

# The Chief Resident Year

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Being selected as Chief Resident is an honor and privilege sought by many residents at their respective programs throughout the country. Staff physicians and fellow residents elect the residents they feel would best represent their program. At *most* programs, the Chief Resident year is an additional year of residency, where the chief residents serve largely in an administrative capacity, producing and modifying the resident's individual schedules, and seeing to the daily organizational tasks of the program.

At Abbott Northwestern, the Chief Resident year is not an additional year of residency. Three or four residents are selected annually and become staff physicians. They serve, and are paid, as full-time faculty. The main role of the Chief Resident at Abbott Northwestern is educational. The Chief Residents are in charge of preparing and presenting the daily case conference. They are also in charge of preparing and presenting weekly grand rounds and faculty journal club, which are well attended by many internal medicine physicians and subspecialists. Chief Residents also serve in an inpatient hospitalist and outpatient clinical capacity. Administrative assistants in the medical education department perform the majority of the administrative work, with the Chief Residents having only minor administrative duties. Chief Residents are also encouraged to pursue any scholarly activity of their choosing, such as research or extra clinical work in the subspecialty of their choice. This can be done not in addition to, but as part of their daily routine.

Though the Chief Residents serve in multiple capacities, their schedules are by no means hectic. It is a year that consists of a great deal of autonomy and freedom. The vast majority of nights and weekends are spent out of the hospital, a welcomed change of pace after three years of residency.

The internal medicine residency program at Abbott Northwestern Hospital has a number of unique features that provide for excellent internal medicine training. The Chief Resident year is one of those unique opportunities. Chief Residents finish their year with an additional skill set consisting of the ability to coordinate, educate, utilize advanced educational technology, speak publically, appreciate the breadth of internal medicine, and at the same time develop personal interest areas.