



## NEWS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 6, 2010

**CONTACT:**

Elizabeth T. Pedersen  
773-292-5943 or [epedersen@nahospital.org](mailto:epedersen@nahospital.org)  
Jaclyn Sharratt-Smith  
312-432-7414 or [jsmith@eriefamilyhealth.org](mailto:jsmith@eriefamilyhealth.org)

**Norwegian and Erie Welcome 8 New Family Medicine Residents in partnership with the  
Northwestern McGaw Center for Graduate Medical Education and  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**  
*Residency Program first of its kind in Chicago and one of only a few in U.S.*

CHICAGO – Norwegian American Hospital is proud to announce its participation, along with Erie Family Health Center and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, in a new family medicine residency program sponsored by the Northwestern McGaw Center for Graduate Medical Education. Significant startup funding for the program is being provided by Northwestern Memorial Hospital. This unique collaboration is the first of its kind in the Chicago metro area and one of only a few in the United States.

Drawing on the abundant strengths of each institution, the residency program focuses on preparing the next generation of primary care physicians to serve in an urban, safety-net health care setting. This new program was created to address the changing needs of health care in this nation as exemplified by the current national attention to the shortage of primary care physicians and access to care.

“The residency was enormously successful in its first recruitment year and was able to fill all eight slots with highly qualified and competitive students,” said Deborah Edberg, M.D., Residency Program Director. “All are graduating with excellent academic records and all have demonstrated strong commitment to underserved care.”

Norwegian American Hospital and Erie Humboldt Park Health Center will serve as the core training sites for the program. Residents will do their primary hospital rotations at Norwegian, as well as specialty rotations at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Children’s Memorial Hospital. It is anticipated that there will be a total of 24 residents by year three of the program. Norwegian and Erie family practice providers will provide clinical supervision for the residents during their training. The program gives residents the opportunity to train in an outpatient setting at Erie with the academic support from Feinberg School of Medicine.

“The collaboration is a very powerful combination that creates an excellent learning environment,” said David Buchanan, M.D., Chief Medical Officer at Erie. “I am really proud because the reality is the country needs more primary care providers. If we want people to be experts in community care, which is what Erie does, ultimately, we should participate and train the next generation of providers.”

“The residency program has many profound impacts, especially for the members of Humboldt Park and our surrounding communities,” said Norwegian American Hospital Interim Administrator Myrna Pedersen. “This week the family medicine residents are seeing their first patients under the supervision of attending physicians at our hospital.”

There is a tremendous need for more primary care providers in our country – especially among those with little to no health insurance. This new residency program helps to fill this gap by training a new family practice workforce of highly skilled, culturally competent physicians.

For more information on the family medicine residency and to meet our new residents, please visit Norwegian American Hospital’s website at [www.nahospital.org](http://www.nahospital.org) or Erie Family Health Center’s website at [www.eriefamilyhealth.org](http://www.eriefamilyhealth.org).

###