The WWAMI Messenger
News from the Idaho WWAMI Medical Education Program

WINTER 2015-16

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WWAMI Medical Education Program Links
Idaho WWAMI Program Links
University of Washington, Idaho WWAMI
http://www.uwmedicine.org/education/md-program/current-students/wwami/idaho
University of Idaho, Moscow
http://www.uidaho.edu/academics/wwami

SAVE THE DATE!
Idaho Pre-Med Summit
May 21, 2016

Idaho WWAMI Medical Education Program will host the seventh Idaho Pre-Med Summit on May 21, 2016, at the University of Idaho/Idaho Water Center. The Pre-Med Summit is intended for Idaho’s undergraduate premedical students and advisors, and the purpose is to provide necessary information to enable students to prepare for and apply to medical school with a competitive application.

If you would like additional information about the Idaho Pre-Med Summit or are interested in registering, please contact the Idaho WWAMI office in Boise at 208-364-4544, or via e-mail at idwwami@uw.edu.

25th Year UWSOM Ranked Nation’s #1 School for Family Medicine and Rural Medicine

The University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) announced on March 15, 2016, that it has once again earned the nation’s No. 1 ranking in family medicine and rural medicine in the 2017 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools. This marks 25 consecutive years that family medicine and rural medicine have ranked in the No. 1 spot. UWSOM also continues to rank No. 1 in training for primary care, as it has for 22 of the past 23 years. “We are so proud that the UW School of Medicine has retained its number one rankings in primary care, family medicine and rural medicine education,” said Mary Barinaga, MD, Idaho WWAMI Assistant Clinical Dean. “This honor speaks to the quality, expertise and commitment of the faculty, staff, and students at the University of Idaho, and throughout the five-state WWAMI region. University of Idaho’s 45-year partnership with UWSOM, the support of our state legislators, and the talented and dedicated clinical faculty in Idaho and the WWAMI region have all contributed to the success of Idaho WWAMI, and benefit the 35 first-year medical students who begin their training here each fall.” Idaho WWAMI has 26 required clerkships (clinical training sites) and five WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience) sites in eleven communities across the state. More than 90 students completed required and elective rotations at these sites in 2014–15. A variety of programs, like TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track), established in Idaho in 2013, admits students with a specific interest in rural and underserved care and matches them to rural communities where they participate in tailored curricular activities during all four years of medical school. TRUST communities in Idaho include Hailey, Jerome, McCall, Nampa, Orofino, and Sandpoint. Each year U.S. News ranks schools using two types of data—the opinions of experts about program excellence, and statistical information on the quality of faculty, research, and students. Medical schools are ranked overall in two categories—primary care and research—as well as in training in specific clinical fields, such as family medicine and rural medicine. UWSOM ranked No. 8 in research for 2017, and the School of Medicine’s physician training was ranked highly in several other disciplines, including No. 5 in pediatrics and No. 7 in internal medicine. Additionally, UWSOM is listed as receiving the largest amount of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for public medical schools. UWSOM serves as the only public allopathic medical school in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho through its WWAMI program, which provides medical education across the five-state region. The WWAMI program is a key element in UWSOM’s nationally recognized success in teaching rural medicine, family medicine, and primary care.
E-15 Idaho WWAMI Students Elected into Honor Council

The newly elected E-15 UWSOM Honor Council members were announced January 12, 2016. Two Idaho WWAMI students, Nicholas Tacke and Justin Gause, were nominated and elected to the council. The Honor Council is a student-initiated and approved body responsible for overseeing medical student discussions and concerns related to the UWSOM Honor Code, which all UWSOM students sign upon admission to the School of Medicine, and mandates that they maintain high ethical standards; cultivate and maintain a community of professionalism and academic integrity; and commit to the ideals of excellence, integrity, respect, compassion, accountability, and altruism, both in their medical education and in their future careers. The Honor Council acts as a communication conduit for medical students, medical school administrators and faculty, and provides an informed representative medical student voice during institutional discussions about ethics, professionalism, and academic integrity. Congratulations Nick and Justin!

Match Day 2016 Update

Idaho WWAMI is pleased to present the results from this year’s Match. Match Day is the nationally observed day on which all medical students receive their results from the National Residency Match Program (NRMP), informing them where they will complete their residency training. The NRMP creates the national Match list using a mathematical algorithm that pairs the rank-ordered preferences of applicants and program directors to produce a best fit for filling available training positions. This year, a total of 18 Idaho WWAMI medical students matched in the following specialties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIALTY</th>
<th># OF STUDENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine-Preliminary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics-Gynecology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Surgery</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otolaryngology</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
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In his second year of medical school at UWSOM, Dr. Knight married his wife, Kaye, and they have enjoyed over 60 years of marriage. They have five children, who are spread across the United States and involved in projects ranging from commercial pursuits to education. Always a farm kid, Dr. Knight enjoys all outdoor activities, but most enjoys any activity with his family. Idaho WWAMI would like to thank Dr. Knight for his many years of service to medical education and the healthcare community. We wish him all the best!
Foundations Phase:
College Mentor Highlight

The University of Washington School of Medicine has one of the most unique medical education programs in the nation, and focuses on personalizing medical education for students and providing a deepening understanding of fundamental clinical skills and professionalism. The College system, one of a series of recent innovations in the MD curriculum, is at the core of this program.

The Colleges have three primary goals: to collaborate in creating and delivering a four-year integrated curriculum of clinical skills and professionalism; to teach in the Foundations of Clinical Medicine course in the Foundations Phase of the curriculum; and to provide a consistent faculty mentor to each student throughout his or her medical school career.

