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The
Newsletter

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

IF SOCIETY WILL NOT ADMIT OF
WOMEN'S FREE DEVELOPMENT, THEN
SOCIETY MUST BE REMODELED.

-ELIZABETH BLACKWELL

Dear Robert Graham Center Family and Friends,

As we enter Women in Medicine month, I felt it was only fitting to begin with wise words from Elizabeth Blackwell. I bet she never thought that a statement that resonated with society in the 1800's would also hold so much meaning in the year 2024. I hope you all take some time in the month of September to honor the women physicians in your lives who have made such a tremendous impact on advancing healthcare for all. For our part, the RGC team will continue to investigate important topics impacting women in family medicine to help move conversations forward on how we can best support this workforce. [Sustaining Women in Medicine \(graham-center.org\)](https://www.graham-center.org)

This summer has been a flurry of activity for the Robert Graham Center team. We welcomed 8 scholars over the summer who worked on topics ranging from using the Social Deprivation Index to re-evaluate primary care shortage areas in the state of North Carolina to understanding the provision of primary care to transgender populations based on restrictiveness of state laws. We also welcomed our new Robert L Phillips fellow, Diana Rubio to the team. Diana is already hard at work with the team on a project examining how the addition of program signaling to family medicine residency applications this year impacted the process for residencies and medical students. As always, welcoming a new fellow is bittersweet because it means saying goodbye to our last fellow, Crystal Pristell. Crystal had an amazingly productive year with

multiple presentations and publications ranging from topics such as the [contribution of osteopathic medical schools to family medicine residencies](#) to [primary care's role in dealing with climate change](#) with many more in the publication cycle.

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Dartmouth to learn more about the Department of Family Medicine and participate in the inaugural Northern New England Systems Transformation Primary Care (NNEST-PC) Grand Rounds. Beth Wilson, a former RGC scholar among her many accomplishments, and her colleagues from the Department of Community and Family Medicine and the Dartmouth Institute are leading impressive initiatives that contribute to the evidence base supporting primary care. I was honored to spend a few days with them, learning and sharing the work of the RGC.

Meanwhile, back home, our HealthLandscape team, led by Mark Carrozza, successfully completed a significant project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This project focused on visualizing the impact of structural racism on health. Mark and his team examined how structural racism affects pathways to medicine and identified regions in the United States that traditionally produce fewer physicians. This valuable work is now being shared with community partners nationwide to help target areas for programs aimed at diversifying the medical field.

The next few months will be spent working on year 3 of the Primary Care Scorecard in conjunction with the Milbank Memorial Fund and the annual Primary Care Evidence Report in conjunction with the Primary Care Collaborative. And, of course, we will be preparing for NAPCRG! If you will also be at NAPCRG, please make sure to join us for our 25th Anniversary Celebration and Reception in Quebec City.

Yalda Jabbarpour, MD

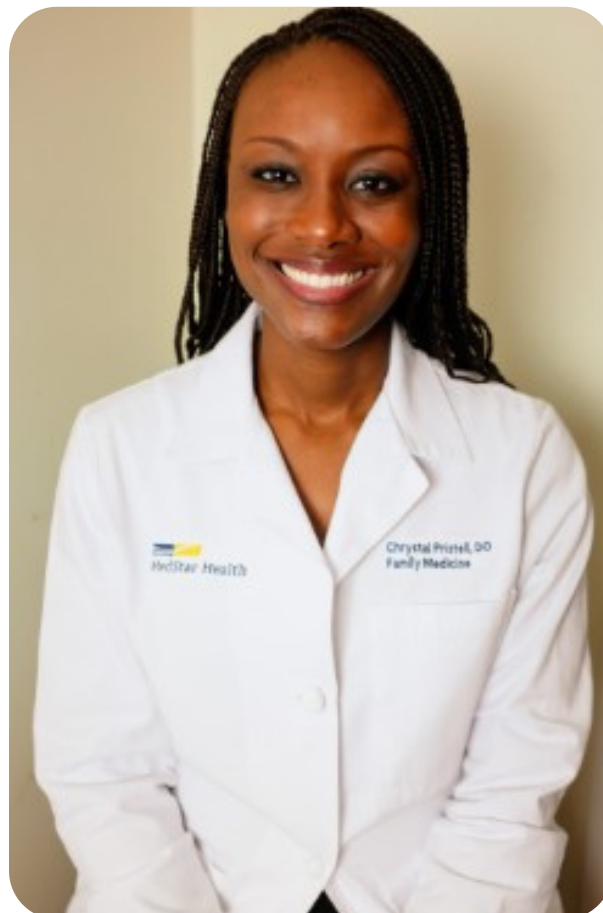
FAREWELLS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

I've had an amazing year in my fellowship program! My main research project focused on understanding the impact of climate change on the primary care workforce. Additionally, I explored further into understanding the gender pay gap in primary care and the effects of timely access to pain medication in the health center program. I had the opportunity to attend and present at numerous conferences, which broadened my understanding of primary care research and health policy.

This fellowship has highlighted the significance of mentorship and exposure in shaping a successful career. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the staff at the Robert Graham Center, Health Resources Services Association, and American Board of Family Medicine for their collaboration on projects and invaluable teachings. Special thanks to Yalda Jabbarpour, Alison Huffstetler, Bob Phillips, Andrew Bazemore, Alek Sripipatana, and Hank Hoang for their continuous mentorship, guidance, and advice.

