Site Coordinator: Cathleen Blumenthal Blumenthal.cathleen@eamc.org
Director of Student Medical Education: Steven D. Presley MD MMM FACP FHM


3rd Year Rotations Available: Internal Medicine 1 and 2, Family Medicine, Rural & Underserved Care, General Surgery, OB/GYN, Geriatrics, and Pediatrics.
4th Year Rotations Available: Anesthesiology, Allergy/Immunology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Endocrinology, ENT, Infectious Diseases, Hematology-Oncology, Orthopedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Radiology, Rheumatology, Sports Medicine, and Intensive Care Medicine.

Housing Available for Fourth Year Students: No

Hospital Description: EAMC is a regional referral hospital located in Opelika, Ala., that serves a six-county area. It has 314 acute care beds and 26 skilled nursing beds. With approximately 3200 employees, EAMC is Lee County's second largest employer. Among the many services that EAMC and EAMC-Lanier (located in Valley) provide are open-heart surgery and cancer treatment, both of which are highly acclaimed specialties at EAMC. EAMC also operates additional services, including RehabWorks, HealthPlus Fitness Center, the Diabetes & Nutrition Center, the Wound Treatment Center, Sleep Disorders Centers and the Auburn University Medical Clinic. EAMC-Lanier has 98 acute care beds, a 17-bed inpatient rehab unit, and a 103-bed nursing home. In addition, it operates an urgent care clinic and an occupational medicine program.
HOSPITAL AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Opelika was recognized with an Excellence Through Insight award for “Overall Patient Satisfaction” in Outpatient Rehabilitation by Health Stream, Inc. Healthgrades recognized EAMC with several awards, most notably the Orthopedic Surgery Excellence Award (EAMC was the only hospital in Alabama to receive this award 7 years in a row), and the Outstanding Patient Experience Award for the third consecutive year. EAMC was designated by Becker’s Hospital Review as one of the nation’s “100 Great Community Hospitals” in 2014. EAMC was the only Alabama hospital to make the list. EAMC was one of only four hospitals (out of 475 participants) to be recognized with an ASCEND Peak Performance Award from Premier, Inc. The award recognizes efforts to achieve cost savings through supply chain management. The 7th floor nursing unit was recognized by Healthstream, Inc. with an Excellence Through Insight award for patient satisfaction. Of the 1,000 medical units in the Healthstream database in 2013, EAMC’s 7th floor nursing unit had the highest Overall Rating feedback.

EAMC's inpatient diabetes program received recertification by The Joint Commission (TJC) in August, joining approximately 70 other U.S. hospitals that have been so designated for meeting standards of excellence in the care of hospitalized patients with diabetes.

EAMC and Lanier merge – On September 26, 2013, the board of directors for both EAMC and George H. Lanier Memorial Hospital each signed a letter of intent to become fully affiliated. The affiliation became official on February 1, 2014, technically making EAMC a hospital system, and added approximately 490 employees and 30 physicians to the “EAMC family.” Greg Nichols, EAMC vice-president and chief planning officer, became administrator of EAMC-Lanier.

Training the next generation of physicians – The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) has been on the campus of Auburn University since July 2015. Since July 2013, third-year VCOM students have been participating in clinical rotations with nearly 50 different EAMC and EAMC-Lanier physicians in the areas of Internal medicine, General Surgery, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Geriatrics, Family Medicine, Ob-Gyn, and rural/underserved care.

Unity Wellness Center: – In December 2013, Unity Wellness Center (formerly Lee County AIDS Outreach) marked 25 years of service to persons with HIV/AIDS in east Alabama. Through programs including education, counseling, testing, outreach, case management, and clinical services, UWC provided more than 38,000 encounters in fiscal year 2014.

Electronic Health Record progress – Early in FY14 (October 2013), a major effort at educating and preparing EAMC staff and physicians for new components of the electronic health record took place. In January, two milestones were achieved: the “My EAMC patient portal” was added to the website, allowing patients to view portions of their medical record from their home computer; and bedside bar-coding began, which means that nurses began using barcode scanners when administering medications, thereby improving safety and efficiency. In February, computerized physician order entry (CPOE) went live as physicians began entering all orders for inpatients electronically. Other components added in 2014 included enhanced medication reconciliation (electronically maintains a listing of patients’ medications in order to reduce the likelihood of errors) and quality measures, which track patient safety and quality metrics.