

# READY FOR Residency

## EVMS MD GRADUATES ARE WELL PREPARED FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THEIR EDUCATION

Jason Coben, MD (MD '13), had to leave campus to appreciate the value of his EVMS education.

As a senior medical student, he worked alongside newly graduated physicians — also known as interns — at a series of schools he was considering for his residency training. His clinical skills set him apart from the crowd.

“Several faculty at other institutions remarked I was out-performing their interns,” says Dr. Coben, now a family medicine intern himself at Spartanburg Regional Health System in South Carolina. He has received similar compliments in his current role.

Ron Flenner, MD (MD '89), the James E. Etheridge Jr. Distinguished Professor, is used to hearing about the quality of EVMS graduates in his capacity as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs.

“To receive a phone call from a program director bragging about our students or asking if I have any more students like them is the highest compliment I can receive,” Dr. Flenner says.

Residency directors are reluctant to publicly praise graduates from schools other than their own. But that doesn't stop them from privately admiring EVMS students. One residency director wrote to Dr. Flenner: “The EVMS students I have seen have been spectacular!”

EVMS graduates train in residency programs all over the

*EVMS graduates are team players experienced in working with a variety of health professionals and trained in a culture of community service. Their patient care is guided by their hearts as well as their heads.*

*Only perfect practice makes perfect. EVMS students master critical skills through the use of cutting-edge ModSim technology and frequent simulated clinical interactions in our renowned standardized-patient program.*

“I was inspired by my faculty, and through my rotations, I found mentors in medicine with whom I still interact.”

— Winston Gwathmey, MD

of Medicine, Mike Silverman, MD (MD '94), initially was apprehensive about his abilities.

“But almost immediately I realized that my clinical skills were as good, if not better, than most people there,” says Dr. Silverman, now Chair of Emergency Medicine at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington. “EVMS gave me the foundation necessary to be a successful resident in a competitive program.”

Unlike most medical schools, EVMS does not own a hospital. That has become an advantage for EVMS students who train in a variety of hospitals and outpatient clinics. In the process, they gain experience with diverse patient populations, hone their skills in the use of electronic health records and become adept at transitions of care — that potentially error-prone time when patients are handed off from one caregiver to another.

Frank Counselman, MD (MD '83), EVMS Foundation Distinguished Professor in Emergency Medicine and Chair of Emergency Medicine, has worked with graduates from many of the nation's best schools during nearly 30 years training residents.

“EVMS students are better prepared for residency training than most I have worked with,” he says, adding that the critical difference is in EVMS graduates' depth of clinical experience. They have seen a wide range of disease processes and levels of severity and have more hands-on procedural experience than students from many other schools.

“Many medical schools only have one, maybe two hospitals for their students to rotate in during the third and fourth years,” Dr. Counselman says. “This can result in



Janus Patel

Kristin Neatrou

*EVMS graduates step into residency programs as valued members of the medical team. That means they spend less time on fundamentals and more time focused on acquiring specialized medical knowledge.*



*EVMS students benefit from early and extensive patient interaction. They begin their clinical experience in the first week of their first year and become high-functioning team members by their third year.*

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**— Ronald Flenner, MD**

*With ultrasound integrated in their curriculum from the first year, EVMS graduates know the principles and applications of ultrasound imaging inside out.*

multiple students following the same patient and diluting the experience.”

EVMS also is distinguished from its peers by the collaborative, supportive learning environment the school has nurtured since its earliest days.

“I was inspired by my faculty, and through my rotations, I found mentors in medicine with whom I still interact,” says Winston Gwathmey, MD (MD ’07), who went on to complete a fellowship in orthopedic sports medicine at Harvard Medical School. He’s now an Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and an athletic-team physician at UVa and James Madison University.

“I attribute all of the successes that I’ve had thus far in my pursuit of a career in orthopedic surgery to EVMS,” he says. “The curriculum cultivated my enthusiasm for medicine and established the foundation upon which I have built my career.”

A key experience for John Levine, MD (MD ’89), was an opportunity to participate in a cancer research project, an experience he credits with helping launch his career.

“I felt that the faculty and administration were interested in seeing me achieve my goals as a person,” says Dr. Levine, now Director of Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation at the University of Michigan. “I never felt that I didn’t have someone to turn to for help or advice.”

Hanna Gaggin, MD, MPH (MD ’03), is a cardiologist, educator and clinical research scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital and an

Instructor at Harvard Medical School. She traces her research interests to time spent with EVMS faculty mentors.

“A lot of people here are Harvard bred,” Dr. Gaggin says. “But I have been able to accomplish things that they couldn’t because I think outside of the box. I learned that kind of autonomy and creativity from EVMS. That’s where things started for me.”

EVMS has been the starting point for more than 3,300 medical careers so far.

“I have the advantage of being here every day, and I see the great things that happen,” Dr. Flenner says. “I see the talent of the students. I see their altruism. I see their academic superiority. I see their tremendous clinical performance. They do great work, not only here but when they graduate. They represent EVMS in an exemplary manner at some of the most competitive programs in the country.” □

Brian Holloway

Jasmine Finch

Bonny Lee