

TRAIL RIDER NOTES

JANUARY 2013

from the ASSISTANT DEAN'S CORRAL



As the New Year begins, I realize more than ever before the challenges we face in health care. The Office of Rural Medical Education remains

dedicated to our mission of preparing our students for life and practice in a rural environment. Regardless of the political and economic landscape, we will strive to educate our Rural Scholar students to assure their competence not just in the technical skills of medicine, but in the compassionate, ethical care of the entire patient. Sensitivity to community health is essential. Healthy communities mean healthier patients.

We are excited about enhancements planned for the Rural Scholars curriculum. Beginning with the fall 2013 semester we will implement additional public health content into our curriculum. Additionally, some students will complete their OMM rotation at their family medicine rural site, allowing them to improve their skills in a truly integrative manner. Some students will participate in rural advocacy day with the Texas Rural Health Association.

Our first year cohort of Rural Scholars survived their first semester admirably and are looking forward to their inaugural experience at their rural family medicine site this summer.

The teaching, guidance, and mentorship our rural faculty provide remain a gift of commitment to our program. Their dedication is appreciated.

A big thanks goes out to those of you who sponsored a student for this year. I know they appreciate your support.



On Thursday, November 15, 2012 the Office of Rural Medical Education hosted an event in support of National Rural Health Day. This event gives national, state, and local advocates a chance to showcase rural America and highlight the unique healthcare needs of rural communities. In the spirit of collaboration, we pulled together physician assistant and physical therapy colleagues and students to discuss relevant issues facing rural health care professionals. Take a look at the richness of information we were privy to!

"Rural Health Care – A Physician Perspective"

*Keynote Speaker –
Robert DeLuca, DO, FACOFP,
Eastland, Texas*

"Rural Health Care – The Hospital Perspective"

*Steve Sosland – Chief Operating Officer
Robert Murray, MD – Chief of Staff
Hill Country Memorial Hospital,
Fredericksburg, Texas*

"How to Collaborate Among Health Care Professionals in a Rural Setting"

Panel Presentation:
*Rural Physician Assistant (Faculty) –
Michael Nye, PA-C, Goldthwaite, Texas
Rural Physician Assistant Student –
Misty Nobles, Bells, Texas
Rural Physical Therapy (Faculty) –
Clayton Holmes, PT, EdD, MS, ATC,
Fort Worth, Texas
Rural Physical Therapy Student –
Amanda Thompson, Alvord, Texas
Rural DO – Robert DeLuca, DO, FACOFP,
Eastland, Texas
Rural Student Doctor –
Becky Downey, El Paso, Texas*

"Challenges & Opportunities in Rural Health - Rural Professionals in the Field"

*Physician Assistant Professional –
Chris Cooper, MPAS, PA-C,
Menard, Texas
Physical Therapist Professional –
Charles Nichols, PT, DPT, M.Ed, CSCS,
Alliance, Texas
Doctor of Osteopathy Professional –
Norma Cavazos-Salas, DO,
Mission, Texas*

Rave reviews from all who attended reinforced how important it is to bring together other disciplines to share their experience and insights.

The recipient of this year's "Rural Medical Education Outstanding Service Award" was Claudia Tannous, Practice Administrator for Dr. Bruce Maniet in Bells, Texas. Claudia handles all the details associated with students lodging. Recently, Dr. Maniet has allowed other Rural Scholars rotating in the Sherman area to stay in this free housing. Claudia has graciously accommodated 8 additional students this academic year. Without her generosity of spirit and service, these rotations would not have been possible.

Join us for the 2013 event!

We're already looking forward to the 2013 celebration! This year it will be a three day event to be held Thursday, November 21st through Saturday, November 23rd. Mark your calendars NOW!

**National Rural Health Day
November 21st, 2013**



Students take Medical Services to the Homeless

YR2 Rural Scholar, Shamyal Khan accompanied several other TCOM students to provide free medical services to the homeless at Project Homeless Connect, an annual event that gathers helpful services at one Fort Worth location.

The students performed glucose and blood pressure screenings and provided osteopathic manipulative treatment. This link with the community provides considerable insight into the daily struggles of people who cannot afford health care.



John Peter Smith Research Posters

YR4 Osteopathic Medical Student, Nadine Aldahhan won 2nd place at the John Peter Smith Research Day Poster Presentation. Nadine's poster summarizes her research about colonoscopy practice in rural and urban areas. Her research examined whether or not any changes will be needed to current practices in those areas to ensure quality of procedure and patient care. Bravo, Nadine!

