

**Graduate Medical Education Agreement of Appointment**  
**Physician Trainees**  
**DUKE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM, INC. d/b/a DUKE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**  
**2025-2026**

This agreement of appointment (the "Agreement") made this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ by and between Duke University Health System, Inc. ("DUHS"), for and on behalf of Duke University Hospital (the "Hospital"), and \_\_\_\_\_ ("Trainee") sets forth the terms and conditions of the Trainee's appointment as Associate Medical Staff of the Hospital (the "Appointment") in conjunction with the Department of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Program of \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Program").

The purpose and intention of this Agreement is to assist Trainee, a physician-in-training, in the pursuit of their postgraduate studies. In consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the Hospital and Trainee each agree as follows:

**1. Terms of Appointment.**

- 1.1. The term of Trainee's Appointment shall be from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (term may not exceed next fiscal year), subject to the dismissal provisions set forth in this Agreement.
- 1.2. As a condition precedent to Appointment, Trainee must provide all of the required credentialing documentation to the Office of Graduate Medical Education prior to DUHS's published deadlines. If Trainee fails to meet one or more of these requirements, DUHS may, in its discretion, revoke the Agreement, suspend the Agreement, alter or extend the Agreement's Term, or allow Trainee to commence work subject to conditions DUHS may establish to comply with governing laws and protect patient safety and the public interest. The required credentialing documentation includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:
  - 1.2.1. A completed and approved Application for Membership to the Associate Medical Staff of Duke University Hospital;
  - 1.2.2. Documentation of passage of applicable licensing examinations as per Institutional Policy (See USMLE Policy at [www.gme.duke.edu](http://www.gme.duke.edu));
  - 1.2.3. Documentation of employment eligibility (Trainee must meet Federal requirements per Form I-9) and, where applicable, documentation of Selective Service registration or applicable exemption from registration requirements;
  - 1.2.4. If Trainee is an international medical school graduate, a current and valid ECFMG certificate;
  - 1.2.5. A valid license to practice medicine that complies with the applicable provisions of the laws pertaining to licensure in the state of North Carolina or any other state in which the Program may assign Trainee for clinical duties pursuant to Trainee's Program;
  - 1.2.6. Life support certification(s) (e.g., ACLS, and PALS) as prescribed by Program, and/or the Hospital;
  - 1.2.7. This signed Agreement; provided, however, that the parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement will not be effective, and Trainee's Appointment will not commence, until all conditions precedent to appointment (including but not limited to the satisfactory completion of the credentialing process) have been satisfied;
  - 1.2.8. Documentation showing confirmation of timely registration for National Provider Identifier (NPI) number and satisfaction of any other applicable state and federal enrollment requirements.
  - 1.2.9. Completion of all required health examinations and supplementary test(s), which includes tests for drug and/or alcohol abuse, and proof of compliance with DUHS immunization requirements and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including any emergency or public health orders. It must be determined that Trainee is in sufficient physical and mental condition to perform the essential functions of Appointment. The results of all examinations shall be provided only to Employee Occupational Health and Wellness;
  - 1.2.10. Any further information that DUHS may request in connection with the Trainee's credentials, not limited to Criminal Background Check and clearance from the National Practitioner Data Bank. Trainee acknowledges that other approved affiliates, including Veterans' Administration facilities, may require additional background checks or credentials review and that satisfactory completion of such reviews may be a condition of continued participation in the Program; and
  - 1.2.11. For any document not printed in English, an acceptable original English translation performed by a qualified translator with an affidavit of accuracy acceptable to DUHS.

- 2. Trainee Responsibilities.** As a condition of Appointment and of ongoing participation in the Program, Trainee must meet the prerequisites and qualifications for trainee eligibility as outlined in the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Institutional Requirements ([www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org)), or as set forth in such other applicable accreditation requirements or requirements the Hospital promulgates and follows as applicable to non-ACGME accredited programs, that may be in effect from time to time. In addition, in providing services and in participation in the activities of the Program, Trainee agrees to do the following:

- 2.1.** Obey and adhere to the Medical Staff Bylaws, the policies and practices of DUHS, Hospital and Program, the policies and requirements of all of the facilities to which Trainee is assigned for rotations (as modified and updated from time to time), the standards of all accrediting certifying or licensing organizations, and all applicable state, federal and local laws, including all public health requirements or orders;
- 2.2.** Participate fully in the educational, research and scholarly activities as assigned by the Institution and Program (and/or as necessary for the completion of applicable graduate medical education requirements), attend all required educational conferences, assume responsibility for teaching and supervising other trainees and students, and participate in assigned DUHS, Hospital, and Medical Staff committee activities;
- 2.3.** Use their best efforts to provide safe, effective and compassionate patient care, demonstrate professionalism and integrity, and present at all times a courteous and respectful attitude toward all patients, colleagues, employees, visitors at DUHS and other facilities/rotation sites to which Trainee is assigned. This provision includes compliance with the dress code applicable to DUHS trainees;
- 2.4.** Satisfactorily fulfill the educational requirements of the Program in a timely manner;
- 2.5.** Provide clinical services:
  - 2.5.1. as and when assigned;
  - 2.5.2. commensurate with their level of advancement and responsibilities;
  - 2.5.3. under appropriate supervision;
  - 2.5.4. at sites specifically approved by the Program and Office of Graduate Medical Education; and
  - 2.5.5. under circumstances and at locations covered by the Hospital's professional liability insurance maintained for Trainee in accordance with Section 5.5 below.
- 2.6.** To the satisfaction of the Program Director, demonstrate competency in Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Practice Based Learning and Improvement, Professionalism, and Systems Based Practice, as determined by the Program in its sole discretion, for Trainee's level of training;
- 2.7.** Cooperate fully as follows:
  - 2.7.1. Coordinate and complete the required submissions and activities including the legible and timely completion of patient medical records, charts, reports, statistical operative and procedure logs and/or other clinical documentation required by the ACGME, DUHS, Hospital, Department and Program, and comply with any requirements for use of any third party applications, programs, or platforms specified by DUHS, the Hospital, Department, or Program for these purposes;
  - 2.7.2. Report within seven (7) days to the Office of Graduate Medical Education any of the following:
    - (i) any arrest or indictment for any felony or misdemeanor (other than minor traffic violations);
    - (ii) any arrest for driving while impaired or driving under the influence;
    - (iii) any arrest or indictment for the possession, use or sale of any controlled substance, in any jurisdiction;
    - (iv) any criminal conviction for a felony or misdemeanor (other than minor traffic violations) in any jurisdiction;
    - (v) any complaint filed with any state medical board or other regulatory agency;
    - (vi) any investigation or correspondence regarding any other issues that may impact state licensure;
    - (vii) any other matter required by law to be reported to the North Carolina Medical Board; and
    - (viii) any restraining order filed against or for the protection of Trainee.
  - 2.7.3. Cooperate with the North Carolina Medical Board or any other state medical board or government agency with respect to any investigation.
- 2.8.** Return at the time of the expiration or termination of the Agreement, all Hospital property, including but not limited to books, equipment, parking decal and pager; complete all necessary records; and settle all professional and financial obligations;
- 2.9.** Comply with and complete all required Hospital, Department and Program surveys, reviews, evaluations, quality assurance and credentialing activities;
- 2.10.** Report immediately: a) to DUHS Risk Management or the Office of General Counsel any inquiry by any private or governmental attorney or investigator (including, without limitation, inquiries related to services provided at the Veteran's Administration, or any other clinic, facility, or training site), or b) to the Duke Health News Office any inquiry by any member of the press.

Trainee understands that the Hospital encourages Trainee's full cooperation with any governmental investigation or inquiry. Trainee agrees not to communicate with any inquiring private attorney or any members of the press regarding patient or clinical matters or any other confidential DUHS or Hospital matters, except merely to refer such private attorneys to DUHS Risk Management and/or Office of University Counsel and to refer members of the press to Duke Health News Office;
- 2.11.** Comply with obligations set forth in Section 5.5 below;
- 2.12.** Cooperate fully with Hospital administration, including but not limited to the departments of Nursing, Professional Services, Financial Services, Social Services, and other ancillary services departments in connection with the evaluation of appropriate discharge and post-hospital care for hospital patients;
- 2.13.** Comply with DUHS and Hospital policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment;

- 2.14. Permit and assist the Hospital to obtain from and provide to all proper parties any and all information as required or authorized by law or by any accreditation or regulatory body. The Trainee agrees to cooperate with any investigation requested by Duke Risk Management or the Office of University Counsel. The Trainee covenants to hold harmless the Hospital, its officers, directors, or other personnel for good faith compliance with such requests for information. This covenant shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement;
- 2.15. Maintain required immunizations consistent with DUHS policy and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including any emergency or public health orders; and
- 2.16. Timely and successfully complete GME Institutional Orientation.

