

Wyoming WWAMI



Preparing & Returning Physicians to Wyoming



2014

WWAMI Physicians Return to Wyoming in 2013

Internal Medicine

Hannah (Tenney) Hall, MD – Bighorn Internal Medicine in Sheridan, WY
Jason Ackerman, MD – Sheridan Memorial Hospital in Sheridan, WY
Clint McMahill, MD – Lander Regional Hospital in Lander, WY

Travis Roberts, MD – Thermopolis Community Health Center in Casper, WY

Emergency Medicine

Luke Goddard, MD – Sheridan Memorial Hospital in Sheridan, WY
David Nickerson, MD – Sheridan Memorial Hospital in Sheridan, WY

Anesthesiology

Thor Hallingbye, MD – Pain Consultants of the Rockies, Cheyenne, WY
Gregory Wallace, MD – Anesthesia Associates in Laramie, WY

Orthopedics

Samuel Linford, MD – Star Valley Medical Center in Afton, WY

Learn more about WWAMI – Wyoming at

www.uwyo.edu/wwami

Wyoming's Medical School

Imagine a medical school that is rated #1 in primary care and rural medicine in the United States, serves about 27% of the landmass of the U. S. and includes 8% of the population. It also provides outstanding research opportunities and residency training for physicians. This is the University of Washington WWAMI Program, and it is **Wyoming's Medical School**. WWAMI consists of the states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

Each year approximately 220 WWAMI students from this 5-state region receive their 1st year of medical education in their home state, their 2nd year in Seattle and the 3rd and 4th years doing clinical clerkships and electives throughout the WWAMI region. Students also have the option of spending part of their 4th year in other parts of the United States or around the world as part of the University of Washington global health program. Up to 120 of the 3rd year WWAMI students have the opportunity of doing clinical clerkships in Wyoming each year.

In 1997, when Wyoming began its affiliation with the University of Washington WWAMI program, ten Wyoming-WWAMI medical students began their education at the University of Wyoming. WWAMI emphasizes rural healthcare and the return of Wyoming WWAMI graduates to the practice of medicine in Wyoming. The exceptional success of the Wyoming WWAMI Program led the Wyoming Legislature to increase our class to 20 students beginning in 2011. This will assure a much-needed stimulus to the future physician workforce needs of our state.

Fifty-two (65.83%) of our WWAMI graduates have returned to Wyoming to practice medicine. Of those returning, 73% are practicing in the primary care fields of family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, OBGYN, emergency medicine and general surgery.

The University of Washington School of Medicine is currently undergoing a renewal of the medical school curriculum. The current stage of planning will have many of the curriculum changes in place by 2015. As 2015 approaches, Wyoming WWAMI will change as well to meet the new expectations in medical student education.

Changes will include dividing the educational experience into three phases; a Foundation Phase, Patient Care Phase and an Exploration Phase. This will allow for earlier clinical teaching in the Foundation Phase and the introduction of longitudinal integrated clerkships in the Patient Care Phase in place of the current "block" clerkship scheduling.

The goal of these changes is to streamline the medical education experience as well as ensure the consistency of the educational content across the WWAMI region. Curriculum renewal will also serve to adapt medical education to meet the current physician work force needs of society, particularly for the rural WWAMI region.

The Wyoming WWAMI program will be working with the University Of Washington School Of Medicine to adopt these changes, and work on other programs that will encourage rural primary care practice in Wyoming.



~ WWAMI Students ~

2013 – 2014 Wyoming Class

Marcus Bailey – Cheyenne
 Tyler Baldwin – Riverton
 Kelly Baxter – Cheyenne
 Sean Bell – Casper
 Millie Boyd – Casper
 Hannah Chapman – Casper
 Melissa Dozier – Laramie
 Roberta Enes – Thermopolis
 Andrew Fluckiger – Torrington
 Sarah Gregory – Gillette
 Kyle James – Jackson
 Craig Luplow – Sheridan
 Kymberly May – Sheridan
 Maria McNiven – Burlington
 Arla Mayne Mistica – Wheatland

Rishi Patel – Gillette
 Hannah Phillips – Gillette
 Cummings Rork – Jackson
 Benjamin Ross – Cody
 Elise Sylar - Casper

*Michael Sanderson – Casper
 Jory Wasserburger – Gillette
 Derek Willie - Cody*

All are currently second year medical students.

WMS Top Graduating WWAMI Students:

Eric Howell, MD – Sheridan. He is a first year resident in Thoracic Surgery at U Washington Affiliate Hospital in Seattle, WA

WMS Centennial Scholarship Recipients:

Andrew Maertens – Big Horn

Gruden WWAMI Scholarship Recipients:

*Andrew Maertens – Big Horn
 Michael Sanderson – Casper
 Jory Wasserburger – Gillette
 Derek Willie - Cody
 Ellen Thompson - Laramie*

All students are second year WWAMI Students.

