



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Emory at Grady

2025-2026

Emory Flourishing at Grady Team Connection Microgrants



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- **Grant Title:** “Wellness at Work: IMPROVing Communication and Connectedness at Ponce”
- **Project Leaders:** Rachel J. Ammirati, PhD, ABPP; Magdalene Yonker
- **Summary:** This initiative at Grady’s Ponce de Leon Center engages clinical and non-clinical staff in a series of improv theater workshops designed to improve interdisciplinary communication, build trust, and foster a stronger sense of team connection.



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- **Grant Title:** “The Impact of Longitudinal Peer-to-Peer Balint Group Debriefs on Internal Medicine Resident Well-Being and Moral Injury”
- **Project Leaders:** Jordan Hildenbrand, MD; Emily Pinto-Taylor, MD
- **Summary:** This initiative introduces a six-month, structured, peer-to-peer debriefing curriculum for Emory Internal Medicine residents and medical students using a modified Balint group format, aiming to address burnout and moral injury by providing regular, facilitated sessions that promote reflection, connection, and resilience through emotionally-focused case discussions during scheduled noon conference times.



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- **Grant Title:** “Building Bridges: Enhancing PM&R Team Cohesion Through Shared Purpose and Connection”
- **Project Leaders:** Emily Ryan-Michailidis, DO; Monica S. Branch, MD FAAPMR
- **Summary:** This initiative implements a 12-month, team-building program designed to strengthen cohesion among Grady’s growing Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation team, which is currently siloed across inpatient, consult, and outpatient settings; through monthly facilitated sessions, creative collaborative activities, and structured reflection, the program aims to reduce isolation, improve communication, enhance care coordination, and ultimately support both provider resilience and patient outcomes across the rehabilitation continuum.



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- **Grant Title:** “Resident Reset”
- **Project Leaders:** Youssef Saklawi, MD; Carolyn Brooks, MD
- **Summary:** Resident Reset (R&R) is a structured, longitudinal wellness series tailored for ~150 Emory Internal Medicine residents that promotes peer connection, resilience, and psychological safety through ten evidence-based, faculty-led sessions addressing stress management, emotional processing, preventive care, financial wellness, and professional identity embedded into protected noon conference time and designed to shift residency culture toward sustained wellbeing.



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- **Grant Title:** “Judging books by their covers: a “novel” approach for building camaraderie and resilience”
- **Project Leaders:** Emily Pinto Taylor, MD; Lauren Gensler, MD; Ashley Smith, PA-C
- **Summary:** The “Terrible Books” Book Club is a lighthearted, cross-departmental initiative at Emory @ Grady that brings together staff for monthly gatherings centered around lighthearted, non-medical fiction creating a restorative space for informal connection, shared laughter, and community-building that supports wellbeing, combats burnout, and fosters meaningful relationships.



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- **Grant Title:** “Reflection Rounds in the Grady Radiation Oncology Clinic”
- **Project Leaders:** Sheela Hanasoge MD, PhD; Krista Burton, M.S, DABR; Melba Willoughby, MBA, CPC; Sara Tolley
- **Summary:** Radiation Reflection Rounds (RRR) is a quarterly, interdisciplinary lunchtime gathering in the Department of Radiation Oncology that brings together team members from all professional backgrounds to reflect on patient care experiences, self-care challenges, and coping strategies using shared readings and guided discussion to strengthen team cohesion, reduce burnout, and build a more connected, resilient workplace culture.



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- **Grant Title:** “Emory @ Grady – IM Residency Writers’ Workshop”
- **Project Leaders:** Emily Pinto-Taylor, MD; Kimberly D. Manning, MD, MACP, FAAP
- **Summary:** The Emory @ Grady Internal Medicine Writers’ Workshop is a day-long, application-based retreat launching in February 2026 that offers 12 residents from internal medicine, med-peds, and med-psych a structured space for narrative writing, peer discussion, and creative reflection to process clinical experiences, reduce burnout, and strengthen community, connection, and resilience through storytelling.



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- **Grant Title:** “Code Breakers: Escape Room and Shared Meal Team-Building Event”
- **Project Leaders:** Amanda Brandino, AuD; Ellen Seno, MSc, PA-C; Charles Moore, MD
- **Summary:** The Emory at Grady ENT team will engage in a facilitated escape room experience followed by a shared meal and guided reflection, using immersive, non-clinical problem-solving to strengthen communication, collaboration, and team connection—an initiative designed to reduce burnout, promote resilience, and reinforce interdisciplinary teamwork across faculty, trainees, and staff.



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- **Grant Title:** “Stepping Into Each Other’s Shoes: Cross Training to Build Cohesion, Morale and Resilience”
- **Project Leaders:** Nadi Nina Kaonga, MD, MHS, MS, FACOG; Lisa Flowers, MD, MPH, FACOG; Arish Ford, BSN, RN; Janice St Clair, AS, RMA
- **Summary:** To strengthen team cohesion and reduce burnout in the high-volume, high-intensity Grady Dysplasia Clinics, this initiative will offer hands-on, low-fidelity procedural training sessions where nurses and medical assistants can practice key cancer prevention techniques alongside physicians, fostering mutual understanding, shared workflow insight, and role appreciation—reinforced by structured reflection and shared meals to promote connection and resilience.



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- **Grant Title:** “Brainwaves, Balance, and Banter: Emory at Grady Psychology Faculty Perspectives”
- **Project Leaders:** Erica Marshall Lee, Ph.D., ABPP; Dorian Lamis, PhD, ABPP; Sarah E. Dunn, PhD, ABPP
- **Summary:** This initiative proposes an off-site retreat for Emory at Grady Psychology faculty to strengthen team cohesion, promote wellness and reflection, and support strategic planning through facilitated discussions, mindfulness activities, and shared experiences aimed at reducing burnout and fostering sustainable collaboration.



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- **Grant Title:** “Recharge, Reflect, and Reconnect: Building Resilience Through Shared Wellness”
- **Project Leaders:** Josue Rodriguez, MD; James O’Shea, MD
- **Summary:** This initiative integrates quarterly “Wellness Stations” into the Grady Emergency Department’s didactic schedule, featuring massage chair sessions, a cold brew coffee station for informal peer connection, and a guided wellness session including meditation, stress-reduction strategies, and team-building conversations designed to reduce burnout, foster physical and mental restoration, and strengthen cross-role cohesion among residents, faculty, staff, and rotating learners.