Each regional site in the WWAMI region has its own College, and students are randomly assigned upon matriculation to one faculty mentor within a College. Each College mentor is assigned five students, and serves as their primary source of mentoring and academic and career counseling throughout their medical school experience.

Idaho WWAMI E-16 Admissions Interview Update

This year of Idaho WWAMI admissions interviews saw an outstanding pool of applicants for the E-16 class, which will begin the Foundations Phase in Moscow, Idaho this fall. As opposed to previous years—in which one week of interviews was held in Boise, Idaho and the other week was held at UWSOM in Seattle—this year both rounds of interviews were held at the Idaho WWAMI offices in Boise.

A combined total of 78 applicants were interviewed over the course of one week in January and one week in February this year. We congratulate all applicants, and look forward to a fantastic new class of medical students this autumn!

Meet the Idaho WWAMI Mentors!

(From left) Dr. Justin Worth, Dr. William Caldwell, Dr. Linda Fearn, Dr. Glenn Jefferson, Dr. Jane Fore, Dr. Benjamin Adkins, and Dr. Angela Scharnhorst

Why did you decide to join the WWAMI program as a College mentor?
- Dr. Angela Scharnhorst: “I love being able to pass along my experiences and knowledge to the next generation of physicians. I feel honored and privileged to be a part of the WWAMI family.”
- Dr. William Caldwell: “After all of these years in the business and seeing mistakes made, I felt that I might be able to help the young docs learn how to avoid making the same mistakes.”
- Dr. Justin Worth: “I was thrilled when I heard the new WWAMI curriculum would bring clinical teaching and experience to the students from the very first day! The opportunity for students to be in the hospital interviewing and examining patients from the very beginning is creating a foundation for them that I did not have. I love being a part of this groundbreaking approach that will produce better physicians.”

What drew you to medicine as a career?
- Dr. Jane Fore: “It was the perfect marriage of science, a lifelong intellectual challenge, and an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the people in my life (my patients). It is a life of service that actually defines who I am as a person, and it is the perfect job for me.”
- Dr. Justin Worth: “I had a great love and aptitude for computer programing, but one day realized, ‘I don’t want to spend my whole life in front of an inanimate screen; I want to work with and help people.’ The work of a physician has opened my world to the life of others in a way computers never could have provided.”

Students enjoy the collaborative approach of the UWSOM new curriculum, in which physician faculty like Dr. Angela Scharnhorst (right) are present to field questions and lend knowledgeable perspective on clinical skills.
Tyler Wines, an Idaho native from Gooding, is assigned to the Hailey TRUST continuity community where he is instructed by site director Dr. Frank Batcha, a family medicine physician with St. Luke’s Family Medicine Hailey Clinic. Tyler revisited Hailey in December for his intersession experience, which gave him a chance to further familiarize himself with the Hailey community and put the knowledge gained in his first few months of medical school to use working with Dr. Batcha at the clinic. Tyler describes his continuing TRUST adventure, and current events in his first phase of medical school, below.

“My hands down favorite aspects of the first few months of medical school were Dr. Steve Hall’s Rural Health class and my TRUST intersession in Hailey. In returning to my TRUST site, I was able to rekindle the relationships forged in the brief time I spent in Hailey for my FSE [First Summer Experience]. I jumped right back into clinic with Dr. Batcha, and although I had been excited to return to my continuity community prior to intersession, I was subsequently shocked at the enormous impact the experience had on me. Utilizing the knowledge I had gained even in my initial months of medical school—and realizing just how much I had learned already—as well as visiting with some of the same patients who I had met in my first visit to Hailey served as powerful reinforcements that rural medicine and underserved communities is where my heart and passion lies.

Right now in Foundations Phase, we just finished our CPR (Cardiology/Pulmonary/Renal) Block—ten weeks of an intense amount of information constantly thrown at you! At times, I was worried that there was no conceivable way I was going to be able to retain everything, let alone apply it in caring for my future patients. However, the new curriculum has time built into classes in which we complete case studies on a daily basis. This helped immensely in connecting the dots and digesting the information. Multiple physicians are present during this portion of class, and I really appreciate that we have the opportunity to hold one-on-one or small group discussions with them. We work through the cases individually and hash them out in small student groups initially, and then the physicians step in at the end to field questions and dialogue with us about our rationale in determining our answers. I strongly believe that this has been one of the most beneficial training techniques of the Foundations Phase. Our clinical skills class aligns with the material covered in our block courses, and trains us in behaviors and techniques that will be beneficial when we begin the clinical clerkships. Faculty have periodically brought in members of the community as ‘fake patients.’ They are assigned roles, and we can interact with them and interview them to assess the ‘patient,’ then deliver our assessment and action plan to the instructors. This has been a fantastic tool that allows us to connect and synthesize the material we learn in lecture with realistic clinical situations.

All Idaho WWAMI students are placed with a primary care physician with whom we precept every week. I am assigned to Dr. Darby Justis, an E-99 WWAMI-trained pediatrician who practices in Lewiston, Idaho. Now that several months have passed since first joining Dr. Justis in clinic, I am beginning to see patients on return visits. This is so exciting, because I am establishing relationships with the patients and their families, and will be able to longitudinally track the children’s progression through the first months of their lives as opposed to working with a patient once and never seeing them again. I am also starting to conceptualize the challenging and rewarding facets of primary care in rural Idaho. In many cases, the physicians in these underserved areas are the sole health care providers to which residents have access. Consequently, they must be skilled in all aspects of medicine, from psychiatry to infectious disease. This broad scope of practice, and the resulting demand on the physician to dedicate themselves to honing their knowledge in the full array of healthcare, is further cementing my conviction that the field of medicine is the perfect career for me.”

Thank you for reading The WWAMI Messenger
Please send updates, questions or comments to idwwami@uw.edu.