**3. Institutional Responsibilities.** The Hospital has the following obligations:

- 3.1. To provide, within available resources, an educational training program that meets all standards established by ACGME or other accrediting entity, if applicable;
- 3.2. To provide, within available resources, Trainee with adequate and appropriate support staff and facilities in accordance with federal, state, local and ACGME requirements;
- 3.3. To use reasonable efforts to maintain an environment conducive to the health and well-being of Trainee;
- 3.4. To use reasonable efforts to provide adequate and appropriate patient and information support services;
- 3.5. To provide a fair and consistent method for review of Trainee's concerns and/or grievances without the fear of reprisal;
- 3.6. To provide processes (a) for review of Trainee's performance, deficiency(ies), or related issues of concern, and (b) in connection with any adverse or remedial actions taken, or proposed to be taken, regarding Trainee;
- 3.7. Upon satisfactory completion of the Program and its requirements as well as Hospital's Trainee responsibilities and with termination of GME Trainee status, to furnish to Trainee a Certificate(s) of Completion of the Program(s); and
- 3.9 To allow access to information reasonably related to eligibility for specialty board examinations.

**4. Clinical and Education Work ("Duty Hours").**

- 4.1. Trainee shall perform their duties under this Agreement during such hours as the Program Director may direct in accordance with the Clinical and Educational Work ("Duty Hour") Policy as it may be updated and amended from time to time, available at <https://gme.duke.edu/>. Hours dedicated to clinical experience and education, although subject to modification and variation depending upon the facility and clinical area to which Trainee is assigned and/or exigent circumstances, shall be in accordance with federal, state, institutional, ACGME or other applicable accreditation requirements.
- 4.2. If a scheduled duty assignment is inconsistent with this Agreement or the Clinical and Educational Work Policy, Trainee shall bring the inconsistency first to the attention of the Program Director for reconciliation or cure. If the Program Director does not reconcile or cure the inconsistency, it shall be the obligation of Trainee to notify the Office of Graduate Medical Education. The Director of Graduate Medical Education or their designee shall take the necessary steps to reconcile or cure the raised inconsistency.
- 4.3. Trainee shall report hours spent on clinical experience and education hours in a timely and accurate manner to the Office of Graduate Medical Education, using the method prescribed by the Office of Graduate Medical Education.
- 4.4. Moonlighting. Employment or contract work as a physician in a professional capacity outside of what is outlined in this Agreement, whether temporary special medical activity ("TSMA") or external moonlighting, must be approved in writing, in advance, by the Departmental Chair, Program Director and Director of Graduate Medical Education (or designee). Even if approved, professional and general liability insurance as outlined in Section 5.5 is not provided to Trainee for any external moonlighting activities. Trainee acknowledges that Trainee has the responsibility to obtain insurance for such engagement. TSMA and external moonlighting must be included and reported as part of Trainee's hours spent on clinical experience and education. Trainee shall not be required to engage in any outside work or TSMA.
- 4.5. Non-physician work or other pursuits for monetary gain unrelated to Trainee's status as a physician that do not interfere with Trainee's training obligations including those set forth in Section 2, are permissible only with prior written notice to and prior approval by the Program Director and the Director of Graduate Medical Education (or designee). All such activities are subject to DUHS's conflict of interest policies including the provisions in the guidance for reporting conflict of commitment statement (currently found at <https://hr.duke.edu/policies/expectations/conflict-interest>).

**5. Financial Support and Benefits.** The Hospital shall provide the Trainee with financial support and benefits in the following areas as described below:

- 5.1. Stipend: Financial support (stipend and fringe benefits) at a uniform level for all trainees in each year of graduate medical education training, payable monthly. Except as permitted in Sections 4.4 and 4.5, this shall be the Trainee's sole source of compensation. Except for approved and authorized moonlighting or other approved extracurricular activities, the Trainee shall not accept any other fee of any kind for services from any person.