Rural Scholars Faculty and Students



One of the Greats

Dr. Fred Kassis, an Internal Medicine physician in

Sweetwater, Texas, has hosted many Rural Scholars since 2008 when he became a rural faculty member. One student reports, "Dr. Kassis provided a broad spectrum of Internal Medicine experiences through a mix of hospital and clinic – he gave me articles to read and topics to discuss. He spent time with me on differentials, discussing patient cases and teaching! Really GREAT teacher; gave me a strong foundation in medicine." Rural doctors take pride in offering their wisdom to students who will someday be practicing in underserved areas.

Faculty OMM Refresher February 2013

Traditionally, students choose a Family Medicine faculty that they work with at increasing intervals throughout their 4 years of medical school. By the third year students spend 8 weeks with this physician. For the upcoming YR3 class the option has been offered for them to stay an additional 4 weeks for OMM learning.

For faculty that would like to refresh their manipulation skills, we will be hosting an OMM booster training at this year's TOMA Mid Winter conference.

Dr. John Bowling relates that students will benefit considerably from learning how to weave OMM into their daily practice.



Students & Trained Patients

YR2 Student Doctors in the Rural Scholars

Program are engaged in at least 10 "trained patient" encounters throughout the year. Each encounter allows the student to practice doing a history and physical on a patient who presents with a specific problem that is being studied. Each interaction is recorded and evaluated by Dr. Bowling and Dr. Cage. The student reviews their own recording as well. YR2 Celia Martinez is featured above.



Student Teacher Ratio 1:1

Rural physicians come to the UNT Health Science Center to share their knowledge and wisdom with student doctors. Pictured above is Dr. Jeffrey Rettig from Groesbeck, Texas teaching students about colposcopy... What's unique about this classroom? The student teacher ratio is 1:1. Rural Scholars benefit greatly from the individualized coaching.



Rural Research Projects

YR3 Student Doctor Jason Moulton sets up

the surveys he is using in his Rural Research Project. Each student identifies a need in their community, gathers data, and presents findings. This requirement provides the student with "community responsiveness" experience and public health exposure. Jason is studying patient awareness of colorectal cancer screening.



Sitting third from the left – Jacquelyn Paetzold and next to her is José Cruz.

Two rural medical students travel to the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, CA in summer 2012

This past year, two of our rural medical students, Jacquelyn Paetzold and José Cruz, traveled to California with an esteemed group as part of the Betty Ford Center's Summer Institute for Medical Students in Rancho Mirage. Fourteen TCOM students gained an intimate perspective while observing treatment and counseling at this clinic. They spent a week with patients and their families in an attempt to understand the impact of chemical dependency. Each student described the event as "life changing" and reported that this will certainly impact the way they practice medicine in the future.



Betty Ford Center



Rural Scholar MATCHES top choice!

Military medical students have to make a choice about residency and make it fast because they actually match the second week in December, as opposed to March when regular students match. YR4 Rural Scholar Rebecca Downey matched her first choice, Travis Air Force Base in California.

She will be working in Family Medicine at the David Grant Medical Center. We are very proud to call Becky a Rural Scholar.



SEE OUR CELEBRITIES in Texas D.O. Magazine

Will Griffin featured in March/April 2012

José Cruz featured in January/February 2013

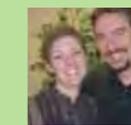


TRHA Awards

Nadine Aldahhan received the Texas Rural Health Association 2012 Rural Health Student Award for her commitment to rural Texas. Nadine completed clinical rotations in Clifton, Sweetwater, Jacksonville, Stephenville, Eastland and Longview. Congrats, Nadine!

Dr. Mark McClanahan was honored with the 2012 Rural Health Trailblazer Award. He has been a rural program faculty member for over 10 years. In addition to serving rural Texas as a family medicine physician, he has shown leadership by serving in the fields of emergency medicine, obstetrics, public health and nursing home care. He is an inspiration to those who learn about family medicine under his guidance.

We are also delighted to see former rural track student, Kevin Finley, DO receive the Rural Health Academic/Preceptor Award for 2012. While at TCOM, Dr. Finley completed his family medicine rotation in Saginaw, Texas. He is currently practicing family medicine in Munday, Texas.



