Greetings from Martin Teintze, Ph.D. – Director

WWAMI Moves into New Facility:
All WWAMI program activities, including classrooms, offices, anatomy lab, student study spaces and cadaver preparation/storage room, are now in the new 5-story addition at the South end of Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital. We have about 12,000 square feet of space on the 2nd floor, almost double what we had on the MSU campus. The new anatomy lab is roomier and equipped with LED surgical lights 10x brighter than the 40-year old ones we left behind. We also now have locker rooms with showers and bathrooms. Most importantly, the state-of-the-art ventilation system reduces the smell to an almost imperceptible level inside the room and makes it undetectable anywhere else in the building. We also have a conference room, faculty offices, and a break room/kitchen with refrigerators, microwaves, a dishwasher, and places to sit. The classrooms and offices all have windows with views. A large classroom is equipped with 2-way videoconference capabilities, and 3 small group rooms are used for case discussions or can be joined together by opening partitions to make another large classroom. Please come see us if you are in the Bozeman area!

(photo courtesy Bozeman Health)

Second year students in Bozeman:
Our new, larger space was made necessary by the fact that we now have both first and second year students in Bozeman, for a total of 60. The E15 class has been completing the last two blocks: Mind, Brain & Behavior, and Lifecycle & Reproduction. Starting in January, they will have a set of reviews and study for Step 1 of the USMLE board exam, which they will take at the end of February or beginning of March. Then they will have a week-long Transition to Clerkships course before starting on their rotations. The 10 students in the TRUST program will be doing the WRITE integrated clerkships, and many of the others plan to do one of the Montana “tracks”, with most of their required clerkships in Billings, Missoula or Bozeman. All students must also do 12 weeks of clinical training in Seattle at UWMC, Harborview, or Seattle Children’s before they graduate.

E’15 students are Montana State University Flag Football Champions!
This year our Montana WWAMI MS2 flag football team won the MSU Intermural Flag Football Championship. The game was played in Bobcat Stadium, and our Montana WWAMI – “Double WWAMI” team pulled out a 7-6 victory. Quarterback Brian Schwarzkoph connected with Payton Skawinski for the lone score of the game. Team Double WWAMI finished the season with a 9-1 record. [Photo: from Left - Kyle Wilcox, Connor Tice, Jake Bacher, Sam Olson (an adopted WWAMI member), Brian Schwarzkoph, Payton Skawinski, Justin Brewer, Aaron Maus]

Greetings from Jay Erickson, M.D. —Assistant Dean, Clinical Phase, UWSOM

MONTANA Tracks
Currently there are students in the Billings, Missoula, and Bozeman Tracks completing clerkships in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. New Montana WWAMI required clerkships have been established in Pediatrics in Bozeman at Bozeman Health Pediatrics and in Psychiatry in Bozeman at Gallatin Mental Health. Development of more 4th year required clerkships and electives are underway.

MT TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track)
The E2016 TRUST class consists of Ali Armstrong (Hamilton), Hannah Vigne (Butte), Cy Gilbert (Dillon), Shauna Mine-Price (Hardin), Tessa Zolnikov (Lewistown), Angela Bangs (Dillon), Dalton Peaslee (Libby), Stewart Chance (Miles City), MaryGlen Vielleux (Livingston), and Keenan Kuckler (Glasgow). The TRUST/TRUSTE mentors this year are: Dr. Serena Brewer (Butte); Drs. Burke Hansen & Anna Loge (Dillon), Dr. Anne Millard (Glasgow), Dr. Kathleen Harder-Brouwer (Hamilton), Drs. Christina Marchion and Mike Sura (Lewistown), Dr. Greg Rice (Libby), Dr. Sue Gallo (Miles City), Drs. Doug Wadle and Kelly Walker (Livingston), and Drs. David Mark, Kirsten Morissette & Ashley Quanbeck (Hardin).
WWAMI Activities

2016 Physician’s Oath & Hooding Ceremony

In May, we were privileged to see 22 of our Montana students graduate at Benaroya Hall in downtown Seattle. All of them had successfully matched into a residency in their chosen specialty. Twelve of the graduating students participated in one or more of the pathway curricula designed to prepare students for a diverse career in medicine. The four pathways were created to recognize students’ desire to work with underserved populations: Hispanic Health, Indian Health, Global Health, and Underserved. Elliot Welder was the only student completing the Indian Health Pathway at UW, which we celebrated with a blanket ceremony in the early morning hours before graduation. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Benzel)

Orientation & Immersion

ENTERING CLASS OF 2016

Orientation for thirty entering students took place on August 15th at our new facility, which had just been finished the week before. This was followed by a 3-week Immersion experience in which the students begin their education with early exposure to patients in a longitudinal clinical setting focused on clinical skills, primary care, chronic care, and continuity of care.

