Greetings from Martin Teintze, Ph.D. – Director

As we start our second year in the new WWAMI facility at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital, we are extremely grateful for the partnership that has been forged between MSU and Bozeman Health and the generous support of our alumni and friends whose donations helped make its’ construction and furnishing possible. About half of our faculty are Bozeman Health employees, and being located here has been very convenient for them. A few even have their clinics just upstairs from our WWAMI classrooms! Our building, which is connected to the rest of the hospital at the lowest level, now houses internal medicine, pediatrics, physical therapy, and kidney dialysis. The top floor is still under construction and will be a new cardiology and pulmonary suite.

Our E’15 class, who pioneered the new Foundations curriculum, took their NBME Step 1 board exams in March of this year and have moved on to their clinical clerkships. We frequently hear that they are better prepared than the 3rd year students from the old curriculum, even though they started the clerkships in their 2nd year. Ten of the 30 E’15 students are in the TRUST program. They started their Patient Care Phase with a 4-5 month longitudinal integrated clerkship in their WRITE/TRUST community. Many of the other students have opted for one of the TRACKs in Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula, where they will do 4 or 5 of their required clerkships. All three TRACKs now offer all the required clerkships: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, OB/Gyn, Psychology, and Neurology.

Our E’16 class took the last two blocks of the Foundations curriculum this Fall: Mind, Brain & Behavior and Lifecycle & Reproduction. This summer, 2 students did an MSRTP research project, one went on a global health experience in Uganda, and the rest of the class spent a month at a rural or underserved clinic location and did a community health project in the R/UOP program. All the students presented their results at a poster session here in our WWAMI facility in October to their fellow students, faculty and the MSU and BDH communities.

Our E’17 class had their 3-week clinical immersion and celebrated their White Coat Ceremony in August (see photo). This Fall, they took the first 2 Blocks of the Foundations Curriculum, being immersed in biochemistry, genetics, cell physiology, microbiology, immunology, pathology, and, of course, anatomy.
MONTANA TRACK
Currently there are students in the Billings, Missoula, and Bozeman Tracks completing required clerkships in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, Neurology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. For the past 2 years, half of our 3rd year students have chosen a Montana Track. When you add the 10 TRUST/RITE students, 25/30 students are doing the majority of their required clinical clerkship experience in Montana now. Development of more 4th year required clerkships and electives is underway.

MT TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track)
The E2017 TRUST class consists of Miranda Bradley (Butte), Kilian Cunniff (Libby), Kelsie Delaney (Polson), Jennifer Eller (Livingston), Danielle Guer (Hardin), Marina Hansen (Hamilton), Michelle Hiebert (Butte), Jalyne Huft (Miles City), Alex Kurtz (Glasgow), Justin Morgan (Dillon), Matthew Snow (Dillon), Darcy Volz (Lewistown). The TRUST/RITE 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), Drs. David Mark, Kirsten Morissette & Ashley Quanbeck (Hardin), Dr. Emily Hall (Polson).

WWAMI Activities

2017 Physician’s Oath & Hooding Ceremony
In May, we were privileged to see 25 of our Montana students graduate at Benaroya Hall in downtown Seattle. A record 9 graduates matched into Family Medicine, 5 each into General Surgery and Internal Medicine, and 3 into Pediatrics. Orin Hansen completed the Indian Health Pathway at UW, which we celebrated with a blanket ceremony in the early morning hours before graduation.

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 1st, 2017. In the presence of family, friends, and faculty, the students recited their own version of the Physician’s Oath. Dr. Suzanne Allen, Vice Dean for Academic, Regional and Rural Affairs, gave an address welcoming the students to UW and the medical profession. The white coats were presented by the six Big Sky College Faculty; stethoscopes, gifts from the UWSoM alumni, were presented by alumni Dr. Laura Goodell and Dr. Dan Cornish. Dr. Herbert Swick, a retired clinical preceptor and member of the American Osler Society, presented each student with the newly published handbook “Osler for White Coat Pockets” and spoke about the values Dr. Osler promoted in his students.

The George Saari Humanitarian Award was presented to Dr. Greg Rice for his commitment to the community of Libby, MT, where he has practiced for 40 years. He has mentored more than 25 WWAMI students there as a RUOP and WRITE preceptor. The Saari Professionalism Award was presented to Dr. Dan Cornish, a 2017 WWAMI graduate, for his many activities to address health disparities and challenges in Montana. He helped establish a Palliative Care elective and an Advanced Care Directive Program at his TRUST site in Dillon.
WWAMI Activities, continued

1st Annual Med Prom!

In October, the E’16 class organized the first annual formal for the WWAMI students and faculty. The initiative was organized by the class wellness chair, Isabel Makman, and was a huge success! Students and partners from both classes, as well as faculty and staff enjoyed refreshments and dancing in the MSU SUB Ballrooms.

We look forward to seeing this tradition continue for years to come!

3rd Annual Montana Public Health Experience

As part of the immersion experience in August, students were given an opportunity to spend three days in an underserved community on, or near, a reservation. The goal is to give students exposure to a variety of cultural issues present in rural Montana communities where significant numbers of American Indians live, on or near reservations, viewed through the lens of community and public health. Students were broken up into two groups, accompanied by 2-4 faculty members each and sent out into rural Montana communities.

