Greetings from Martin Teintze, Ph.D. – Director

**New curriculum means 18 months in Bozeman starting next year!**

The 30 students in the E’2014 class that started this Fall will be the last class to spend their 2nd year in Seattle. Starting next year, we will have a new Foundations curriculum delivered at all the WWAMI sites over 18 months. It will have all the basic science subjects previously covered in the 1st and 2nd years integrated into a new set of seven blocks: Molecular & Cellular Basis of Disease, Microbiology & Immunology, Circulatory Systems, Blood & Cancer, Energetics & Homeostasis, Mind, Brain & Behavior, and Lifecycle & Reproduction. Threads of Anatomy & Imaging, Pathology, and Pharmacology will be integrated into each of the blocks. There will also be a more extensive clinical curriculum, starting with a three-week clinical immersion experience before classes start and a full day of clinical activities each week throughout the 18 months. After the Foundations phase, students will prepare for their Step 1 board exams and their clinical clerkships, which will start in March of their 2nd year. We are busy planning for new facilities that can accommodate the 60 students we will have in Bozeman each fall starting in 2016. WWAMI will be leasing space in a new building under construction at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital that will consolidate all classrooms, labs and offices in one location.

**Other regional news:**

Idaho has expanded to 30 students this year, and plans to increase to 40. WSU has consolidated all 40 Eastern Washington students in Spokane and hopes to expand their class to 80 in future years. WSU has also announced it plans to establish a separate medical school in Spokane that would share facilities with WWAMI.

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

**MONTANA Tracks**

Currently there are students in both the Billings and the Missoula Tracks, completing clerkships in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. Bozeman now has 5 clerkships (Ob/Gyn, IM, FM, Peds, Surgery) and Helena has added Psychiatry, allowing students to complete a new Track in Southwest Montana. Development of more 4th year required clerkships and electives are underway.

**MT TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) & WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience)**

This spring, we increased the number of TRUST students in the E’13 class from seven to ten by adding Orin Hansen (Hardin), Abby Mansch (Livingston), and Kayla McMahon (Butte). Another ten TRUST students were admitted in the E’14 class: Robert Brenteson (Libby), Nicole Broden (Dillon), Kegan Cunniff (Lewistown), Anthony Markuson (Lewistown), Brook Murphy (Miles City), Marjorie Nicholson (Hardin), Hana Paladichuk (Butte), Elizabeth Schiedermayer (Dillon), Aaron Smith (Livingston), and Lauren Stanley (Butte).

These students are selected through a targeted admissions process to be TRUST scholars, who are linked to rural and urban underserved communities to identify and promote their needs for health workforce training. They will return to their sites in January of their 3rd year 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. Laura Bennett, Lewistown; Dr. Greg Rice, Libby; Dr. Sue Gallo, Miles City; Dr. Doug Wadle, Livingston; and Drs. David Mark, Kirsten Morisette & Ashley Quanbeck, Hardin.

**R/UOP & MSRTP**

The Rural and Underserved Opportunities Program (R/UOP), a four-week elective immersion experience in community medicine, placed 27 students in sites throughout Montana, 18 of which were from the E13 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 WWAMI students, 18 participated in R/UOP; two spent their summer in a Global Health Immersion Program, one in Uganda the other in Peru, and 10 participated in the MSRTP (Medical Science Research Training Program), working on cutting-edge medical research projects in...
WWAMI Activities

Orientation

Orientation for the E14 class was held on a beautiful day at Hyalite Youth Camp. After a hike to Grotto Falls, the students participated in a Cascade Winter Survival team-building exercise in small groups with Drs. Mark Whipple (Head of Big Sky College), Anne Eacker (Associate Dean for Student Affairs), Jay Erickson, and Mike Spinelli. Dr. Spinelli, our WWAMI Associate Director, gave the “Welcome to Medicine” talk, which was followed by discussion with second year students Jean-Paul Toussaint, Ida Wilson, Joe Steffens, Julia Middleton, and Julie Campbell, as well as 3rd year student Louis Bartoletti answering questions about what students can really expect in medical school. The evening concluded with visiting around a campfire.

Family & Friends Day

This year’s White Coat Ceremony featured inspirational talks by Dr. Mark Whipple, Big Sky College head and Dr. LeeAnna Muzquiz E’96. The white coats and stethoscopes, gifts from the Montana WWAMI and UWSoM alumni, respectively, were presented by Dr. Pat Holland, a member of the inaugural WWAMI class in Idaho and longtime preceptor in Bozeman, and Dr. Leslie Kane, the most recent Montana WWAMI alum to start practicing here.

