

David C. Leach Award



Named to honor the ACGME's former Executive Director, Dr. David C. Leach (1997 – 2007), and his commitment to resident education and physician well-being, this award recognizes resident/fellow-led projects and innovations.



Christina Baxter Vernace, DO

Team Members: Angelina Bernier, MD; Mary Catherine Hart; Lindsay Thompson, MD; Keiaria Williams

Pediatrics

University of Florida

Gainesville, Florida

About the project:

“Dr. ‘Baxter’ Vernace had the idea for this project after starting a curriculum on pediatric obesity for pediatric residents and primary care providers. She and pediatric endocrinologist, Dr. Angelina Bernier, created a monthly lecture series featuring specialists in nutrition, bariatric surgery, and obesity along with patient handouts in continuity clinics that complemented the series. Baxter was inspired by the amount of farmland in Alachua County and the number of farmer’s markets she attended on a regular basis. She felt that her patients were never at these markets and learned that IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) had connections with farms that made local produce more affordable to low-income families. Often, however, these families were completely unaware of these farms or did not have access to transportation to get to the markets. She felt that having a market at a place patient were familiar with, or already at for well and sick visits, would improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables and even benefit the farms that had made the effort to qualify for SNAP benefits. She met with IFAS community partners who introduced her to the Family Garden Farm that accepts EBT and provides half-off produce for EBT card users. She and Family Garden worked out a relationship with the University of Florida for a monthly market with a one-year license with plans to expand this further into the future.”