**2025 Michigan Family Medicine Resident of the Year Award**

Dr. Cassandra LaMarche

Our Michigan Family Medicine Resident of the Year Award recognizes physicians-in-training for their exemplary patient care, leadership, community commitment, contributions to scholarly activity, and dedication to family medicine.

Few things inspire more hope for the future of medicine than a truly exceptional resident—someone who combines clinical skill with curiosity, compassion with leadership, and dedication with humility. These are the individuals who carry our profession forward, making us all better in the process.

Dr. Cassandra LaMarche is currently completing her residency in Family Medicine at Henry Ford Southfield and she is already distinguishing herself as a physician of rare empathy, talent, and heart. Her nominators describe her as “an exemplar of evidence-based medicine,” “a fierce patient advocate,” and “a role model to everyone around her.”

That’s no surprise to anyone who has had the privilege of working alongside her.

Dr. LaMarche’s patient care is marked by excellence in both practice and presence. She brings deep clinical knowledge into every encounter, but more importantly, she brings humanity. She listens closely. She looks people in the eye. And she understands that what matters most in health care isn’t just what you treat—but how you treat it.

As one of her mentors wrote: “She is the kind of physician you hope for when your loved one is sick. The one who asks the extra question, catches the subtle sign, and never stops advocating.”

But her gifts extend far beyond the exam room.

Dr. LaMarche has been an active leader throughout her residency, taking on roles that have expanded her influence across the institution and beyond. She’s been deeply involved in curriculum development, medical student and resident education, and community outreach. At her institution, she has helped to shape the development of the obstetrical care curriculum as the Family Medicine Obstetrics Liaison and serves on the Program Evaluation Committee. She has a fervent passion for educating others regarding obstetrical and reproductive health care, leading IUD skills sessions at the Michigan Futures of Family Medicine Conference, providing hospital-wide education on hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, leading patient education sessions on lactation, and training fellow healthcare professionals in Advanced Life Support for Obstetrics. Dr. LaMarche is also committed to caring and advocating for vulnerable populations. Dr. LaMarche initially became passionate about medicine by volunteering at uninsured clinics in college and continues to volunteer her time with various local clinics for the underinsured such as HUDA, Ferncare, and Luke's clinic in Detroit.

She is also making her mark on the academic world. Dr. LaMarche has participated in multiple quality improvement projects and clinical research initiatives during her residency, contributing to a growing body of knowledge aimed at making primary care more responsive, efficient, and just. Whether she’s presenting at a conference or facilitating a learning session for fellow residents, she’s known for her clarity, compassion, and command of the material.

And she’s not just doing the work—she’s setting the tone.

Her peers see her as a source of calm in the storm. In high-pressure clinical situations, she is poised, decisive, and unflinchingly kind. In residency-wide discussions, she’s a thoughtful and vocal advocate for collaboration, inclusion, and progress.

When asked what motivates her, she doesn’t point to accolades or ambition. She talks about community. About building a world where people feel heard, safe, and respected.  Where health care is not just available, but deeply respectful of who they are and what they need.

She is, in every sense, the kind of family physician our field strives to produce: scientifically rigorous, socially conscious, and emotionally intelligent. As she prepares to step into a family medicine obstetrics fellowship and then into practice serving underserved communities as part of her HRSA commitment to serve underserved populations, it is clear that Dr. LaMarche is not just ready for the next stage of her career—she’s already shaping the future of family medicine. Her patients will be better for it. Her colleagues will grow because of it. And all of us, as a profession, will benefit from her leadership in the years to come. Today, we recognize her excellence not as an ending, but as a beginning—a signal of even greater things to come.