

ACADEMIC INSIDER



DHRHealth

Graduate Medical
Education

INSIDE:

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- FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
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- RESOURCES



DHRHealth

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF



Jessica Martin, MD, MHA

**Senior Vice President of Medical Education
Designated Institutional Official**

**Congratulations to Our New
Fellowship Programs!**



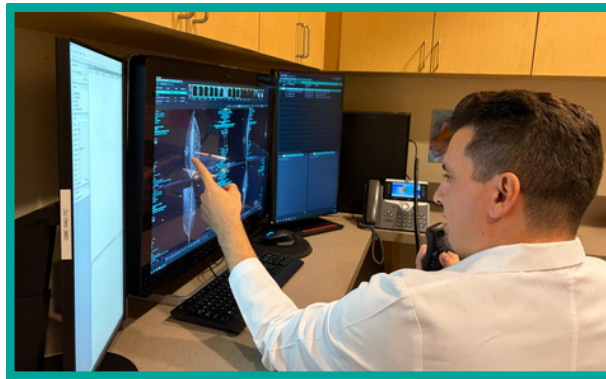
An exciting milestone that reflects our continued commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and advanced clinical training.

These programs represent a significant step forward in expanding educational opportunities and strengthening our institution's impact in **Graduate Medical Education**. For more details on each fellowship, program highlights, and what this means for our learners and faculty, take a look inside the Academic Insider!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY



The **DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY** residency program fostered a collaborative and supportive learning environment with strong faculty and resident engagement. Faculty members take an active role in preparing residents for the **Diagnostic Imaging In-Training (DXIT)** examination *by integrating teaching into daily clinical workflow, encouraging open discussion, and reinforcing key concepts in real time. This approachable and team-oriented culture promotes continuous learning, where residents feel comfortable asking questions and refining their knowledge.*

EMERGENCY MEDICINE



In January, our **EMERGENCY MEDICINE** residents kicked off the year with a fun wellness event at the Vipers game! Joined by our **Program Director, Dr. Dominici, and Associate Program Director, Dr. Akala, the team took a well-deserved break from the busy ER holiday season.** It was a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy a hometown game and explore what Edinburg has to offer while bonding outside the hospital.

Fast forward to this past weekend, our PGY-3 resident, Dr. Roa, graciously hosted a cookout at his home to celebrate the residents' completion of their In-Training Exam (ITE). After long hours of dedicated studying, this gathering was a perfect reward, residents brought their families and enjoyed delicious food while soaking in the relaxing ranch life atmosphere. It was a wonderful way to recognize their hard work and foster camaraderie within the program.

Both events highlight the importance of balance, community, and celebrating milestones together as a residency family!



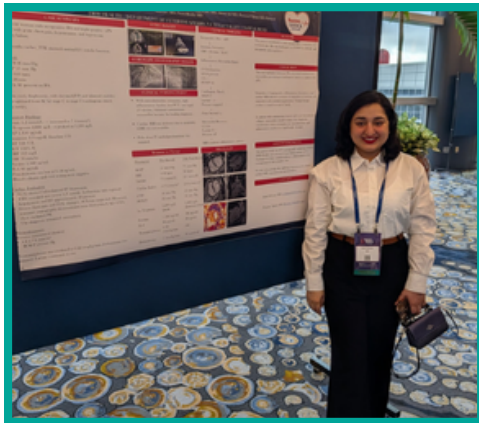
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

FAMILY MEDICINE



The **FAMILY MEDICINE** program is proud to congratulate **Dr. Brian Paul-Odionhin** for matching into the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship at Aurora Health Care in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We also celebrate **Dr. Jose Rincon Paz** for matching into Sports Medicine at Onvida Health in Arizona.



We are excited to share that Dr. Aisha Rehman was accepted to present at the **Houston Shock Symposium Conference** on **“Fulminant Rheumatoid-Arthritis-Associated Autoimmune Myocarditis Presenting as Cardiogenic Shock in a Patient With Antiphospholipid Syndrome and Recent Catastrophic Arterial Thrombosis.”**

Program Director, Dr. Naomi D'Acolatse was honored with the AAFP / Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) Program Director Recognition Award Bronze for her exceptional leadership and dedication to resident education.