WWAMI Graduates 2013

Kevin Sun, MD – Casper
 Family Medicine – Tucson, AZ
Michelle Cassidy, MD – Cheyenne
 Internal Medicine – Aurora, CO
Steven Clements, MD – Gillette
 Internal Medicine – Aurora, CO
Tyler Quest, MD – Casper
 Internal Medicine – Denver, CO
 Dermatology – Iowa City, IA
Eli Harris, MD – Green River
 Medicine – Boise, ID
 Anesthesiology – Albuquerque, NM
Spencer Weston, MD – Evanston

Family Medicine – Pocatello, ID
Scott Bibbey, MD – Cheyenne
 Pathology / Anat & Clinic – St. Louis, MO
Tony Pedri, MD – Rock Springs
 Orthopaedic Surgery – Albuquerque, NM
Alan Brown, MD – Star Valley
 Pediatrics – Las Vegas, NV
Amer Salam, MD – Cheyenne
 Internal Medicine – Portland, OR
Sandra (Smylie) Gebhart, MD – Douglas
 Orthopaedic Surgery – Nashville, TN
Megan Woodward, MD – Torrington
 Pediatrics – Nashville, TN

Clayton Brown, MD – Star Valley
 Family Medicine – Tyler, TX
Mary Mrduff, MD – Casper
 General Surgery – Temple, TX
Travis Pecha, MD – Gillette
 Surgery – Salt Lake City, UT
 Anesthesiology – Salt Lake City, UT
Joseph (Greg) Dolan, MD – Laramie
 Pediatrics – Seattle, WA
Eric Howell, MD – Sheridan
 Thoracic Surgery – Seattle, WA



Wyoming Clerkship Sites

Students may attend third and fourth year required clerkships as well as fourth year electives in any of the five states. Wyoming has the following clerkship sites:

Third Year Clerkships

Family Medicine

Buffalo – A. Dozier Tabb, MD

Torrington – Marion Smith, MD

Cheyenne – Doug Parks, MD

Internal Medicine

Jackson – Ellen Meyers, MD &

Dennis Butcher, MD

Lander – Justin Hopkin, MD

Douglas – Lori Tobler, MD

Sheridan – Wendell Robison, MD

OB/GYN

Rock Springs – Amr Etman, MD

Cody/Powell – Lisa Williams, MD & Dale Myers, MD

Cheyenne – Kristy VanKirk, MD

Lander – Jan Siebersma, MD

Pediatrics

Cheyenne – Katarzyna Zarzycki,

MD & Sadie West, MD

Jackson – Travis Riddell, MD

Psychiatry

Casper – Stephen Brown, MD

Cheyenne – Abhishek Mehra, MD

Surgery

Casper – James Anderson, MD

Sheridan – Sara Smith, MD

Fourth Year Clerkships

Emergency Medicine

Casper – J.R. Realing, MD

Neurology

Casper – David Wheeler, MD

Surgery Selectives

Buffalo – Blaine Ruby, MD

Cody/Powell – Nathan Rieb, MD

Gillette – Rodney Biggs, MD

Cheyenne – Paul Johnson, MD
(*Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery*)

Orthopaedic Surgery

Jackson – David Khoury, MD

Electives Offered in Wyoming

Surgery

Casper – Jim Anderson, MD

Cody/Powell – Nathan Rieb, MD

Cheyenne – Take Pullos, MD

Gillette – Rodney Biggs, MD

Emergency Medicine

Jackson – Will Smith, MD

Family Medicine

Cheyenne – Doug Parks, MD

Casper – Beth Robitaille, MD

Cardiology

Casper – Wesley Hiser, MD

Dermatology

Casper – Scott Bennion, MD



Child Psychiatry

Casper – Stephen Brown, MD

Radiology

Powell – Lawrence Dirkson, MD

Casper – Joseph McGinley, MD

Infectious Disease

Casper – Mark Dowell, MD

~ WWAMI Preceptors and Faculty ~

1st Year Preceptors

Debra Anderson, MD

John Bragg, MD

John Byers, DO

David Cloyd, MD

Mike Comly, MD

John Haeberle, MD

Joel Higgins, MD

Mark Hoffman, MD

Brian Horst, MD

Jason Kalan, MD

Travis Klingler, MD

Paul Lehmitz, MD

Mark McKenna, MD

Daren Mikesell, DO

William Miller, MD

Gary Pearson, MD

Lars Peterson, MD

William Portilla, MD

Robert Seaman, MD

Patrick Tufts, MD

Jack Ullrich, MD

First Year Wyoming WWAMI Faculty

Sixteen faculty members from three colleges at the University of Wyoming deliver the first year of the WWAMI medical education. Several of our faculty teaches primarily in the WWAMI program, while others participate on a voluntary overload basis. The WWAMI faculty and their departments are reimbursed for their participation in the program. We are grateful for the efforts and dedication of our WWAMI faculty. They are a critical component of an outstanding medical education program.

