

New Internal Medicine Residency Program Leadership

Anita Vanka, MD, FHM, FACP



Anita Vanka, MD, has been appointed **Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency**. An Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a Hospitalist in the Division of General Medicine, Dr. Vanka is an exemplary and thoughtful educator with a wealth of experience who will continue to foster our residents to become future leaders in medicine. Working closely with Associate Program Directors,

Firm Chiefs, Medical Education Administration team, and other key stakeholders, Dr. Vanka will oversee every aspect of our Internal Medicine Residency, its curriculum, and future development.

Dr. Vanka received her MD with Honors from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 2005. Dr. Vanka subsequently completed her internship and residency at BIDMC; she went on to serve as Primary Care Chief Medical Resident, prior to joining the Division of General Medicine at BIDMC as an attending Hospitalist in 2009.

As a clinician educator, Dr. Vanka spends the majority of her time in medical education. Upon completion of the Harvard Medical School/BIDMC Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education, she served as an Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency at BIDMC for eight years. She has held several leadership positions at HMS, including several advising and course directorship roles. Most recently, Dr. Vanka served as the Director of the Practice of Medicine course at HMS, the foundational clinical skills course for first year medical and dental students.

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She is currently the Associate Director of the Principal Clinical Experience at BIDMC, which is the core clinical clerkship year for second- and third-year students. She directly mentors and advises students across the HMS curriculum in her role as the Associate Director and Advisor of the Hinton Society at HMS. In 2023, Dr. Vanka was recognized with the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award by the HMS Graduating Class. Through the Shapiro Institute for Research and Education, she serves as the Co-Director of the Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education at BIDMC, in which she directly mentors and teaches faculty across Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Vanka's interests include curriculum development, learner support and remediation, and advising and mentorship. Her educational research currently focuses on the development and assessment of a curriculum teaching students and their faculty preceptors the core principles of patient-centered documentation in the era of open notes. Supported by grants by the Macy Foundation and private donors, this curriculum has been implemented at HMS, and disseminated at various regional and national conferences.

Dr. Vanka assumes the role of Program Director from Chris Smith, MD, who has led the residency for the past 11 years and will continue his stewardship of our educational mission as he now serves as Vice Chair for Education for the Department of Medicine. Dr. Smith's legacy of leadership has ensured the residency continues to be a nationally renowned program, that has grown and innovated through new tracks and curricula, while always keeping the same core mission: to teach our residents to be physicians you would be proud to care of your own family members. As she assumes the role and makes it her own, Dr. Vanka will continue the legacy of thoughtful leadership and excellence in our educational mission.