Specialty Information: Family Medicine

**DMC:** Tuesday Sept 24, Mike Burry, DO, FM Program Director, Garden City Hospital  
**MUC:** Tuesday Sept 24, Jeremy Fischer, DO, FM Program Director, HFH-Macomb  
**EL:** Tuesday Oct 1, Dr. Georgeakopoulos, DO, FM Program Director

A family physician is concerned with the total health care of the individual and the family and is trained to diagnose and treat a wide variety of ailments in patients of all ages. The family physician is trained to care for children as well as adults, including the unique needs of women and the elderly, preventive medicine, and behavioral science. Special emphasis is placed on the primary care of families, utilizing consultants, and community resources when appropriate.¹

Family physicians can receive training in the following subspecialties:

- adolescent medicine, which requires multidisciplinary training in the unique physical, psychological, and social characteristics of adolescents and their health-care problems and needs.
- geriatric medicine, which requires knowledge of the aging process including the diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, and rehabilitative aspects of illness in the elderly.
- hospice and palliative medicine, which involves preventing and relieving the suffering experienced by patients with life-limiting illnesses.
- sleep medicine, which involves diagnosing and managing the clinical conditions that occur during sleep, disturb sleep, or are affected by disturbances.
- sports medicine, which involves training physicians to be responsible for continuous care related to the enhancement of health and fitness as well as the prevention of injury and illness.

**Training/Residency**

The residency training for family practice is three years. An additional year of training is required to be certified in a subspecialty.

AOA residency training opportunities are listed here: [http://opportunities.osteopathic.org/index.htm](http://opportunities.osteopathic.org/index.htm)

**Statewide Campus System (SCS)**

The (SCS) is made up of 46 training hospitals and 31 FQHCs in Michigan. There are 224 approved postdoctoral training programs representing 47 specialties throughout the state. Michigan currently has 249 Family Medicine residents training in 22 osteopathic FM programs (2013). More information about these programs can be found at: [http://scs.msu.edu](http://scs.msu.edu)

**Salary Information**

According to Salary.com the average annual salary for a Family Medicine Physician in Michigan ranges from approximately $128,000–$212,000+.²

More information about salaries in other locations and zip codes is searchable at: [http://www1.salary.com/Physician-Family-Practice-Salary.html](http://www1.salary.com/Physician-Family-Practice-Salary.html)

**For more information about the specialty**

- American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians ([www.acofp.org](http://www.acofp.org))
- American Board of Family Medicine ([www.theabfm.org](http://www.theabfm.org))
- American Academy of Family Physicians ([www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org))

**References**

2. Information link to a salary search performed on [www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com)
Sample Questions to Ask When Exploring A Career in Family Medicine

- How much time do you spend providing inpatient care vs. outpatient care?
- How much time do you spend doing chart documentation and other patient paperwork (insurance requests, prescription refills, etc.?)
- Which journals do you read regularly?
- Do you sub-specialize?
- Are you actively involved in research? How much time do you spend in research activities?
- What is a typical day like for you as a family physician?
- Do you practice OMT with your patients? If so, about what percentage of your patients do you practice OMT on? Is it more at the request of the patient, or your suggestion?
- Do you work in a rural or urban area? What are the pros & cons of practicing in this type of community?
- How has your job changed over the past 5 years?
- What are the most frequent types of cases you see on a daily basis?
- How often are you on-call?
- How many patients do you usually see in a day or a week?
- How many hours a week do you actually work? What are your feelings on work-life balance for a family physician?
- How do you feel about working with different age ranges? Do you have a preference?
- How much time do you spend providing diagnostic care vs. doing in-office procedures? What types of procedures do you perform most often?
- How much business knowledge do you use as a family physician?
- What kind of employment model do you work in (e.g. solo practice, group practice, private practice, hospital employed, etc.)? What do you consider to be the pros and cons of these models?
- How much professional liability insurance does a family physician need to carry? About how much does that cost annually?