

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER IN SHREVEPORT

Department of Medicine

July 2009

Dear Doctor:

Thank you for your interest in our residency program. Our graduate medical education web site describes in detail the Internal Medicine training here at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, and has useful information about the University Hospital and the city of Shreveport. You will find us at www.sh.lsuhscc.edu/Internal_Medicine.

For many years, the Department of Medicine has had international medical graduates as part of our residency and fellowships. These physicians have added rich diversity to our training programs. We encourage you to apply for a position in 2010 if you meet the criteria mentioned below. All applications should be submitted through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Interviews are by invitation only, and unfortunately, we are unable to offer interviews to all qualified applicants. In 2008-2009, there were 2100 applications for 31 first-year categorical, primary care, and preliminary positions, and we interviewed less than 150.

Your USMLE scores are important. You must have a score of 80 or above *on the first attempt* for both the Step 1 and Step 2 examinations. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the mean score of residents who entered the program this year was 92 for both step 1 and step 2. Therefore, most applicants who are invited to interview have scores much higher than the minimum. Prior to being interviewed, you must also have passed the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination *on the first attempt*. Step 3 scores are not required, but preference may be given to applicants who have taken and have achieved a high score on this examination.

Beyond these examinations, we require applicants to have sufficient clinical experience in the United States to become familiar with the American medical care system, including the technology we employ, the medical terminology we use, the ethical principles that guide our practice, and the common drugs we prescribe. This experience must be in an Internal Medicine practice. Exposure to an inpatient service is highly preferable. Since communication is a critical skill in the care of patients, we also expect our residents to be proficient in speaking and writing English in a medical setting. To better evaluate your experience, we would like to have meaningful letters of recommendation from physicians who have worked with you in the United States. Unfortunately, LSUHSC in Shreveport cannot offer observerships or externships to prospective residents to help you gain experience.

The vast majority of our residents graduated from medical school less than ten years ago. While we do not have a firm selection criterion based on date of graduation, it is important that you have recent clinical experience related to Internal Medicine. Those with previous residency training in Internal Medicine or recognized credentials in this field are encouraged to apply.

All residents must have United States citizenship, permanent resident status, employment authorization, or eligibility for a J-1 visa. Because of delays in processing visas in recent years and the uncertainty about immigration regulations in the future, preference will be given to applicants who will not require a visa. In the past, we have offered H-1 visas to a few applicants with exceptional qualifications. However, effective July 1, 2010, the health sciences center will no longer sponsor H-1 visas. There will be no exceptions to this policy. *If an H-1 visa is a priority in your selection of a residency, we respectfully ask that you not seek an interview with our program.*

Interviews will be scheduled from November 2009 through January 2010. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2009. However, since we expect the available interview slots to fill rapidly, it is advisable to submit your application through ERAS much earlier. Please do not send duplicate information by e-mail, regular mail, or fax.

We would like to be able to respond to any other questions you have. However, our capacity for answering individual e-mail messages and faxes is limited. As well, the program directors and coordinators cannot always take the many phone calls that come into our offices from applicants on a daily basis. We regret that, *because of the large number of applications we receive, it is not possible to keep you informed on the status of your application.* Frequent contact with the program staff will not enhance your opportunity for an interview.

We wish for you the very best in the process of applying and interviewing for residency positions. If you meet the above criteria and LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport is a place where you think you can be successful, we are eager to review your application.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Slay, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Medicine
Internal Medicine Program Director