- 5.2. Services: Uniforms, parking, access to food services 24 hours a day, and sleep/rest facilities available for Trainees on-call in the Hospital.
- 5.3. Leave: Medical, parental, and caregiver leave time consistent with the policies of DUHS and Hospital applicable to Associate Members of the Medical Staff; ACGME requirements as applicable; and state and federal laws. Trainee must comply with Hospital and Program's notice requirements regarding such leave.
- 5.3.1. Leaves of Absence: The Trainee expressly acknowledges that additional training after a leave of absence may be needed for successful completion of Program Requirements and/or for Board certification requirements. The amount of sick leave, leave of absence, or disability time that will necessitate prolongation of the training time for the Trainee shall be determined by the Program Director and the requirements of the pertinent ACGME Review Committee, other accrediting body, and/or certifying Board.
- 5.4. Vacation and other time off: Vacation and other time off subject to Hospital policies applicable to Associate Members of the Medical Staff and Program procedures. GME Associates are not subject to or eligible for benefits under the general DUHS Paid Time Off Policy.
- 5.5. Professional Liability Insurance. The Hospital shall provide the Trainee with professional liability insurance coverage while the Trainee is acting within the scope of their assigned program activities, and tail coverage (detailed information available from Risk Management). In connection with the professional liability coverage provided by the Hospital:
- 5.5.1. The Trainee agrees to cooperate fully in any investigations, discovery related to litigation, and defense that may arise. The Trainee's failure to cooperate may result in revocation of insurance coverage and other disciplinary action up to and including termination;
- 5.5.2. If the Trainee receives, or anyone with whom the Trainee works receives on their behalf, any summons, complaint, subpoena, or court paper of any kind relating to activities in connection with this Agreement or the Trainee's activities at the Hospitals or any Program training sites, the Trainee agrees to immediately report this receipt to DUHS Risk Management and submit the document received to that office; and
- 5.5.3. The Trainee agrees to cooperate fully with DUHS Administration and Risk Management in connection with the following: (a) evaluation of patient care; (b) review of an incident or claim; or (c) preparation for litigation, whether or not the Trainee is a named party to that litigation.
- 5.6. Other Additional Benefits and Resources, subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable plan documents:
- 5.6.1. Health, Dental, and Vision Benefits. Hospital and health insurance benefits are offered to Trainees and their eligible dependents with available coverage from the first recognized day of training. It is the Trainee's obligation to select and enroll in the benefit program(s) they desire;
- 5.6.2. Retirement Benefit;
- 5.6.3. Life Insurance;
- 5.6.4. Long Term Disability Insurance;
- 5.6.5. Workers' Compensation; and
- 5.6.6. Confidential support services including confidential counseling, medical, and psychological support services.
- 5.7. Discontinuation of Benefits. The Hospital reserves the right to modify or discontinue the plan of benefits set forth herein at any time. Any such change cannot be made without first advising the affected insured.
6. **Reappointment & Promotion to Subsequent PGY Level.** The duration of this Agreement is for the academic year or for such other duration specified in the heading of this agreement, not to exceed the equivalent fiscal year. Re-appointment and/or promotion to the next level of training is not automatic. It is conditional upon: (a) satisfactory completion of all training components and satisfactory academic progress as mandated by the Program, (b) the availability of a position, (c) full compliance with the terms of this Agreement, (d) the continuation of the Hospital's and Program's accreditation by the ACGME if applicable, (e) the Hospital's financial ability, (f) furtherance of Hospital objectives, and (g) satisfactory performance evaluations and documentation of passage of applicable licensing examinations. The Program maintains a confidential record of Trainee's evaluations in accord with North Carolina law pertinent to peer review (NCGS 131E-95).
- 6.1. If non-reappointment is based on reasons other than the Trainee's performance, the Closures and Reductions policy, available at [www.gme.duke.edu](http://www.gme.duke.edu), describes the Hospital obligations to the Trainee.
7. **Grievance Procedures.** Trainee is encouraged to seek resolution of grievances relating to their appointment or responsibilities, including any difference between the Trainee and the Hospital and/or Program and/or any representative thereof, with respect to the interpretation of, application of, or compliance with the provisions of this Agreement, through grievance procedures administered by the Office of Graduate Medical Education.
8. **Corrective Action, Dismissal and Suspension.** During the term of this Agreement, the Trainee's appointment is conditional upon Trainee's satisfactory performance of all Program requirements. If Trainee's actions, conduct, or performance (professional, academic, or otherwise) are deemed unsatisfactory in the discretion of the Program Director and/or the Director of Graduate Medical Education, corrective action, up to and including dismissal, may be taken, or

suspension may be imposed. As to any decision imposing suspension of privileges, non-renewal of agreement of appointment, non-promotion, or dismissal, Trainee shall be provided notice of the basis for such decision, the opportunity to respond to such notice, and the ability to request review of such decision under such procedures as may be administered by the Office of Graduate Medical Education.