At the ceremony, Dr. Muzquiz was presented with the Dr. George Saari Humanitarian Award by Dr. Erickson, which honors one Montana WWAMI graduate or Montana physician who best exemplifies the humanitarian and professionalism characteristics exemplified by the late Dr. George Saari. Dr. Saari combined compassion and clinical excellence that demonstrated the interconnection of the art and science of medicine. Dr. Muzquiz is a native Montanan and a graduate of Montana State University where she earned a BS in Microbiology with a minor in Native American Studies. She started the WWAMI program at MSU and graduated in 2000, then completed her Family Medicine training in Seattle. She is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) and since finishing residency she has worked for the CSKT in the Tribal Health Department where she is now a Medical Director and full-time physician. Her interests in medicine include adolescent medicine, women’s health and diabetes as well as teaching and mentoring. She is active in the areas of health policy and advocacy and enjoys spending time with her family and enjoying beautiful Flathead Lake.
Service Learning Trip to Browning

The Montana WWAMI Program is dedicated to providing training in cultural competency, an understanding of the social factors that contribute to health disparities, and the role of physicians in improving health status, health care access, and utilization in underserved populations. For the fifth consecutive year, first year medical students have organized a service learning project on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. The students taught health-related lessons in the middle and high schools as well as discussing careers in the health professions. The medical students collected new and gently-used winter coats and other warm clothing at locations all over Bozeman and distributed them in Browning. Several WWAMI students collected food donated by local businesses to make an Italian style meal to serve the homeless in the Browning community. Other donations included produce for a salad, pumpkin pie, cookies, and bread.

Prior to the trip the students read articles on Native American health disparities as well as discussed the social and economic issues of the Blackfeet Nation in their Rural Health Class.

Two Native American physicians, Drs. Mary DesRosier and Neil Sun Rhodes, who are WWAMI clinical faculty and work at the IHS hospital, gave the students a tour of the IHS Hospital and 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 visit to Browning concluded with a dinner at which a tribal elder shared perspectives on Native American health care and answered questions from the students.

The students’ goal is to plant the seeds of encouragement and enlightenment through a mutual exchange that benefits both them and the community. In the Spring of 2014, the E’13 students organized a mentoring program for high school students in Browning and Charlo. Each student researched a health care topic with guidance from their WWAMI student mentor and prepared a presentation that was delivered when the high school students and their teachers came to MSU. They also toured the campus and learned about what MSU and the WWAMI Program have to offer.

The E’14 class wanted to establish the mentor relationship early, so the medical students invited the new class of mentees to take part in a special “Osler’s Evening” hosted by Dr. Sun Rhodes and the Montana TRUST Program the evening they arrived in Browning.

Faculty News

Susan Gibson (right) officially retired from MSU at the end of 2013 after 30 years of teaching anatomy and histology in the WWAMI program. During that time she received more than 30 awards for her teaching from both MSU and UW. This Fall, Susan came out of retirement to teach Histology one more time before we change to the new curriculum. She will continue going to rural Mongolia each summer as part of health care teams that includes WWAMI students and residents from the Billings Montana Family Medicine Residency. E’13 student Bridgid McNulty and Dr. Adam Stenseth, former WWAMI student and now a resident in the Montana Family Medicine Residency program in Billings, accompanied her on the trip this summer.

Susan Sindelar (left), an adjunct instructor in the Introduction to Clinical Medicine course, retired in May 2013 after 23 years of teaching patient interviewing and social history skills to hundreds of WWAMI students. Susan was always the first person to help out with anything and everything when it came to WWAMI, and we are indebted to her great service to the program.
Fourteenth Annual Medical History Conference

The Volney Steele Medical History Endowment, along with the WWAMI Memorial Fund, sponsored the 14th Annual Medical History Conference held on the MSU campus in April entitled: “Challenge and Response: Emerging Diseases and Emerging Medicine”. The keynote speaker was David Quammen, National Geographic writer and author of the book Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic, (which won the Science and Society Book Award from the National Association of Science Writers). Other speakers presented a wide range of topics, including: Spencer Shropshire, M.D., who touched on the treatment of Typhoid in Montana, Heinz Feldmann, M.D., Ph.D. who spoke on combating emerging diseases with level four laboratories at Rocky Mountain Laboratory and Todd Savitt, Ph.D who concluded the evening with a talk on Disease and Doctoring in Montana.

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 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 and Teaching Funds are 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. 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 good year and stay in touch!

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

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