We congratulate **Hannah Martinez** on completing the “Residency Administrative Development Workshop” certification through the AAFP / Association of Family Medicine Administration.

Finally, the program welcomes **Dr. Andrew Widener**, who has joined our team as Core Faculty.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

The **GENERAL SURGERY** Program is proud to congratulate our **PGY-5 resident, Victor Lopez,** and **PGY-4 resident, Dr. Mohammed Bohan,** for their outstanding representation of DHR at the **South Texas ACS Annual Meeting** this past February. Both participated in the Resident Jeopardy competition, showcasing their knowledge and skills.

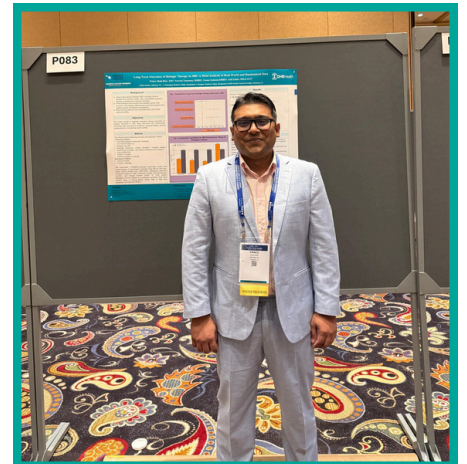
GENERAL SURGERY



Dr. Bohan presented a fascinating case on "Small Bowel Lymphangioma Causing Obscure Gastrointestinal Bleeding," while Dr. Lopez shared his expertise with a complex case titled "Recurrent Diaphragmatic Hernia Repair with Incarcerated Bowel Requiring Bowel Resection and Dorsalis Flap Reconstruction."

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and dedication!

INTERNAL MEDICINE



Celebrating **Prince Shahriar, MD, PGY-2 INTERNAL MEDICINE** resident, was recently awarded the **Texas ACP Leadership Day Scholarship** to participate in ACP Leadership Day in Washington, DC. *He also had seven research abstracts accepted for presentation at Digestive Disease Week (DDW) 2026 and presented three posters at the Crohn's & Colitis Congress 2026 in Las Vegas, focusing on inflammatory bowel disease research.*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Dr. Lucinda Hinojosa proudly represented the DHR Health **OB/GYN** Residency Program at the **District XI Junior Fellow Council** meeting on February 21 & 22, 2026. The **ACOG District XI** Junior Fellow Council meeting brings together early-career OB/GYN physicians and residents to shape the future of the specialty in Texas through leadership development, legislative advocacy, and networking. *Dr. Lucinda Hinojosa's involvement strengthens our residents' direct role in the legislative and clinical initiatives shaping the future of women's reproductive health in the state*



ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY



In January, our **ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY** residents enjoyed a well-deserved Wellness Day filled with both fun and education. The day kicked off with an exciting outing to Coyote Arms, where residents had the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of shooting in a supportive and team-oriented environment. This unique experience not only provided a refreshing break but also strengthened camaraderie among the team. **Orthopaedic Surgery residents also host resident forum at the end of January, where they presented on ACE wraps to fellow residents from various specialties within our institution.**

For the month of February, the learning continued with an insightful hands-on session led by our Associate Program Director, Dr. Rodriguez. Residents gained valuable practical experience working with distal radius volar plates and ulnar shortening osteotomy plates, key techniques in orthopedic surgery. As the remainder of the academic year progresses, residents plan to continue expanding their knowledge and strengthening collaboration within Orthopaedic Surgery.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

