business and medicine coalesce.



Robert Marker, D.O.

- Hometown: Joliet, Illinois
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology
- Medical School: Des Moines University



After I decided that I wanted to become a doctor, choosing internal medicine was easy. The opportunity to focus on inpatient care of complex patients and have a wide array of specialty choices to consider made internal med the right choice for me. I chose Aurora's internal med program because of the quality of training at the program itself, the opportunities for either in-house fellowships or great match rates in fellowship programs I am considering applying to, and the sense of community I got during my interview day. Outside of medicine, I like to hike, kayak, and explore local restaurants and breweries. My two top choices for career paths at the moment are becoming a hospitalist or pursuing a fellowship in GI.

Brett Mittelstedt, D.O.

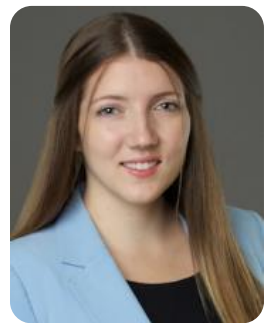
- Hometown: Harrisville, Michigan
- Undergraduate Degree: Biology
- Medical School: Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine



I am a small-town guy who spent a lot of time playing sports, instruments, and learning to hunt and act for the school play. My enjoyment in learning many different things led me to becoming an Internal Medicine Physician because here I can learn about a lot of different areas of the body, what can go wrong, and how to help it on its own way to recovery. I am overjoyed to have been placed in Milwaukee as I am a Wisconsin native and wanted to be closer to home and those that I love.

Sarah Marie Patterson, D.O.

- Hometown: Glendale, Arizona
- Undergraduate Degree: Biomedical Science
- Medical School: Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine



Hi! I'm Sarah, a native of Arizona. I went to medical school in Idaho and was part of the inaugural class at Idaho College of Osteopathic medicine. I absolutely loved my school.

I ended up choosing Internal Medicine because I believe it fits my personality; I like solving puzzles and learning about a wide variety of problems. Also, I prefer adult patient care. After my interview with the Aurora Internal Medicine program, I knew right away that I wanted to be part of the family! Some words I would use to describe the program: intelligent design, genuine, family, cohesive, caring, excellent (and more). More about me...I value my family and friends above all things. I love, love, love coffee and pie. I hope to practice internal medicine on an in-patient basis, and were I to specialize, cardiology would likely be my first choice. Please ask me about osteopathic medicine and OMT (osteopathic manipulative therapy)!

Sean Stevens-Fabry, M.D.

- Hometown: Green Bay, Wisconsin
- Undergrad Degree: Biology and Spanish
- Medical School: American University of Antigua

Having spent the last 5 years living and working in Milwaukee, I love the community and its progressive values. Completing GME in Milwaukee has always been a goal of mine. Fun fact about myself: I enjoy fostering dogs with my fiancé through Lucky Mutts rescue, we've fostered about 20 so far! Future goals for residency include finding unique ways to implement the Social Determinants of Health in Primary Care and serving on committees that support systems-level change.

