

The *AdvancingPractice* Pages

Volume 2, Trimester 1



"Welcome Back"

Hello again! We are back with volume two of the *AdvancingPractice* Pages, the official Newsletter of Erie Family Health Centers APRN Fellowship, *AdvancingPractice*. We love finding a reason to share updates, changes, and happenings within our Fellowship. We are always so thankful for your engagement and support. Speaking of changes, our Fellowship this year is being broken down by trimesters rather than quarters, and we recently wrapped up the first trimester of our 2nd cohort in October. Much has happened since our last newsletter; much has happened even within the past few weeks! So, let's jump in.

"Adjusting As We Go"



Evelyn Cortes, AGNP Fellow and Stephanie Mora Hernandez, AGNP Fellow
during Nexplanon Training

The second cohort of *AdvancingPractice* started their Fellowship year on July 5th, 2021. Though still mostly virtual, we were able to add more in-person experiences during their five-week

Orientation. One of the activities added was time in Simulation Lab, graciously provided to us by our academic partners, University of Illinois Chicago. These Simulation Lab days were highly successful. The Fellows appreciated having hands-on experience before stepping into clinic, and it helped the faculty understand where the Fellows were at baseline with specific clinical scenarios. The Fellows also volunteered at a local community farm in Englewood, "Sistas in the Village". This was a humbling, and great bonding experience for the Fellows. We were also able to squeeze in a happy hour, which allowed the Fellows and Faculty to all meet in person. This cohort has built a sense of community early in the fellowship, aided by the lifted safety precautions this summer, and orientation provided a comfortable segway into clinic.

The Fellows started seeing patients on August 10th at their individual homesites, which again are held at Erie Division St, Erie Foster Ave, Erie Helping Hands and Erie West town. Some newer preceptors also started with us this year who have been great additions to the team! See the blurb from one of our newest Continuity Preceptors, Mary Kate Osborne, FNP.

It was an adjustment for some of our seasoned preceptors to work with a newer, younger group of Fellows in that it was difficult to revert back to a more "hands-on" style after the last quarter with the previous cohort, who at that time were very comfortable and didn't need much teaching intervention. The impact of the pandemic decreased in person clinic training during the fellows' graduate programs. Fortunately, the Fellowship has answered this need. At this point, all the Fellows are ramped up to 30-minute visits and are more comfortable in clinic. They are now navigating wavering confidence as well as figuring out how to manage time and work in their new careers.

Another adjustment felt by the faculty this year is how we create and distribute didactics. This is not surprising; everyone of course has different learning styles and experiences. The faculty strives to respond to the changing needs of the Fellowship and has found their niche with the cohort and are even trialing some new didactic content, such as diagnostic series that will essentially be a deep dive into addressing common symptoms such as abdominal pain and chest pain.

"Supporting NP Fellows as they transition to practice has been a rewarding experience, not only because I love to teach, but also because working with them makes me a more knowledgeable practitioner. They challenge me as I challenge them!"

*Mary Kate Osborne, FNP,
Continuity Clinic Preceptor*



Left to Right: Yesenia Ceja, PNP Fellow, Ana Saavedra, PNP Fellow, Mary Kate Osborne, FNP and Continuity Clinic Preceptor, Ana Perez, FNP at Erie and Former Fellow

We are so proud of our current Fellows. It is so rewarding to watch individuals overcome their struggles, clinically and mentally. We continue to provide multiple facets of support when needed and all 9 Fellows are currently on track to complete the program. During Trimester 2, we have already seen our Fellows gain more experience in specialty areas within primary care. We anticipate they will continue to find their confidence and hone in on their own personal way of delivering quality care.

The Last Page

Before we go, there have been some exciting updates within the Fellowship. First off, we are pleased to welcome the newest member of our team, Sarah Fitz, who is an ACNP and Clinical Assistant Professor at UIC-CON. Sarah will help support the didactic team by

developing and presenting content as well as providing an academic perspective to other aspects of our program.

We were able to hold the first “in-person” mixer with other local APRN residencies, specifically Esperanza Medical Centers APRN Residency and the Rush/Howard Brown/Heartland Health Centers APRN Residency. Fellows/Residents from all three programs were able to network and chat about their experiences so far and their goals for the future. This event helped build a sense of community for our local APRNs in Chicago and we hope to keep it a yearly tradition!

Most exciting of all, AdvancingPractice has recently received a generous donation from the Arnold Family Foundation to provide additional support to our Fellows in areas of Pediatrics and Reproductive Health. This donation greatly contributes to the growth of the Fellows as well as improving health equity. We are so grateful to the Arnold Family Foundation for believing in us and our mission. If you wish to donate to help further our mission of cultivating quality care, click the button below!

Enjoying our Newsletters? What else do you want to know about the Fellowship? Let us know what you think by emailing us at AdvancingPractice@eriefamilyhealth.org

THANKS FOR READING!

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to Improve the Health of Communities



Meet the Faculty



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