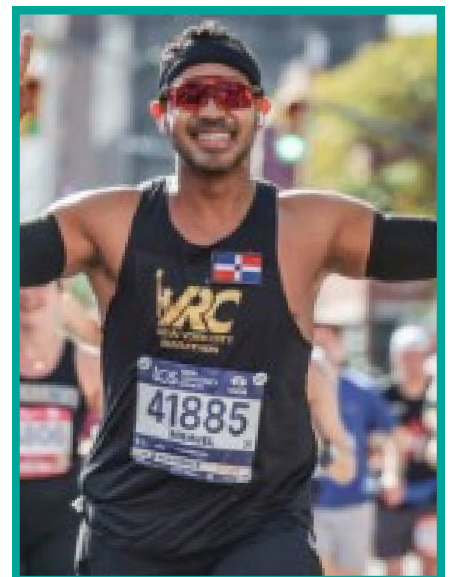
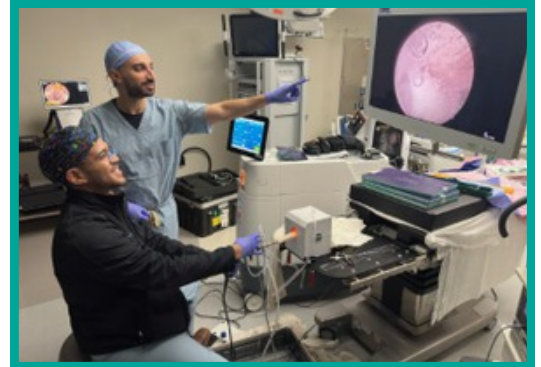
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

UROLOGY

The **UROLOGY** Residency Program had an outstanding third quarter this academic year, highlighted by multiple prestigious conferences where our residents, Dr. Manuel De Jesus and Dr. Bernardita Ljubetic, showcased their work. Conferences presented at include the **2025 SMSNA Conference in Grapevine, TX**, the **ASRM Conference in San Antonio, TX**, and the **SUFU 2026 Winter Meeting in Puerto Rico**. We are incredibly proud of their dedication to scholarly excellence and their commitment to advancing urologic knowledge.

In addition, our residents and faculty had the fantastic opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops focused on penile prosthesis, endourology, and PCNL training, which further enhanced their clinical skills and expertise.

Finally, we are thrilled to congratulate our PGY-4 resident, **Dr. Manuel De Jesus, on matching into the USF Health Urology Sexual Medicine Fellowship**. On top of this remarkable achievement, Dr. De Jesus impressively completed two marathons this quarter, an accomplishment many aspire to achieve over a lifetime. We couldn't be prouder of you, Dr. De Jesus



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

BARIATRICS



The **BARIATRICS** fellowship Program's Journal Club was a great success, bringing together fellow and faculty for a dynamic and engaging discussion. The *session highlighted the fellow's ability to critically evaluate the latest evidence and apply it to clinical practice*. This fostered meaningful dialogue around surgical outcomes. With thoughtful preparation and active participation, the fellow demonstrated both curiosity and clinical maturity, setting the tone for ongoing academic excellence within the program.

Two articles were reviewed. The first article, Evaluating safety and outcomes of concurrent cholecystectomy in revisional and conversion bariatric surgery: ***A Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program case cohort analysis of 72,189 patients***. The second article Outcomes of hiatal hernia repair after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass: largest retrospective cohort study to date. The journal club created an atmosphere of collaboration, mentorship, and shared learning. Thoughts from **Dr. Alfred Lopez**, *"This was a great learning opportunity with excellent comradery and discussion on complex bariatric patients. The surgical experience from the surgical attending's enhanced the conversation and provided a wealth of knowledge. This is great"*.

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

The **SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE** fellowship was honored this quarter to welcome a very special grand rounds speaker. **Dr. John Riley, one of our most recent General Surgery alumni, graciously returned to share his expertise with us through an insightful lecture on the Management of Extremity Fractures and Complications.**