**9. Reporting Obligations.** Nothing herein shall affect or interfere with any right or obligation of Duke University, DUHS, the Program, any Hospital or the Associate to make any report pursuant to state or federal law.

**10. Miscellaneous.**

**10.1. Taxes.** The Hospital shall deduct appropriate items including FICA (Social Security) and applicable federal, state, and city withholding taxes. To the extent the Trainee participates in any approved out-of-state or international rotations or other activities, Trainee hereby acknowledges that such participation may result in additional tax liability for Trainee. The Hospital will work with the Trainee to coordinate the withholding and/or payment of such amounts in accordance with the policies, protocols and procedures of DUHS.

**10.2. Overpayments and Restitution.** In the event that any amounts are paid to Trainee that are in excess of the compensation or other amounts due and payable to Trainee under this Agreement, Trainee will immediately report such overpayments to the Office of Graduate Medical Education and will promptly refund such overpayments to the Hospital, as directed by the Office of Graduate Medical Education. This obligation survives the conclusion or termination of Trainee's Appointment.

**10.3. Restrictive Covenants.** The Hospital and its Graduate Medical Education Programs will not require trainees to enter into any restrictive covenants.

**10.4. Severability.** In the event any provision of this Agreement is held to be unenforceable for any reason, that unenforceability shall not affect the remainder of this Agreement, which shall remain in full force and effect and shall be enforceable in accordance with its terms.

**11.** Trainee, by signing this Agreement, agrees to protect the confidentiality, privacy and security of patient, student, personnel, business, peer review, and other confidential, sensitive electronic or proprietary information (collectively, "Confidential Information") of Duke University, DUHS and Duke Health Integrated Practice (DHIP) (collectively, "Duke") from any source and in any form (talking, paper, electronic). As a condition of this Agreement, Trainee shall execute the Duke University Health System Confidentiality Agreement.

**12.** Trainee understands and acknowledges that the failure to comply with this Agreement may result in the termination of Trainee's relationship with DUHS and/or civil or criminal legal penalties. By signing this, Trainee agrees that Trainee has read, understands and will comply with the terms of this Agreement.

**13.** Trainee understands and acknowledges that Trainee's Program may require that Trainee participate in providing clinical care at Duke Regional Hospital, Duke Raleigh Hospital, a campus of Duke University Hospital, and other Health System hospitals, facilities and/or programs, as well as other facilities or training sites with which the Hospital has affiliation agreements ("Training Sites"). Trainee authorizes Duke University and DUHS to provide any information including, but not limited to, information from Trainee's personnel file as maintained by the Office of Graduate Medical Education at the Hospital, insurance and claims history information, and any other information relating to Trainee's service as a graduate medical trainee at the Hospital to these Training Sites. Trainee understands and acknowledges that Trainee may be supervised by non-DUHS personnel at Training Sites with which the Hospital has affiliation agreements.

**14. Entire Agreement.** Unless otherwise expressly set forth herein, this Agreement embodies the complete agreement and understanding between the Parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes and preempts any prior understanding of the Parties, written or oral, which may have been related to the subject matter hereof in any way.

**15. Applicable Law.** This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of North Carolina.

**16. Forum.** Both Trainee and DUHS hereby irrevocably and unconditionally agree that any legal or equitable action or dispute arising from, in connection with, or relating to this Agreement and/or DUHS's employment of Trainee, which is or may be within the jurisdiction of federal courts in the State of North Carolina, must be commenced in said federal courts. Nothing in this provision is intended to discourage or interfere with the rights or obligations of Trainee to file administrative claims or charges with government agencies prior to any related action being initiated in the courts.

**ACCEPTED AND AGREED:**

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*Jane Smith Doe*  
*Trainee*

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*Jason Smith, M.D.*  
*Program Training Director*

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*Catherine M. Kuhn, M.D.*  
*Director of Graduate Medical Education*