

Joint News Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6, 2026

MEDIA ADVISORY

Announcing the First Fresno-Based PM&R Residency Program

Event: News Conference - First Fresno-Based PM&R Residency Program
When: Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 11:00-12:00 pm
Address: VA Fresno Medical Center, 2615 E. Clinton Avenue, Fresno, CA 93703
Locations: VA Fresno Auditorium and Physical Therapy Gym

Speakers:

- Froy Garza, Executive Director/CEO, VA Central California Health Care System
- Duc Chung, MD, Program Director, California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Miguel Rodriguez, Chief Administrative Officer / Designated Institutional Official, United Health Centers
- Karim Amireh, MD, PM&R Resident Physician
- Samuel Doty, MD, PM&R Resident Physician

Officials from seven local organizations are holding a joint news conference to introduce a new residency program that serves to improve the function and quality of life health for local patients.

The first Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) residency program in the Central Valley has been launched by the California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine (CHSU-COM) in partnership with the United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley.

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R), also known as physiatry, is a medical specialty that focuses on the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of persons of all ages with congenital or acquired physical and/or cognitive impairments, disabilities, and functional limitations.

Through a collaborative, multi-campus approach based in Fresno, the new PM&R residency program is committed to addressing the region's healthcare disparities by equipping residents with the knowledge, experience, and leadership to improve function and quality of life for patients across the lifespan.

Resident physicians in this new program are educated by physicians from seven different organizations, including *California Health Sciences University, United Health Centers, San Joaquin Valley Rehab Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, Children's Hospital LA, Sierra Pacific Orthopedic Center, and VA Central California Health Care System.*



This collaborative new PM&R residency program marks an important step forward in expanding graduate medical education opportunities in the region.

The program has received Initial Accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) with approval to train up to six residents. The first two second-year residents started this month.

Photo/video opportunities:

- Signing ceremony with partners.
- Program Director, Resident Trainee, and patient demonstrating some of the training that will benefit physiatry patients in the VA Central California Physical Therapy Gym.

Contact: Claudia Solis, Public Affairs Office, VA Central California Health Care System (559)573-4616

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