White Coat Ceremony

The ceremony took place at the MSU SUB Ballrooms (we have outgrown all other venues) immediately following the immersion experience on September 2nd, 2016. In the presence of family, friends, and faculty, the students recited their own version of the Physician’s Oath, a tradition we started last year. The oath focused on respecting the doctor-patient relationship, being compassionate, and leading honorable lives as a part of the medical profession. Dr. Carol Teitz, Associate Dean for Admissions, gave an address welcoming the students to UW and the medical profession, and Dr. Teintze gave closing remarks. The white coats and stethoscopes are gifts from Montana WWAMI and UWSoM alumni, respectively, and were presented by the six Big Sky College Faculty Members, along with alumni Pat Holland and Christy Mitchell.

Independent Investigative Inquiry

The purpose of the III portion of the curriculum is to engage students in activities that will foster the skills of life-long learning essential for practicing physicians in the 21st century. This year, the Rural and Underserved Opportunities Program (R/UOP), a four-week elective immersion experience in community medicine, placed 26 of our E15 students in sites throughout Montana to work side-by-side with local physicians in a rural or underserved practice. This is a wonderful opportunity for both the students and the communities they serve to address specific public health concerns. Two of the 30 Montana E15 students participated in a Global Health Immersion Program, one in Peru and the other in Nepal; one student participated in the MSRTP (Medical Science Research Training Program), working on a medical research project in Seattle. In October, we hosted our first regional poster session in our new facility, where the students presented their experiences to the faculty and the community.
Team Conrad!

Conrad Addison, E13, was in a bicycle accident on May 29th and sustained a serious cervical spine injury. He has regained some use of his upper extremities and is being cared for at the home of his wife Lauren’s parents in the Seattle area. His sister Erin, E08, is an internist in Kirkland, WA and has also been a great support. You can follow his progress, and leave notes of support at: www.caringbridge.org/visit/conradaddison.

His determination and positive attitude have been an inspiration to all of us who know him.

2nd ANNUAL MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERIENCE

As part of the Immersion experience, students were given an opportunity to spend 3 days in an underserved population. They were exposed to a variety of cultural issues present in rural Montana communities where significant numbers of American Indians live on or near reservations. Half the class went to Browning, on the Blackfeet reservation, and the other half to Hardin, on the border of the Crow reservation. This part of our program was given a “Shining Star of Community Achievement” award from the Group on Regional Medical Campuses at the American Association of Medical Colleges meeting this November.

Mike Spinelli, M.D., Tory Katz, M.D., and Gerry Groggel, M.D. headed to Hardin, MT where they toured the local IHS facility, met with Crow Elders, and learned from a local physician, David Mark M.D., what it is like to practice in this community (pictured left).

Faculty Zach Meyers, M.D., Jay Erickson, M.D., Jackie Wilson, M.D. and Montana TRUST Director Lisa Benzel traveled to the Blackfeet reservation in Browning Montana where students read articles on Native American health disparities as well as discussed the social and economic issues of the Blackfeet Nation. Two Native American physicians, Drs. Mary DesRosier and Neil Sun Rhodes, who are WWAMI clinical faculty and work at the IHS hospital, described the challenges of providing health care through the IHS, as well as the opportunities for physicians to make a lasting impact on the health of the native people. The medical students were given a tour of the IHS Hospital by Dr. DesRosier, met with local elders, and discussed what the community is doing to help (see image right—Students learning about Needle Exchange Program.)

