Faith and Urban Healthcare
A Rotation for Students and Residents

LAWNDALE CHRISTIAN HEALTH CENTER
Loving God. Loving People.
OUR MISSION is to show and share the love of Jesus by promoting wellness and providing quality, affordable healthcare for Lawndale and the neighboring communities.

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THE FAITH & URBAN HEALTHCARE ROTATION is centered on the question, *what does Christ demand of His followers in the healthcare professions?*

Medicine is undergoing a number of profound changes. Advancements in scientific research and technological innovation have allowed us to intervene where we could not intervene before. Computer screens, EMR forms, tablets, on-site imaging tests, and various other technological interventions dominate experiences in the exam room. Curiously, despite greater possibilities, deep dissatisfaction abounds for both providers and patients. Many physicians, when asked, say they would not venture into medicine again. Patients are equally dissatisfied with their forays into a highly specialized and fragmented healthcare system that largely sees them less as human beings and more as embodiments of medical cases, subject to study and “solutions.” Healthcare providers face increasing demands for productivity and quality care performance measures. These trends spell collateral damage for primary care. Riddled with debt, and with little exposure to primary care, fewer students will enter the ranks to provide frontline services for populations with the greatest need. All in all, there is little healing in modern medicine.

This is the landscape in which the Church must stand witness.

In the Gospels, Christ emerges as the ultimate healer. He teaches us that physical healing is only a part of a larger restoration of a patient to self, community, and Kingdom. He challenges us to direct our attention and compassion to the sickest and the poorest, reminding His believers that “whatever you have done for the least of these, you have done for me.” Christ subverts and overturns all of our idols in modern medicine and bids us upstream toward perhaps an impossible calling.

Lawndale Christian Health Center invites students in the health professions to explore life and work in this calling. **THE FAITH AND URBAN HEALTHCARE ROTATION PROGRAM** will give students a space to explore what that calling might look like for themselves, providing them both with clinical experience and a theological curriculum that will help them develop as Christian healthcare providers. The students will also have opportunities to discuss salient questions and issues with members of the Senior Leadership, who are invested in nurturing future Christian leaders in primary care for the undeserved.

We do not know all of the answers, nor have we fully imagined what Jesus’ ministry in a modern healthcare center might look like. And in that sense, the purpose for this program is not primarily pedagogical. Rather, we hope the rotation sparks in the students questions about their profession and calling, and connects them to a larger community within medicine that can accompany them on that journey.

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**Dear prospective applicant,**

**Dr. Ryan Fabrizius**  
Internal Medicine & Pediatrics  
Director of Student and Resident Rotations
The number of weeks is somewhat flexible according to the applicant’s needs.

Overview

40 HOURS A WEEK

2–6 WEEKS*

ONE-TO-ONE CLINICAL PRECEPTING WITH LCHC PROVIDERS

READINGS & DISCUSSIONS FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

* The number of weeks is somewhat flexible according to the applicant’s needs.
Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC)
is a community-based nonprofit organization founded
in 1984 and dedicated to improving the health of
Chicago’s Lawndale, Garfield Park and Archer Heights
communities. LCHC provides quality primary care
services without regard for a patient’s ability to pay
and serves as a community resource for eliminating
health disparities.

LCHC is one of several ministries of Lawndale
Community Church. The focus of the health center
is to address the spiritual, social, physical and
emotional components of health and well-being.

Approximately 51% of LCHC’s patients have
Medicaid coverage and another 32% have no medical
insurance coverage at all. 57% of our patients are
latino and 39% are black.

LCHC is a federally qualified health center (FQHC).
LCHC provides patient care at 5 sites (Ogden Ave.,
Homan Square, Farragut Academy, Archer Heights,
Breakthrough) with each site serving a slightly
different patient population.

Our Ogden campus is home to 5 clinical Care Teams,
an Immediate Care Clinic, an Eye Clinic, a Dental
Clinic, a Fitness Center, a Café and a Senior Center.

In FY 2019 LCHC provided 214,020 medical visits to a
total of 62,533 patients.
LCHC strongly prefers students and residents who apply for an elective rotation as opposed to a core clerkship and requires that participants have at least 3 months of outpatient clinic experience prior to a LCHC rotation. LCHC also strongly prefers that participants have an interest in rotating at a faith-based, Christian health center and requires an interest in working among underserved patient populations.

Students from both physician (MD, DO) & mid-level (PA, NP) programs are welcome at LCHC

**Rotation Description**

Students will work directly with Lawndale providers in clinic, seeing patients with chronic conditions, acute illnesses and for general physical exams. All patients will be seen and discussed with the attending physician. Approximately 25 hours per week will be spent in patient care, primarily in primary care clinics. Home visits may also be integrated into the student’s rotation schedule.

Approximately 20 hours per week, students will engage in small group discussions with LCHC providers and members of Senior Leadership. Discussions will revolve around relevant topics and readings in Scripture and Christian theology. Topics in the core curriculum include definition of health, purpose of medicine, impact of poverty, contraceptives & abortion, and disability, in addition to elective sessions.
Examples of Reading

HOLY BIBLE
(Selections)

Wendell Berry
Life is a Miracle (Selections), “Body and the Earth,” “Fidelity,” “God, Science, and Imagination,” “Health is Membership”

Jeffrey Bishop
The Anticipatory Corpse: Medicine, Power, and the Care of the Dying (Selections)

David Caes
Upholding the Vision: Serving the Poor in Training and Beyond, 2nd ed. (Selections)

Mary Eberstadt
“Vindication of Humanae Vitae”

Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert
When Helping Hurts (Selections)

Thomas Hale
Don’t Let the Goats Eat the Loquat Trees

Stanley Hauerwas
Living Gently in a Violent World (Selections) “Abortion, Theologically Understood,” “Salvation and Health: Why Medicine Needs the Church”

Peter Kreeft
Making Sense of Suffering (Selections)

C. S. Lewis
“Meditations in a Tool Shed,” “The Weight of Glory”

Margaret Mohrmann, MD
Medicine as Ministry (Selections)

Mother Theresa
“Mother Theresa Goes to Washington”

Henri Nouwen
In the Name of Jesus (Selections), Wounded Healer (Selections)

John Perkins
Let Justice Roll Down (Selections)

Thomas E. Reynolds
Vulnerable Communion: A

Joel Shuman & Brian Volck, MD
Reclaiming the Body (Selections)

Allen Verhey
Reading the Bible in the Strange World of Medicine (Selections)
There is limited space available for housing for rotating students. Students who express interest at the time of their application may be eligible for an LCHC host. A number of LCHC staff members (both providers and non-providers) live in the neighborhoods of North and South Lawndale, and may be able to accommodate rotating students.

Availability of hosts varies, and students are not guaranteed a host. Students should not rely on getting an LCHC host, and are responsible for finding alternate housing options in the area.
How to Apply

For information about applying:
www.lawndale.org/clinical-rotations

For inquiries:
ClinicalRotations@lawndale.org

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872.588.3000
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