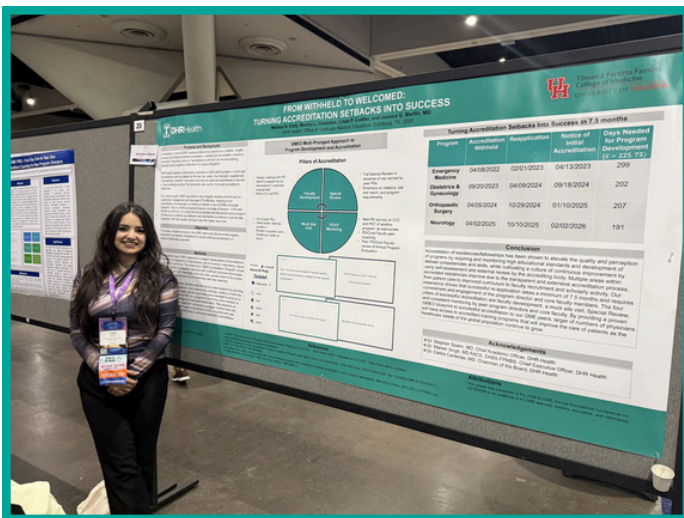
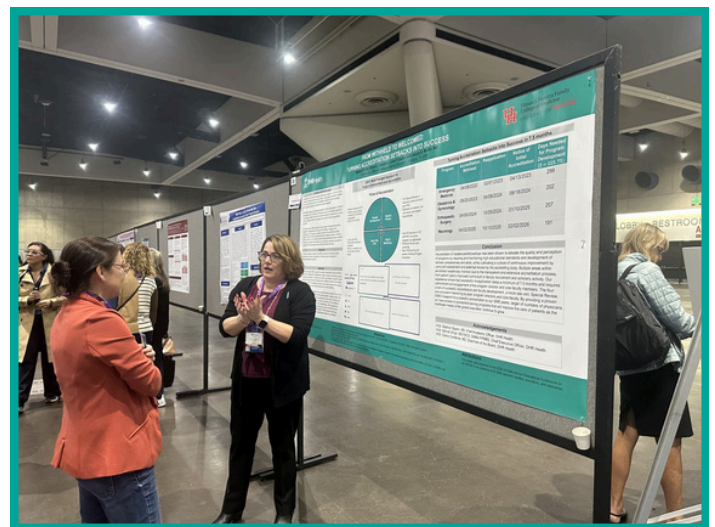
It is truly inspiring to see our graduates come back as educators, enriching the learning experience of our current residents. Moments like these fill us with pride and reaffirm the strength of our community and commitment to excellence in surgical education.

INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

The **Graduate Medical Education (GME)** office had the valuable opportunity to attend the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) conference in San Diego, California.

Dr. Martin, DIO, Melissa Eddy, Accreditation Manager, Monica Gonzalez, GME Manager, and Linda Cuellar, Institutional Coordinator, had the honor of presenting their poster. **Titled "From Withheld to Welcomed: Turning Accreditation Setbacks Into Success," the poster highlighted the detailed process to the GME community for enhanced program applications and faculty preparation for initial/continued accreditation of residency/fellowship programs.** The conference provided an astonishing environment for learning and professional development, offering numerous practices that can be implemented at DHR.



INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

NEWLY ACCREDITED FELLOWSHIPS



We are thrilled to announce the expansion of our Graduate Medical Education (GME) fellowship programs. This past January, DHR Health received accreditation for three new fellowships: **Gastroenterology, Cardiovascular Disease, and Hematology & Medical Oncology**. These fellowships are set to begin on July 1, 2026.

Please join us in warmly welcoming our new Program Directors: Dr. Asif Zamir, Dr. Wady Aude, and Dr. Jose Cruz. We look forward to the continued growth and success of these programs as we advance our commitment to excellence in medical education.

MATCH DAY

On March 20, 2026, **DHR Health** proudly celebrated **Match Day** with great excitement. We are delighted to announce that all of our residency programs successfully filled every available position for the upcoming academic year.

Starting July 1, 2026, we will welcome 59 new interns to our residency family. We look forward to supporting their growth and contributions as they begin this important chapter in their medical careers.



INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

GME ALUMI ASSOCIATION



We are thrilled to announce the inauguration of the DHR Health GME Alumni Association! We were honored to welcome back **Dr. Maria Veronica Rodriguez Padron**, recent Urology alumni, who shared her inspiring journey to fellowship and offered invaluable advice to our current residents.

