Greetings from Martin Teintze, Ph.D. – Director

New Curriculum is Underway!
The thirty students in the ‘E’2015 class are well into the “Foundations Phase” of our new curriculum, which combines the subjects you remember from your first two years into seven new integrated blocks spanning 18 months – all taught in Bozeman. We started off with three weeks of “Clinical Immersion”, in which the students learned history and physical exam skills. These were taught by our new “Big Sky College” faculty that are featured on page 3. For the rest of the Foundations Phase, students are learning more clinical skills every other Tuesday, alternating with a day spent one-on-one with a primary care preceptor practicing those skills. Every other Wednesday and Thursday mornings, students are doing bedside rounds in groups of 5 with their College Mentor. After Labor Day, we spent 8 weeks in Molecular & Cellular Basis of Disease, a combination of biochemistry, genetics, and cell physiology. Now we are in the “Invaders and Defenders” block, learning Microbiology & Immunology and getting ready for the “CPR” (Cardio, Pulmonary, Renal) block that starts in January. Anatomy, Histology, Pathology, and Pharmacology are included as “Threads” integrated into each of the blocks.

We’re Moving!
The new building under construction at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital is starting to take shape and we are excited about moving this coming summer. WWAMI will occupy most of the 2nd floor of the 5-story building. Next Fall, the 30 E’16 students will be in Blocks 1 and 2, while the E’15s are taking Blocks 6 and 7. We now also have a Bozeman “Track” for the 3rd year required clerkships, and we have a 4th year EM clerkship, so there will soon be students from all 4 years here simultaneously.

Other Regional News:
Idaho is planning to expand to 40 students next year, and the Spokane site plans to expand their class to 60. WSU is also working on establishing a separate medical school in Spokane. At the same time, two for-profit DO schools want to establish themselves in Montana, one at MSU and one in Missoula. They would each have classes of 150+ per year, so there will be intense competition for clinical training sites throughout the region.

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

MONTANA Tracks
Currently there are students in the Billings, Missoula and Southwest Montana Tracks, completing clerkships in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. New Montana WWAMI required clerkships have been established in Emergency Medicine in Billings and Bozeman, OB/Gyn in Bozeman, Helena and Kalispell, and Surgery in Bozeman. Coming soon: Psychiatry in Bozeman. Development of more 4th year required clerkships and electives are underway.

MT TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) & WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience)
The E2015 TRUST class consists of Carlee Fountaine (Butte), Kyler Kingston (Dillon), Justinn Marshall (Glasgow), Kellee Glaus (Hamilton), Rebekah Huckey (Hardin), Payton Skawinski (Lewistown), Justin Brewer (Lewistown), Riley Grogan (Libby), Heidi Gross (Livingston), and Aaron Maus (Miles City). These students are selected through a targeted admissions process to be TRUST scholars, who are linked to rural and urban small city underserved communities to identify and promote their needs for health workforce training. They will return to their sites in the Summer of 2016 for R/UOP (Rural Underserved Opportunities Program) and again in January April 2017 of during their 3rd year Clinical Phase for a 18-week or 22-week longitudinal integrated clerkship experience (WRITE) and provide continuity of care for a panel of patients while meeting the objectives in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics and psychiatry.
The TRUST and WRITE mentors this year are: Dr. Serena Brewer, Butte; Drs. Burke Hansen & Anna Loge, Dillon, Dr. Anne Millard, Glasgow, Dr. Kathi Harder-Brouwer, Hamilton, Dr. Laura Bennett, Lewistown; Dr. Greg Rice, Libby; Dr. Sue Gallo, Miles City; Dr. Doug Wadle, Livingston; and Drs. David Mark, Kirsten Morissette & Ashley Quanbeck, Hardin.

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**Orientation & Immersion**  
**ENTERING CLASS OF 2015**

Orientation for the class of thirty entering students took place on August 17th on the MSU campus, followed by a 15 day 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 this year took place immediately following the immersion experience on September 3rd, 2015. In the presence of family, friends, and faculty, the students, recited their own version of the Physician’s Oath, a first for MT WWAMI. The oath focused on respecting the doctor-patient relationship, being compassionate, and leading honorable lives as a part of the medical profession. An inspirational talk by Dr. Zach Meyers, Big Sky College Head, brought the students to their feet in a standing ovation, and Drs. Teintze and Erickson concluded with closing remarks. The white coats and stethoscopes, gifts from Montana WWAMI and UWSoM alumni, respectively, and were presented by the six Big Sky College Faculty Members.


*Middle Row: Charden Wood, Justinn Marshall, Britta Hjalmarsson, Maggie Jeakins-Cooley, Rebekah Huckeby, Justin Brewer, Paige Esposito, Allyson Peterson, and Evan DeCan.*

*Front Row: Emilie Jacobsen, Riley Grogan, Kela Bergren, Kyle Cleasby, Aleks Abrahamowicz, Jake Bachofner, and Heidi Gross.*

**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. Students have the option to select from five different opportunities to fulfill this requirement; Data Gathering/ Hypothesis-Driven Inquiry (MSRTP), Critical Review of Literature, Experience-Driven Inquiry (R/UOP), Special Simulation Selective, or Promoting Community Health in Developing Countries (GHIP).

This year, the Rural and Underserved Opportunities Program (R/UOP), a four-week elective immersion experience in community medicine, placed 36 students in sites throughout Montana, 22 of which were from the E14 MT WWAMI Class. The students worked 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. Of the 30 Montana E14 WWAMI students, 22 participated in R/UOP, 5 participated in the MSRTP (Medical Science Research Training Program), working on cutting-edge medical research projects in Bozeman or Seattle; and 3 students participated in empirical research under the guidance of a UW-affiliated faculty member. We celebrated their accomplishments by hosting a dinner for them after their November poster session presentations in Seattle.