The twelve TRUST students, accompanied by faculty - Mike Spinelli, M.D., Jay Erickson, M.D. and Montana TRUST Director Lisa Benzel, headed to Hardin, where they toured the local IHS facility, met with Crow Elders, and also learned about what it is like to practice in a rural community from local physician, David Mark, M.D. Alma McCormick, Executive Director at Messengers for Health, presented on their mission to develop and maintain collaborations and partnerships with health service organizations and healthcare providers through community outreach. Dr. Jim Upchurch also talked about his career experiences working as a Tribal Health provider at the Crow Agency Hospital and now the Bighorn Valley CHC.

The rest of the E’17 class were led by faculty members Tory Katz, M.D., Zach Meyers, M.D., Patrick Holland, M.D., and Jackie Wilson, M.D. and traveled to the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana. Native American physician, Neil Sun Rhodes, who is WWAMI clinical faculty and works 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. Students participated in preparing and serving a meal at the Browning Homeless Shelter. Tribal Elder Harry Barnes led an engaging discussion on the history of the Blackfeet people. The students also had the opportunity to tour the Northern Rockies Medical Center in Cut Bank and to meet with the Hospital Board and CEO to discuss the role of hospital in community and rural health care.

Seventeenth Medical History Conference

The Volney Steele Medical History Endowment, along with the WWAMI Memorial Fund, sponsored the 17th Annual Medical History Conference of the West held at the Museum of the Rockies on “Bleed, Blister, and Purge Becomes Scientific Method.” We were fortunate to be joined by special guest, Dr. Philip Pallister, who took questions during the talk about his work. The lectures for this program included:

- Regulating the Variety of Healers in Early Montana: The Establishment of a Board of Medical Examiners by Todd Savitt, Ph.D., East Carolina University
- The Diffusion of Medical Science in Montana: Howard Taylor Ricketts and Caroline McGill by Pierce Mullen, Ph.D., Montana State University
- Montana’s African-Americans and Their Contribution to Community Health and Medicine by Ellen Baumler, Ph.D., Montana Historical Society
- ‘We Had to Start Treating Them as Human Beings’: Dr. Philip Pallister, Clinical Genetics, and the Montana State Training School, 1940s-1970s by Linda Sargent Wood, Ph.D., Northern Arizona University, with special guest, Dr. Philip Pallister

UWSoM Medical Student III Poster Session

One exciting benefit of having our term 3 Foundations students in Bozeman is that we get to host a poster session to celebrate their achievements over the summer between first and second year. In October, all 30 of our term 3 students presented on their summer experiences in the Global Health Immersion Program, the Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program, and the Empirical Research program. Chance Stewart (seen below) was selected as a winner of the 2017 Roger Rosenblatt Community Health Award for his poster on Reducing Teen Pregnancy and STI Incidence in Miles City through Social Media Outreach. Natalie Pursell was also nominated for the award for her poster on Home and Health: Decreasing Homelessness in Billings, MT with a Multi-faceted Approach.
Faculty News

WWAMI Welcomes New Faculty!

Kathryn Lowe, M.D.
Dr. Lowe is a pediatrician and is teaching in the Lifecycle block, as well as the Ecology of Health and Medicine course.

Mario Pizzini, M.D.
Dr. Pizzini is a neurologist and E'07 Montana WWAMI. He is teaching in the Mind, Brain, and Behavior block.

Other News

The 2017 Montana Legislative session ended with the enactment of a payback requirement for future WWAMI students. Students admitted in 2018 will have to choose between: A) signing a contract committing them to practice 3 years in Montana after completing their training, or repaying the state funds that subsidized their education over 10 years, or B) paying an additional $7,500/ year into the MRPIP loan repayment fund while in medical school to be free of all obligations. Alaska and Wyoming have had such payback requirements for many years. WSU has started their own medical school with a class of 60 in Spokane. The for-profit Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine is building a facility in Meridian near Boise and hopes to start their first class of 162 students in 2018 or 2019. They plan to send many of their 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 are located at the south end of Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital (building 5): 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 the Director at MSU for most of the first ten years. Donations to our scholarship funds can help students with high debt loads. Our last graduating class averaged $180,000 in student loan debt! The WWAMI Contribution Fund is critical in allowing us to continue many of the activities highlighted in this newsletter and enables 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 has been especially important in 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.

Personnel

Martin Teintze, Ph.D., Director and Assistant Dean, Foundations Phase, UWSoM, mteintze@montana.edu
Mike Spinelli, M.D., Associate Director, mspin@uw.edu
Kayla Ouert, Montana WWAMI Program Manager, kayla.ouert@montana.edu
Jay Erickson, M.D., Montana WWAMI Clinical Dean and Assistant Dean, Patient Care Phase, UWSoM, jerick@uw.edu
Bernadette Duperron and Judi Sullivan, Program Administrators; mtassist@uw.edu
Lisa Benzel, Montana WWAMI TRUST Director; lisabenz@uw.edu

Have a wonderful year and stay in touch!