

# Message from the director

I want to thank you for your interest in our Family Medicine residency at Samaritan Health Services. I wanted to take the opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself and our approach to residency education.

I was able to attend medical school, residency, graduate school and two faculty development fellowships as part of my time in the Army. During that time, I had many leadership opportunities that allowed me to shape medical systems to improve patient care, create an environment more conducive to learning and increase compliance with accreditation standards. In my last year as a program director in the Army, we received a commendation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for having no “citations or areas of concern.” While this validated to the hospital that we had a “good” program, the more rewarding outcome was watching the residents develop into physicians who took excellent care of patients and were actively sought by future employers.

One of the most important things to understand about me is that I am a family physician. I viscerally believe that family physicians provide better care to their patients than any other specialty. We strive to understand our patients, their fears, concerns, challenges and their personal and societal barriers to good health. We partner with them, as individuals, to help them achieve the best health possible. For a physician to be able to do this, we need clinicians that can synthesize complex medical information in a way that patients can understand and leaders that can leverage the assets of a diverse healthcare team.

I approach medical education in the same way that I approach caring for patients. After being in medical education for almost 25 years, I recognize that the process to become an outstanding family physician is difficult and that there will be challenges along the way. My job, as the program director, is to partner with you to ensure that you have the patient care experiences, medical knowledge, and support necessary to serve your panel of patients.

I look forward to working with you and encourage you to contact me if you have any questions about my vision for the residency, approach to education, or leadership philosophy. I hope that you find Samaritan Family Medicine as the right residency program for you.

-John A. Edwards, MD, MPH, FAAF