**2015 Physician’s Oath & Hooding Ceremony**

We were incredibly privileged to see 19 of our Montana students graduate in May. Eight of the graduating students participated in a pathway curriculum 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. Raima Amin—GHP & UP, Oren Gersten—IHP & UP, Chauncy Handran—UP, Kacy Herron—UP, Serena Johnson—UP, Karissa Keenan—UP, Sarah Ann Mullowney—GHP, and Angela Pallesi—UP & HHP, all received certificates.
1st ANNUAL MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERIENCE

As part of the Immersion experience, students were given an opportunity to spend 3 days in an underserved population. As our Associate Director, Mike Spinelli, M.D. said, “We wanted 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 groups of 10, accompanied by 2 faculty members, and sent out into rural Montana communities.

Students: Jake Bachofer, Kyle Cleasby, Paige Esposito, Geoffrey Gildewell, Emilie Jacobsen, Frank Marchak, Courtney Schuelke, Brian Schwarzkoph, Connor Tice, Kyle Wilcox, and faculty - Mike Spinelli, M.D., and Tory Katz, M.D. headed to Hardin, MT where they toured the local IHS facility, met with Crow Elders, and also learned from a local Doctor, David Mark M.D., what it is like to practice in a rural community. (Featured Right)

Students Aleks Abrahamowicz, Kela Bergren, Evan DeCan, Kevin Ferriter, Matthew Harrison, Britta Hjalmarsson, Maggie Cooley, Aaron Koster, Allyson Peterson, Charden Wood, accompanied by faculty -Tracy Fairbanks, M.D., and honorary guest – Pat Holland, M.D. traveled to Polson, Montana where they spent time with local host and WWAMI grad, LeeAnna Muzquiz, M.D. Students met with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council and Leadership group, Salish/Pend d’Oreille Culture Committee, the Kootenai Culture Committee Directors, and they also spent time with the Public Health/Tribal Community Health specialists at the Tribal health Department to better understand population health within the community. (Featured Left)

TRUST Students, Justin Brewer, Carlee Fountaine, Kellee Glaus, Riley Grogan, Rebekah Huckey, Heidi Gross, Kyler Kingston, Justinn Marshall, Aaron Maus, and Payton Skawinski, accompanied by faculty Zach Meyers, M.D., Jay Erickson, 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 and also met with local elders.

Faculty News

Dr. Michael Herring has retired from teaching the first year students. He taught the Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) course from 2002 through 2015, and was course chair since 2004. Dr. Herring did an exemplary job of teaching students the basic skills they need interacting with patients; from taking a history to the physical exam while conveying the importance of treating the patient with empathy and respect as an individual and not just a disease or problem. He had earned the admiration of each class he taught and the students have honored him more than once as their “favorite professor” at the end of the year. We are indebted to him for his distinguished service to the program.

WWAMI Welcomes the “Big Sky College” to Bozeman— Six physicians known for their dedication to teaching and patient-centered care were selected to lead clinical education and serve as student mentors for the foundations students here in Bozeman. Upon matriculation, students are assigned in groups of five with one faculty mentor within each group. The student-mentor relationship lasts throughout the student’s medical school education. During the students’ foundation phase, they meet regularly with their mentor and a small group of students from their College. During these weekly tutorials, mentors work with the students at the bedside, teaching them clinical skills and talking with them about patient-centered care and professionalism. During subsequent years, College faculty maintain contact with students, reflecting with them on their clerkship experiences, assessing their progress against learning objectives, helping them with career directions and decisions, and being available as needed for diverse concerns and discussions. Our College Faculty also teach the biweekly clinical skills sessions and act as a preceptor for the Primary Care Practicum.
Fifteenth Annual Medical History Conference

The Volney Steele Medical History Endowment, along with the WWAMI Memorial Fund, sponsored the 15th Annual Medical History Conference of the West held at the Museum of the Rockies on April 24th entitled: “Controversial from the Beginning: The History of Vaccination in Montana”. Mark Jutila, Ph.D. gave great insight on the legacy of Maurice Hilleman, the Miles City native who developed most of the childhood vaccines used today and also presented his own cutting edge research on vaccines. Other speakers presented a wide range of topics, including: Ellen Leahy, R.N., M.N. who spoke on Issues of the Past, Present, and Future with regard to vaccination, Pierce Mullen, Ph.D. touched on prominent anti-vaccination movements, Robert Flaherty, M.D. gave an intriguing presentation of the Power of Bad Research, primarily focusing on the MMR-Autism Controversy, followed by Julie Ruff, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC who concluded the evening with a talk on local vaccination issues within the public school systems. Attendance for the event reached an all-time high at 150 guests.

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

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 are currently still located in 308 Leon Johnson Hall on MSU’s Campus.

Contributions/Donations to Montana WWAMI

Awards and recognition of student and faculty in the WWAMI program are just one of the manifestations of contributing to the WWAMI program. 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 $165,000 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. Last but not least, the Teaching Equipment Fund is used to provide up to date equipment for our students. This is especially important this year, as we move to new facilities and have to leave most of our classroom and lab furnishings behind for continued use by MSU undergrads. 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. Have a wonderful year and stay in touch!

Contributions can be made on-line through this URL: http://www.montana.edu/wwwwwwami/donations_gifts.html.

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