Traveling all the way from Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Rodriguez Padron reflected on her career path and the mentors who have guided her along the way. We were truly excited to have her back with us and look forward to many more inspiring alumni stories!



RESIDENT FORUM

On January 30th, the **Orthopaedic Surgery** Residency Program proudly hosted the highly anticipated Resident Forum, providing an invaluable platform for scholarly exchange and professional development. *During this engaging session, residents had the opportunity to present an insightful and comprehensive overview on the application and clinical significance of ACE wraps to their peers.* This presentation not only fostered collaborative learning but also underscored the program's commitment to advancing practical knowledge and enhancing patient care within the residency community.



DHRHealth
Graduate Medical
Education

Resident Forum: ACE Wraps

*Hosted by the
Ortho Residency Program*

Friday
January 30, 2026
6 - 8 pm

2nd Floor GME Classroom

INSTITUTION HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

RESIDENT DAY



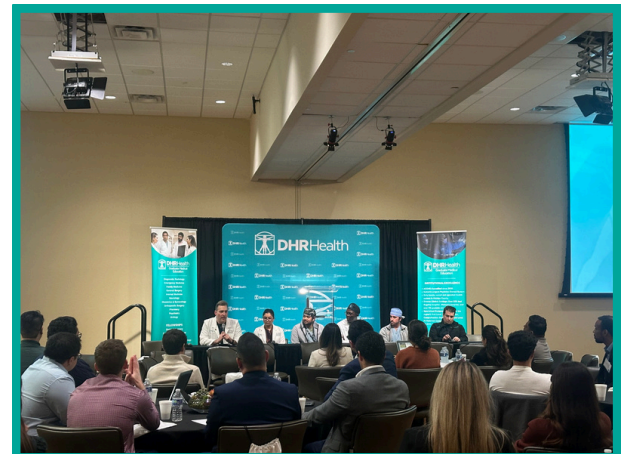
On February 27, 2026, the Graduate Medical Education (GME) office hosted **Resident Day** at Howling Rabbits. This event provided an excellent opportunity for residents to connect and socialize with their peers in a relaxed setting. *Attendees enjoyed engaging games and a lively Kahoot competition, where cash prizes were awarded to the top participants.*



We extend our sincere gratitude to all **DHR Health** residents for their hard work, dedication, and contributions to our community.

IN-PERSON INTRODUCTION

DHR Health Graduate Medical Education hosted an **In-person Introduction to DHR Health**, inviting all applicants who interviewed with all DHR Health programs to experience firsthand what makes our institution and community so special. The event gave candidates the opportunity to tour our campus, connect with faculty and residents, and see the impact we have in the Rio Grande Valley. *As a health system serving an underserved region, DHR Health plays a vital role in providing comprehensive care close to home, offering nearly every specialty so patients do not have to travel outside the RGV to receive the care they need.* Our goal was to not only showcase our training programs, but to highlight the community they would serve and the meaningful difference they can make here at DHR Health.



Q3 RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



Aisha Rehman, MD
PGY-1 Family Medicine

January 2nd



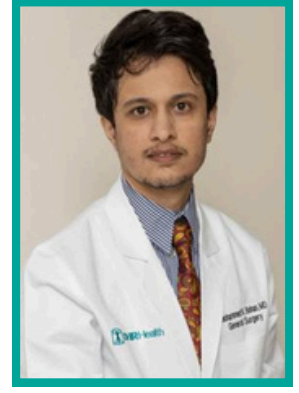
Jathniel Panneflek, MD
PGY-3 Internal Medicine