Looking ahead, I will be fulfilling my service commitment as a National Health Service Corps Scholar at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Virginia. I'm excited about the prospect of continuing to collaborate with the Robert Graham Center. I feel incredibly blessed for the opportunity to learn from field experts, and I am confident that I can utilize this knowledge to enhance the care experience of underserved patients.

Chrystal Pristell, DO MS
Fellow 2023-2024



THE VISITING SCHOLARS & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS CORNER

About the Visiting Scholars Program

The Robert Graham Center hosts a month-long visiting scholars program in health policy. This program is supported by a generous grant from the Pisacano Leadership Foundation, the philanthropic foundation of the American Board of Family Medicine. Visiting scholars work directly with staff on original research projects developed by the scholar on a topic of interest to them with the goal of a national publication and dissemination.

About the Fellowship Program

The Robert Graham Center in collaboration with Georgetown University co-sponsor a one-year fellowship in health policy and faculty development. Fellows work with Graham Center staff to address primary care health policy questions of interest. At the end of the year, fellows have completed a project of their choosing with dissemination on the national level.

FELLOW 2024-2025 FEATURE



Diana Rubio, MD

Diana Rubio, MD, is a Maryland native, coffee enthusiast, and brunch lover. She earned her undergraduate degree from UCLA (Go Bruins!) and her medical degree from the University of Minnesota prior to returning home to continue her medical education at MedStar Health/Georgetown-Washington Hospital Center Family Medicine Residency Program.

Diana, a first-generation American from a low-income Latinx family, has experienced firsthand the challenges of navigating healthcare disparities. Her family's struggles mirrored those of her patients, fueling her commitment to addressing structural inequities. This drive led her to pursue the Robert L. Phillips Jr. Health Policy Fellowship. As an incoming fellow, Diana aims to refine her data analysis skills, engage in health policy research, and develop mentorship relationships. She is eager to enhance her research focus and contribute to impactful solutions for historically disadvantaged communities.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Celebrating 25 Years of High-Quality Family Medicine and Primary Care Policy Research](#)

[The Gender Wage Gap Among Early-Career Family Physicians](#)

[Relationship Between Primary Care Physician Capacity and Usual Source of Care](#)

[Measuring Primary Care Spending in the US by State](#)

[AHRQ - Technical Brief No. 44: Measuring Primary Healthcare Spending](#)

[Ready or Not: Primary Care Must Prepare for Climate Change](#)

[Family physicians provide maternity care in and around the maternity care shortage areas, particularly rural](#)

AUGUST RECAP: RGC In the News

- [The Robert Graham Center at 25: Breaking Ground and Making a Difference](#)
- [Faisel and Friends: A Primary Care Podcast -- Episode 150: Primary Care, Healthcare Workforce, Care Teams, Payment Models](#)
- [KFF Health News -- The Concierge Catch: Better Access for a Few Patients Disrupts Care for Many](#)
- [PrimaryCare24: What Happens if Primary Care Disappears? Building the Primary Care Workforce the Country Needs & Deserves](#)
- [AAFP's FFFM Podcast I Strengthening the Primary Care Workforce](#)
- [The Washington Post -- Like doctors, more nurse practitioners are heading into specialty care](#)



UPCOMING STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Women in Medicine Summit -- September 13 – 14, 2024

- Regional Variation of The Gender Wage Gap in Family Medicine (poster)

2024 FMEC Annual Meeting -- September 19 – 21, 2024

- Regional Variation of The Gender Wage Gap in Family Medicine (poster)

NAPCRG 2024 Annual Meeting -- November 20-24, 2024

• Oral Presentations

- Where are counties with consistently low rates of primary care physician capacity and high percentages of Black populations?
- Community-Based Training and Impact on Care of Disadvantaged Population
- Pathways to Primary Care – Charting trajectories from medical school graduation through specialty training
- Factors Associated with Documenting Social Determinants of Health in Electronic Health Records by Family Physicians
- Good Clinician Communication Improves Continuity of Care for U.S.-Born Latino Patients but Not for Immigrant Latino Patients

• Posters - Completed

- Are Community-Based Residency Programs Located in High-Need Areas?
- Exploring Primary Care Capacity & Other Factors associated with Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment in the State of Ohio
- Evolution of LARC Provision by Family Physicians

• Posters - In Progress Research

- Structural Racism, Early Career Pathways, and Physician Workforce Production
- Attitudes About Family Medicine's First Year of Program Signals and Other New ERAS® Features – Preliminary Results

• RGC-Partner Presentations, Posters, and Workshops

- "Women do a lot of unpaid work": A Qualitative Exploration of Early Career Women Family Physicians' Perceptions of Leadership
- Assessment of Project ECHO® Opioid Use Disorder Sessions for Primary Care Teams
- Primary Care's Most Pressing Needs to Address Opioid Use Disorder

CONTINUED

[NAPCRG 2024 Annual Meeting -- November 20-24, 2024](#)

• **RGC-Partner Presentations, Posters, and Workshops continued**

- [Evaluation of Project ECHO® Sessions on Wellbeing and Burnout for Family Medicine Residents](#)
- [Assessment of Characteristics of Burnout and Wellbeing Program Participants](#)
- [Measuring Primary Care Spending in the United States \(US\)](#)
- [Approaches & Innovations in Primary Care Workforce Assessment to Advance Health Policy and Planning: a Critical Challenge](#)
- [Using the focused Rapid Assessment Process to solve public health problems: a mixed method of GIS and qualitative inquiry](#)
- Subtle Sabotage: Exploring Experiences of Microaggression among Female Family Physicians
- Characterizing the prevalence of diagnosis codes associated with perimenopause and menopause in EHR data



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