

## **Justin Chin, DO**

### **RESIDENCY**

Lifelong Medical Care, Richmond, CA

### **MEDICAL SCHOOL**

Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York, NY

Dr. Chin counts transforming a quality improvement (QI) project in the first year of medical school as one of his top professional accomplishments. He looked at the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on diabetic health care maintenance in a full-fledged specialty clinic where patients get retinopathy and foot screenings along with vaccines and referrals to care. Professionally, his areas of interest include addressing health disparities for Asian and Pacific Islander populations, preventive health care and interventions, and modernizing graduate medical education. Following residency, he plans to become a faculty member and preceptor, working in the community and helping to nurture the next generation of family medicine residents. In his free time, he enjoys traveling to new places, exploring new cuisines, mentoring medical students, community service, and playing board games.

### **Awards and Recognition**

2022	Osteopathic Family Physician 2021 Resident Paper of the Year
2020	United States Public Health Service Award
2020	International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) Student Researcher Award
2020	American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine/Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (AACOM/COSGP) National Student Researcher of the Year
2020	Gold Humanism Honor Society Inductee
2019	Jeffrey Grove Minority/LGBTQI+ Health Disparity Competition, 3 <sup>rd</sup> place
2019	Chinese American Medical Society-Ruth Liu Memorial Scholarship

### **Offices and Appointments**

2022-Present	Chief resident, Lifelong Medical Care
2020-Present	Resident representative, Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC)-Lifelong Medical Care
2019-2020	Membership vice president, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA)
2018-2019	External vice president/Chief financial officer (CFO), APAMSA
2018-2019	Chief medical student, Staten Island University Hospital
2018-2020	Medical student representative, Chinese America Medical Society
2017-2018	Chapter president/regional director, APAMSA

### **Community and Public Services**

2021-2022	Clinical volunteer, COVID-19 Community Vaccination
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2021, 2022	Professional volunteer, Diabetes Youth Families Health
2020-Present	Alumni volunteer, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)/Kaiser Undergraduate Research Internship
2020-Present	Alumni volunteer, APAMSA
2021	Physician volunteer, Making Waves Academy Charter School

### **Personal Statement from Dr. Justin Chin**

San Francisco is called the “Golden Mountain,” a land of possibilities and opportunities for many Sino-Burmese refugees. Facing increasing persecution, my family left Myanmar with \$40 and the clothes on their backs. Nothing could have prepared them for the realities of coming to America. Simple tasks such as seeing a doctor were often fraught with frustration. The formidable language barrier was only the tip of the iceberg. My family faced a new experience with every medical visit, unlike what they were accustomed to back home. In this crucible of distrust and skepticism, I became the bridge between the generations of my family and the American community, an interface between them and their doctors. Daunting as it was, I grew to embrace my role as an advocate and voice for my family as a unit, serving as one of my motivations to attend medical school and ultimately become a family medicine physician. Throughout my undergraduate and now graduate medical education, I have seen my family’s story reflected in immigrant communities of color, which inspires me to uplift their experiences while helping them navigate the complexities of the medical system as a family medicine physician.

### **Overcoming Obstacles**

My family's struggles in accessing care are common to many Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIA). This group is often forgotten or misrepresented in the dialogues of underserved communities. Working with thousands of patients as a medical assistant in Chinatown for over six years, I vividly recall one patient. Providers often found her difficult to connect with as she was hard of hearing, fiercely independent, and only spoke Taishanese (a subdialect of Cantonese). During her time with us, we discovered she had invasive thyroid cancer, which required a battery of diagnostic tests and follow-up care. Her limited English proficiency and lack of immediate family made her the prototypical case to slip through the cracks. I resolved not to let that happen. Drawing on the same steadfast determination and thoroughness I have used in caring for my grandparents, I guided her through each step and turn of events. Unfortunately, she passed away just before my acceptance into medical school. She is a daily reminder of my mission to reach out to those disenfranchised from the medical system. As a family medicine physician, I can harness my determination and dedication to be the voice for patients that may not have one.

### **My Unique Journey**

Many of my fellow candidates likely share similar experiences and narratives, which in and of itself is a testament to the type of physician who thrives with the intricacies of family medicine. Rather than what separates me, I believe it is essential to highlight the mutual discourses and themes that guide our shared mission of taking care of the family from the cradle to the grave. In one case, I recall a patient with severe hand lacerations

requiring repair but was restricted due to his county's insurance. Rather than limiting myself to the confines of our institution, I connected the patient with a resident from another family medicine program to arrange for hand surgery and follow up with me once it was done for outpatient care. This perspective is unique and can result in greater cooperation and dismantling barriers to patient care. With this award, I hope to bring these experiences to a larger audience and advocate for other family medicine residents and the specialty to look to the similarities that tie us together and find common ground to uplift our patients.

Family medicine is in the privileged and unique position of being equipped to treat and advocate for their patients as individuals and in the context of their entire community system through its focus on preventive medicine and outreach. Interpreting the dynamic and ever-evolving science of medicine, physicians in all specialties guide patients through the larger mosaic of the American medical system. As a family medicine physician, I see myself journeying, not ahead of, but alongside my patients by providing better care throughout the joys and tragedies of life in its entire duration by connecting with each patient one-on-one, one-by-one, and contextualizing their health in the landscape of their family and community. I look forward to creating a space in medicine dedicated to giving my community a voice by nurturing and providing care to the next generation of immigrants, wherever they come from.

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