January 10th



Rafael Cardenas Castillo, MD
PGY-3 Internal Medicine

January 14th



Mohammed Bohan, MD
PGY-4 General Surgery

January 14th



Isabel Dos Santos Marques, MD
PGY-5 General Surgery

January 15th



Yasitha Kakarlapudi, MD
PGY-2 Internal Medicine

January 25th



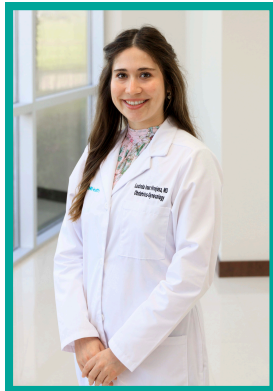
Bernardita Ljubetic, MD
PGY-1 Urology

January 25th



Maikel Falcon, MD
PGY-1 Emergency Medicine

January 27th



Lucinda Hinojosa, MD
PGY-1 OBGYN

February 14th



Jorge Nadal, MD
PGY-3 Diagnostic Radiology

February 19th



Laura Castro, MD
PGY-2 Internal Medicine

February 27th



Syed Raza, MD
PGY-2 Emergency Medicine

March 8th

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Q3 RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION



Andrea Morales Acosta, MD
PGY-2 Internal Medicine
March 16th



Moira Gyebi-Agyepong, MD
PGY-3 Family Medicine
March 17th



Silvia Pou, MD
PGY-2 General Surgery
March 17th



Carlos Orfanos, MD
PGY-2 Diagnostic Radiology
March 18th



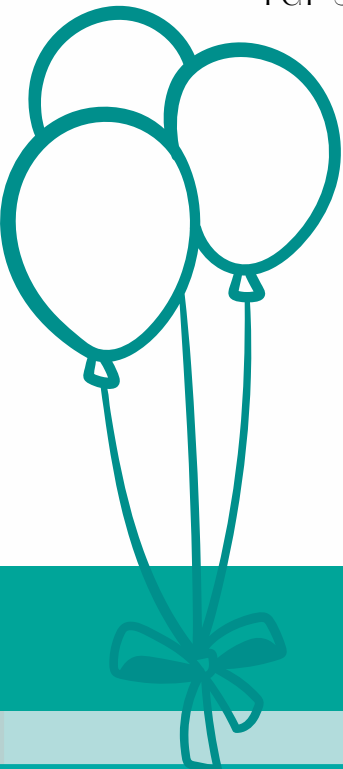
Laura Reyes Uribe, MD
PGY-3 Internal Medicine
March 18th



Jonathan Afari, MD
PGY-2 Urology
March 20th



Victor Lopez, MD
PGY-5 General Surgery
March 26th



Happy
Birthday

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

WELLNESS SUPPORT

The Comprehensive Behavioral Health (CBH) Department at DHR Health provides free, confidential mental health support, resources, and access to appropriate tools for self-screening for every resident. Counseling services provided to residents and faculty are available Monday - Friday from 8 AM - 8 PM and on weekends from 9 AM - 6 PM.

Call **956-362-2732** or the 24/7 registration department at **956-362-2755** to schedule an appointment.

White Coat Dry Cleaning

- Alternate Fridays - Drop off/Pickup

"DM the DIO" DROP BOXES:

- Located in classrooms and call rooms; encouraged to drop any confidential messages

DHR WORKPLACE SAFETY:

- <https://app.convercent.com/enus/Anonymous/IssueIntake/LandingPage/Oc318ea9-5439-ea11-a972-000d3ab9f062>

RLDATIX SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT:

- <https://srm.rldatix.com/landing/DHR/>

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING PORTAL:

- <https://www.dhrhealth.com/education/graduate-medical-education/confidential-reporting/>

SECURITY PHONE NUMBER: 956-739-0717

- ACGME IR: III.B.7.d).(5) - safety and security measures appropriate to the clinical learning environment site

COVID-19/SICK-DAY PROTOCOL: All staff shall notify Employee Health as soon as they receive a positive test result or request a sick day. Staff may may not return to work until cleared by Employee Health. Clearance includes submission of your "Medical Clearance Certificate" to your program coordinator.

- Phone: **(956) 362-3655**
- Email: EmployeeHealth@dhr-rgv.com



DHR Health - Institute for Research and Development IRB Office

Human Subject Research or Quality Improvement Project:
One-on-One Sessions

- QIP
- Case Report / Case Series
- Research Protocol Development
- IRB Submission



SCAN TO SCHEDULE

For more information, please call/email Liz Elias-Calles Cabanillas

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Email: lcalles@dhr-rgv.com