Sixteenth Annual Medical History Conference

The Volney Steele Medical History Endowment sponsored the 16th Annual Medical History Conference of the West held at the Museum of the Rockies on May 2nd entitled: “Medicine under the Big Sky”. The conference was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Steele, who sadly passed away earlier in the year. Talks this year included: “Medicine, Midwives, and Mothers: Childbirth in the North American West” by Jennifer Hill, Ph.D.; “Illegal Abortion in Montana 1880-1973” by State Senator Diane Sands; Practicing Medicine in Late 19th Century Rural Montana: Dr. Charles McNulty of Virginia City” by Todd Savitt, Ph.D., followed by an “Homage to Volney Steele, M.D.: Tradition, Medical Practice, and your Future as a Doctor: one Man’s Example” featuring a eulogy by Pierce Mullen, Ph.D. and memorial excerpts from Richard Sabo, M.D., Charles Rinker, M.D., Robert Flaherty, M.D., Patricia Oriet, RN, Paul Visscher, M.D., Col. Eric Hastings, and Robert Hickman, DDS. Closing comments were by Volney’s son, Ralph Steele, J.D.
Faculty News

Dr. Bob Flaherty retired from teaching this year. Bob started his Family Medicine practice in 1978 and was immediately recruited to teach the first year WAMI students here as a preceptor and instructor in the Physical Diagnosis course, which later became Introduction to Clinical Medicine. Later, Bob was instrumental in developing the materials for the Critical Reading and Evaluation of the Medical Literature course, which later became Medical Information for Decision Making. In recent years, Bob developed and taught case studies, first in the old Biochemistry course and now in the Foundations Phase of the new curriculum. Twenty years ago, Bob started a free clinic in Bozeman, which has now become Community Health Partners, a federally funded CHC. He still volunteers at the homeless shelter and brings WAMI students with him. He is an outstanding role model and continues to serve WAMI students as a standardized patient. Bob received the two highest awards given by the Montana WAMI program: the Lucille Logan Award in 2012 and the George Saari Humanitarian Award in 2015.

WWAMI Welcomes New Faculty!

Anne Rich, M.D. (picture left) is the newest mentor of the Big Sky College faculty. Dr. Rich is board certified in both psychiatry and internal medicine. In addition to teaching clinical skills along with the other College Faculty, she teaches psychiatry in the Mind, Brain and Behavior block.

We welcome back Seth Pincus, MD. While he was Head of the Microbiology Department at MSU, he taught the WAMI Immunology course from 1994-2000; he then moved to the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, but is now back in Bozeman teaching in the Invaders and Defenders (Microbiology and Immunology) block this Fall.

Rich Popwell, M.D. and Josh Knappenberger M.D., neurologists at Bozeman Health, have joined the Mind, Brain and Behavior block team. Our 2nd years students just completed this block in November.

Other Regional News

Idaho WWAMI has expanded to 40 students/year, and the Spokane site now has a class of 60 in partnership with Gonzaga. WSU has received approval from the LCME to recruit a class of 60 for a separate medical school in Spokane. A for-profit DO school wants to set up shop in the Boise area with 162 students per class, after their plan to locate their campus at Montana State University fell through. They still plan to send many students to Montana for clinical training.

Are You Going to be in Bozeman?

As always, we would love it if you would stop by the office and say hello if you are in town. We want to catch up on what you’ve been doing and let you know about all the new things going on in WWAMI. We now located at the South end of the hospital: 937 Highland Blvd. Suite 5220 (2nd floor).

Contributions/Donations to Montana WWAMI

Contributions can be designated for awards and recognition of students and faculty. The George Saari award honors a mentor and leader in medical education, humanism and professionalism, who was a beloved faculty member for over 20 years. The Frank Newman scholarship honors one of the founders of the WWAMI program and its Director at MSU for most of the first ten years. Donations to our scholarship funds help students with high debt loads that are typical these days. Our last graduating class averaged $180,000 in student loan debt! The WWAMI Contribution Fund is critical to allow us to continue many of the activities highlighted in this newsletter and enable a much richer experience for the students during a very stressful time in their lives. The Teaching Equipment Fund is used to provide up to date equipment for our students. This is especially important now as we are equipping our new facilities. We can’t emphasize enough that your contributions allow us to provide activities and opportunities for our students that would not be possible otherwise.

We recognize that many of you have been generous in supporting our programs in the past, including memorializing loved ones through a WWAMI scholarship or contribution. For this we offer a very sincere thank you and hope that you know that we consider all of you part of the WWAMILY. Contributions can be made on-line through this URL: http://www.montana.edu/wwwami/donations_gifts.html.

Employment Opportunities

If you are missing out by not practicing in our beautiful state, there are many towns large and small all over Montana currently looking for physicians. For more information, please contact Lisa Benzel, MT WWAMI TRUST Director, lisabenz@uw.edu, Phone 406.660.0246

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