Future of Rural Medicine is now!

Dr. Jennifer Evans Tidroski, a pediatrician in Eastland, Texas, was a rural track student in Dr. Bowling's program several years ago. She is now practicing medicine in a rural community and has brought with her a Family Medicine DO and partner, her husband, Chris Tidroski, DO. During medical school, this part of the program seems a long way off, but Dr. Tidroski is a shining example of living the dream. We are so proud of Jennifer!

Rural Folks Stand Tall

There are superstars among us

On May 18th, 2012 seven Rural Scholars graduated from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. We are very proud of these new physicians and trust that they will represent our program well as they move into their residency programs.

Jamie Bass Jennifer Myszewski
 Melissa Hardin Joshua Payne
 Shawn Hughes John Sissney
 Megan Lyle

Of these accomplished graduates we had several awards:

TCOM Dean's Award for Scholarly Excellence in Clinical Studies – *Joshua Payne*

Scholastic Award for Academic Achievement – *Joshua Payne*

The Junior Bone Crusher Award – *Joshua Payne*

Geriatrics in Your Future for Academic and Clinical Excellence in Core Geriatrics – *Joshua Payne*

William Russell Jenkins, DO, Surgery Award for Academic and Clinical Excellence – *Shawn Hughes*

Sports Medicine Achievement Award – *John Sissney*

Elizabeth P. Levy, DO Awards for Outstanding Commitment to Practicing Osteopathic Medicine in a Rural Setting – *Megan Lyle and Jennifer Myszewski*

Academic Achievement in Rural Medicine – *Jamie Bass, Melissa Hardin, Shawn Hughes, Megan Lyle, Jennifer Myszewski, Joshua Payne and John Sissney*



Top left: Joshua Payne, Megan Lyle, Jamie Bass and John Sissney.
 Bottom left: Melissa Hardin, Shawn Hughes and Jennifer Myszewski.

Faculty Sponsors for Class of 2016

This summer we enrolled our seventh cohort of Rural Scholars since the Rural Osteopathic Medical Education program began in 2006. We are excited about the quality of these individuals and their rural backgrounds. We are engaged in a robust schedule where we continue to provide 1-on-1 procedural skills training as well as topics of specific interest to future rural physicians.

In order to provide better mentorship for our rural students, Dr. Bowling asked for support from our ROME program faculty. The response from these valued physicians was heartwarming indeed!

Faculty contributing to the Class of 2016 provided funds for a Rural Scholars logo shirt, the book "Osteopathy in the Words of A.T. Still," and a logo lapel pin for the specific student they sponsored. The faculty member received a ROME shirt and lapel pin was identified as the contributor in the book received by the student. We were able to match many of the faculty with a student who is actually from the area where the doctor practices.

Several physicians also contributed to a scholarship fund established in the name of and in memory of Dr. T. Eugene Zachary. We hope to grow the principal in this fund to be able to endow an ongoing scholarship available to students in the Rural Scholars program.

Faculty that sponsored a student or contributed to the Zachary fund:

STUDENT DOCTOR CLASS OF 2016	HOMETOWN	SPONSORING PHYSICIAN
Karen Duong	Angleton, TX	Dr. Kevin Blanton
Antonio Flores	Victoria, TX	Dr. Steven Yount
Reid Golden	Joaquin, TX	Dr. Gary Barkocy
Hannah Jayroe	Dallas, TX	Dr. Larry Cunningham
Jennifer John	Rowlett, TX	Dr. Kevin Blanton
Jessica McGehee	Fort Collins, TX	Dr. Denise Casper
Jessica Nu	Plano, TX	Dr. Jeffrey Hutchins
David Ramirez	Mission, TX	Dr. Norma Cavazos-Salas
Christopher Rhodes	Lovington, NM	Dr. Robert DeLuca
Andrew Saverine	Friendswood, TX	Dr. Steven Ellerbe
Hunter Smith	Garwood, TX	Dr. Russell Thomas
Russell Stanley	Abilene, TX	Dr. Kevin Cunningham
Blayne Street	Abilene, TX	Dr. Craig Whiting
Russell Weir	Grandview, TX	Dr. Jeffrey Rettig

Our rural faculty contributed a total of \$1550 to the Dr. Zachary fund, which will help build scholarships for students. We are most humbled by this generosity and appreciate every donation!