

Hello Residents!

I am an Internist and former Internal Medicine resident at LSU and I am reaching out because my hospital is hiring. I know some of you may have received letters regarding employment opportunities at our hospital, and some of you may be years away from the next step in your career. I want to share some personal information about our facility and let you know what we have to offer, because it's never too early to learn what is waiting for you at the end of your residency.

Nearly seven years ago I arrived at Veterinary Referral & Emergency Center and started the Internal Medicine department. I would consider myself a rare specialist because I stayed with my first employer – and I have no plans of going anywhere. My initial approach was to find an established department with another internist to lean on, as I was a little nervous to be on my own. When I made a trip to VREC, they were at the “bottom” of my list based on my original criteria. As I interviewed at other facilities, I discovered the other side of the coin: many facilities had dysfunctional work environments, sub-standard patient care, or dated equipment. Each place had a factor that made me question if I'd have an enjoyable work life or the ability to provide patients the best care. Some facilities focused heavily on making money. Money is great, but not when it meant that I would sacrifice many hours of my life to be seen as a ‘good doctor’, and that dollar signs meant more than healthy patients and satisfied clients.

For specialists establishing new departments here, you will have the opportunity to make it your own. You will be involved in choosing equipment, nursing staff, scheduling, and more. Even better: VREC is currently drafting plans for a major hospital expansion, so you may even have the opportunity to input on your ideal department structurally.

There are many reasons behind my choice to stay, and we are looking for the right people who share the same values that we do.

Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center is a young hospital that is ready to grow and continue growing. We are currently seeking additional **Internists, Surgeons, and Emergency clinicians** with a desire to build **Dermatology, Oncology, Cardiology, and Ophthalmology** and **Neurology** departments. We have a Criticalist on staff and excellent emergency clinicians as well as highly skilled technicians. For Internists and Surgeons, we are looking for clinicians to grow and manage our already well-established client base. Our ECC department has been a great support to all our departments; my quality of life is amazing. My department operates on a 4-day week and I am very rarely called in after-hours. VREC is a very team-oriented facility and our doctors enjoy working together. We have fun and we laugh and exchange ideas about our patients. Our nurses are awesome and they truly spoil me. They help so much with discharges, phone calls and client communication, allowing me to be much more efficient.

While I don't know what you are looking for outside of work, I find the area is ideal for living and enjoying life. My commute is four minutes. I rarely lock my car at home. My biggest fear

are bears, not burglars. The mountains are beautiful and give a feeling of isolation. A few of our doctors have literally bought farms! There are waterfalls, hiking trails, white-water rafting, skiing...all the activities for any outdoor enthusiast. We have plenty of restaurants and stores in the area you would expect in any suburb. The region also has one of the best school districts in the nation, if family plans are in your future. I love that we are pretty central and I can easily drive to New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, or D.C. when I want a big city for a weekend or day trip. I also drive to the beach every summer for a little getaway. All four seasons here are beautiful (yes, even winter!)

In short, if you are interested in working in a positive, supportive, and open work environment, don't hesitate to let us know or contact us with any questions. I do not own this hospital, but I am invested in being part of this hospital's growth without the loss of all the good things we have going on here!

Good luck to all of you in your careers!

*Dionne*

Dionne Ferguson, DVM, DACVIM  
Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center  
318 Northern Blvd.  
South Abington Township, PA 18441  
570-587-7777  
[www.vrecpa.com](http://www.vrecpa.com)  
[facebook.com/VRECPA](https://facebook.com/VRECPA)  
[instagram.com.VRECPA](https://instagram.com.VRECPA)