

Residents' Roll Call

Quarterly Program Newsletter



Winter 2026

Residency Training Underway...

It's hard to believe that the first class of the CNCH Residency Program is more than halfway through their intern year. These Resident Physicians are gaining experience and hands on knowledge from their rotations – especially at Centinela Hospital Medical Center. Also, from their weekly clinics on Tuesday afternoons at the Central Clinic and the biweekly afternoon seminars. The Residents are dedicated, energetic and have shown caring interaction with our patients. They are fast on the way to becoming well-trained family physicians.

We now have both Dr. Bhagya Arise and Dr. Ronald Harmon at the Central Clinic precepting the Residents – along with Dr. Asher and myself. Additionally, new Program Coordinator Justine Almanza started just in time for our Fall/Winter interview season – which is now finalizing. (Please pray that the right candidates will match our program for next year's class, starting July 2026.)

I am grateful for each of the Residents – as well as the staff and patients at the Central Clinic. I am also grateful for our leadership and administration – the backbone from the genesis of this project. We still have important tasks ahead of us, but I am heartened by the commitment of everyone that has allowed the Residency Program to come to fruition and be established at CNCHC. In the end, the Residency Program strives to anchor the Mission that unites us all – providing quality care that addresses the needs of not only the body, but also the spirit.



Isaac Kim, MD
Program Director



The Launch of the Central Neighborhood Christian Health Clinics Family Medicine Residency Program Marks a Milestone Many Years in the Making.

I am filled with profound optimism for what 2026 will hold and deep gratitude for the journey that brought us here.

Nonetheless, the path to this moment has been challenging. Building a Residency Program requires more than infrastructure and curriculum — it demands unwavering commitment to a vision. We faced regulatory hurdles, resource constraints, and skepticism about whether a faith based Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) could successfully train physicians. The obstacles only strengthened our resolve.

Why did we persevere?

Our patients deserve physicians who truly see them.

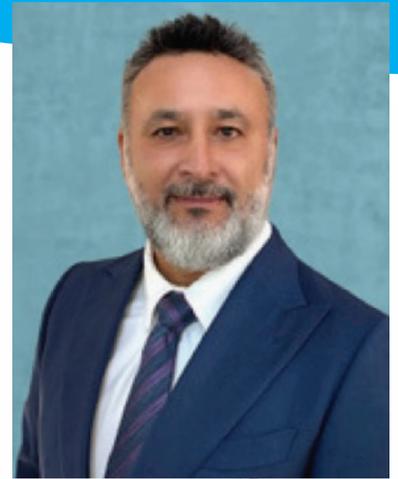
As a FQHC, we serve communities often overlooked — the marginalized, those facing poverty, addiction, and chronic disease. These vulnerable populations need more than prescriptions; they need healers who understand that wellness encompasses body, mind, and spirit.

Our program exists to train a new generation of family physicians in whole-person care. We're teaching our Residents and staff to integrate faith as a therapeutic tool when appropriate, to address social determinants of health with the same rigor as clinical diagnoses. We recognize the divine dignity in every patient who walks through our doors.

To our Residents:

You've chosen a path of service over prestige, complexity over convenience. You'll learn about medicine where it matters most and makes the most impact — in underserved communities hungry for equal access to compassionate, quality healthcare.

Together we're not just training physicians. We're cultivating healers who will transform how medicine serves vulnerable populations, as well as addressing a critical shortage of Family Medicine physicians. We're proud of what we've accomplished thus far and grateful for the blessings that continue to manifest as the vision unfolds!



*Roberto Madrid, MD
Designated Institutional Official*



*Justine Almanza
Program Coordinator*

Meet the CNCH Family Medicine Program Staff, Faculty and the Inaugural Residents

Our Faculty



*David T. Asher, MD
Family Medicine/
Addiction Medicine*



*Bhagya Arise, MD
Internal Medicine*



*Dr. Kevin Daneshgar MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology*



*Mehry Gharib, MD
Pediatrics*



*Ronald Harmon, MD
Family Medicine*



*Gaurav Mishra, MD
Psychiatry*

Our Residents



Obiageli N. Chidi, MD



Lucien Iragi, MD



Karen S. Rodrigues, MD



Hiranya S., MD

Each quarter we will feature a Resident and they will introduce themselves beyond the white coat.

Obiageli N. Chidi, MD

I am a first year Resident in the inaugural Family Medicine Residency Program which commenced in June 2025 at Central Neighborhood Christian Health Clinics. My experience has largely been transformative, offering invaluable opportunities for personal and professional growth. Providing compassionate care while building strong relationships and trust with the patients that I encounter has been a rewarding aspect of my training.

My cultural national background is Nigerian from the Igbo tribe. They are known to be very hardworking and industrious people. Nigerian parents have the expectation that their children will be educated and become a professional like a doctor, lawyer, accountant or engineer.

As the first daughter who showed academic prowess in the sciences, I was nudged towards the medical field. My Mum was a Registered Nurse and a Certified Midwife who worked as a surgical nurse and a labor and delivery nurse. She always had interesting stories to tell of the various surgeries in which she assisted. That ignited my interest in medicine from a young age.

Additionally, my passion to provide compassionate healthcare is rooted in my childhood experiences with my Uncle Godwin, my mom's older brother. He was a Family Medicine doctor and our family physician. He was very gentle, kind and compassionate when dealing with us, which allayed our fears of going to the doctor. I aspired to be just like him when I grew up. I am often reminded of the way my uncle made me feel at his clinic and I strive to pay that forward when interacting with my patients. How they feel when leaving the clinic will be remembered longer than the medical jargon that is explained.

Though I am grateful for this opportunity, Residency can be challenging — particularly as a wife and mother



of four children. I try to create work/life balance by dedicating time over the weekends (when I'm not on an inpatient rotation), to do activities with my family. Fortunately, my husband is very supportive, and the children understand that Mummy is very busy, so they often pick up the slack.

Listening to music and attending musical concerts are activities that relax me and help relieve stress. I enjoy Christian music which both edifies my spirit and calms my soul. I also love to play tennis, which I started doing in high school. I play with a group of ladies a couple of times a week. I also play competitive team tennis, and my team was victorious at the 2024 Pacific Coast Championships Tennis and Pickleball festival in Long Beach. I enjoyed watching the recently concluded Australian Opens Championships.

During the COVID-19 pandemic when most of the world was on lockdown, contact sports were cancelled. Therefore, my youngest son who was active in soccer couldn't play. I decided to enroll him in tennis lessons, since it is an individual sport and wasn't cancelled. As a result, he is an avid tennis player and unfortunately, he easily beats me now!

Again, I am grateful for this wonderful, life-enhancing opportunity to complete my Family Medicine Residency at CNCHC. The staff is so supportive and providing access to care for underserved communities means a lot to me. Thank you to the administrative team, the program staff and all who helped make this program possible!

The Residents have participated in health fairs, spent time together at community events and attended the holiday luncheon.



They also joined the Voices of Healing Choir spearheaded by Dr. Orduna.