Brenda Alexander, Ph.D. – Nervous System

Gerry Andrews, Ph.D. – Microbiology & Infectious Disease

Robert George, Ph.D. – Cell Physiology and Histology

Dale Isaak, Ph.D. – Immunology

Pam Langer, Ph.D. – Biochemistry

Kurt Miller, Ph.D. – Biochemistry

Ken Robertson, M.D. – Introduction to Clinical Medicine

Merl Raisbeck, Ph.D. – Cell Physiology

Tim Robinson, Ph.D. – Medical Information & Decision Making

Mark Stayton, Ph.D. – Biochemistry

Don Swiatek, M.D. – Anatomy

Jonathan Fox, Ph.D. – Nervous System

Carolyn Pepper, Ph.D. – SHB

Anna Smedts, Ph.D. – Anatomy

Cassie Cusick, Ph.D. – Anatomy

Myrna Miller, Ph.D. - Virology

Wyoming Family Medicine Programs and the University of Wyoming

Wyoming is fortunate to have two family medicine residency programs funded through the University of Wyoming. The program in Casper accepts eight residents per year while Cheyenne accepts six residents. The Director of Medical Education at the University of Wyoming directs both programs.

Both residencies participate in the WWAMI Family Medicine Network. This is a group of residencies throughout the

WWAMI region that promotes quality graduate medical education. They also have a goal of meeting the workforce needs of the region. The Director at University of Wyoming works diligently to assure excellence in the training of family physicians for Wyoming. One of the main goals of the family medicine residencies is to train family physicians who will provide care for Wyoming and its citizens.

The University of Wyoming provides outstanding leadership

overseeing the first year of education. They also direct the R/UOP program and have developed shadowing opportunities for students interested in the medical school through the WWAMI program.

Admissions Committee

The Wyoming WWAMI Admissions Committee consists of four Wyoming Physicians who volunteer their time to review all applications for the Wyoming WWAMI Program. They then participate in group interviews of selected applicants. These interviews take place in Laramie, WY in January. Students have the opportunity to visit UWSOM in Seattle if they desire. Our admissions committee members are:

Deeann Johnson-Engle, MD

Family Medicine-Douglas
Mark Wurzel, MD

Family Medicine-Powell
Rob Monger, MD

Rheumatology – Cheyenne
Debra Anderson, MD

Pediatrics - Laramie



Wyoming Office for Clinical Medical Education

The Wyoming Office for Clinical Medical Education, under the direction of Larry E. Kirven MD, is responsible for all Wyoming-based clinical activities for WWAMI medical students. The office works in close coordination with the WWAMI Medical Education Program at the University of Wyoming, The University of Washington and the Wyoming Medical Society. Together these groups help determine policy for medical education in our state. The office works as a team with the WWAMI Task Force of the Wyoming Medical Society and other groups to promote appropriate clerkships, electives and development of graduate medical education programs in Wyoming.

WRITE

WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience) is a unique program that promotes and emphasizes rural healthcare to medical students in their third year of medical education. Only 15-20 students from each WWAMI class of approximately 216 students are accepted into the WRITE program each year. The WRITE students complete 20 weeks of their third year of medical school in one rural community. During this time they complete Family Medicine and portions of the Pediatrics, Internal Medicine and Psychiatry requirements. At the end of the WRITE experience the students are extremely comfortable with the practice of medicine in a rural environment. Wyoming's WRITE Sites are located in Powell, Lander and Douglas where a large number of physicians and other healthcare professionals participate in training our future physicians.

Wyoming Rural Clinical Experience

This clinical program for all third-year WWAMI students brings them to Wyoming when they do their third year clinical rotations. This program is available for up to six students per year. Students may come from any of the WWAMI states, and they qualify for the program if they do four or more of their six required third-year clerkships in Wyoming. The Wyoming Regional Clinical Dean's Office makes final selection, and students participating in the program receive preference for their required clerkships. Each student also receives a \$2,000 dislocation allowance. This program will promote the practice of medicine in rural Wyoming and will eventually increase the number of physicians in our state.

Participants ~ 2013-2014

*Griffen Sharpe – Cheyenne, WY
Stephanie Lyden – Casper, WY
Ashley Klone – Casper, WY
Matthew Kapeles – Casper, WY
Steven Flynn – Laramie, WY
Landon Bluemel – Lyman, WY*

RUOP

R/UOP (Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program) is for WWAMI students finishing their first year of medical school. Students spend four weeks working with rural physicians. The purpose of the program is to encourage medical practice in rural communities by providing students with hands-on experience in clinical practice and intimate exposure to a rural community. It provides students with an opportunity to discover how patients receive health care away from the highly specialized resources of the academic medical center in Seattle.

Wyoming physicians hosted the following students in 2013:

*Stefani Bissonette – Douglas
Aaron Freeman – Sheridan
Daniel Grissom – Kemmerer
Michelle Ju – Powell
Max Kopitnik – Cheyenne*

*Michael Sanderson – Casper
Mary Shickich – Gillette
Jory Wasserburger – Lander
Sawley Wilde – Cody
Derek Wille - Jackson*

AHEC

The Wyoming Area Health Education Center's (AHEC) mission is to increase the supply, distribution, and retention of health care providers in order to increase access to quality healthcare, especially in areas of need. Programs and services offered through the Wyoming AHEC are community based and focus on community/academic educational partnerships. Wyoming received \$68,570 in federal grant funds for the period from September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013. These funds were used for recruitment and retention activities of health professions students and residents; for encouraging health professionals to locate in rural communities; and for several healthcare career pipeline programs.

AHEC sponsored a summer camp for high school students. The third annual AHEC Healthcare Careers Summer Camp was designed to expose students to the wide variety of healthcare careers available in Wyoming. In response to demand, two camp sessions were offered this year, increasing enrollment by nearly 100%. This unique camp was made possible through partnership with Ivinson Memorial Hospital, Laramie County Community College, the Office of Rural Health, UW College of Health Sciences, the Wyoming Center for Nursing and Health Care Partnerships, and the WWAMI medical school program. Seventy-eight high school students from 36 Wyoming communities attended the one of two six-day residential camps on the UW campus. Students were exposed to over 15 different healthcare careers through numerous hands-on activities at UW, Ivinson Hospital, and LCCC. Presentations were made by students and professionals in numerous healthcare fields allowing the students to ask questions and get a real world perspective about various careers. Students also learned about the necessary education and skills required for pursuing these health careers.

CHAP

A number of projects initiated by University of Wyoming students participating in the Community Health Advancement Program (CHAP) program were coordinated and supported by AHEC. Volunteers offer services such as grocery delivery, sitercise and technological assistance to seniors, healthcare and oral health education to local school children, and clerical and clinical support to 11 local organizations including: Albany County Public Health, Albany County Public Schools, Laramie Care Center, Laramie Downtown Clinic, Laramie Reproductive Health, Laramie Senior Housing, Regency Retirement Residence, Spring Wind Assisted Living, the University of Wyoming Health Seminar and the Wyoming Department of Health. CHAP has over 130 active volunteers representing more than 15 disciplines.

Wyoming WWAMI Office “Clinical Education”

**122 E. 17th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: 307-432-9264
Fax: 307-632-1973
Cell: 307-217-2892**

kirvel@uw.edu

**Larry E. Kirven, MD
Assistant Clinical Dean
Wyoming WWAMI**

WWAMI Medical Education Program

**University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Ave., Dept 4238
Phone: 307-766-2497
Fax: 307-766-2492
TJRobin@uwy.edu**

WEBSITE: www.uwyo.edu/wwami

**Tim J. Robinson, Ph.D.
Interim Assistant Dean
WWAMI-Wyoming**

Shadowing Opportunities

Applicants to the Wyoming WWAMI Program have traditionally had strong academic records; however, many of the applicants have not had sufficient exposure to medical practice situations during their undergraduate years. The UWSOM requires medical school applicants to complete a minimum of 40 hours of shadowing experience with a physician. Wyoming applicants not obtaining this minimum level of shadowing enter the medical school application process at a disadvantage.

Students often have difficulty finding shadowing opportunities. This is especially true for students who do not have family members working in the medical field. Dr. Tim Robinson, along with Dr. Larry Kirven and members of the Wyoming Medical Society, will be working with Marivern Easton of the Wyoming Area Health Education Center to develop a statewide physician-shadowing network. The goal of the network will be to place undergraduate premed students with physicians interested in providing clinical shadowing experience.

Since summer 2012, AHEC and the Wyoming WWAMI Program have worked with Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) to establish a successful physician shadowing program. This new state-wide shadowing effort will be modeled after the CRMC program. Thanks to the dedicated service of physicians around Wyoming, this program will provide invaluable clinical exposure for students as well as granting students an advantage when applying to medical school. Furthermore, these shadowing experiences will foster student interest in the practice of medicine.

