

Progression of Training and Skills Devils Lake

Preamble

North Dakota is a predominantly rural state. Fifty-four percent of the population resides in 49 non-metropolitan areas. However, only 32% of physicians practice in rural areas. Abundant research has demonstrated that repeated educational experience in rural practices, at medical student and resident levels, significantly encourages young physicians to seek employment opportunities in rural areas.

Goals

- The introduction of the resident to the workload of a rural family physician
- The demonstration of the scope of practice of a rural family physician
- The ability to allow the resident to function as a member of a small, inter-dependent team
- The opportunity to familiarize the resident with the unique nature of the bond between a rural family physician and his/her patients with its special rewards
- The presentation of the advantages of living in a smaller community
- The understanding of the enhanced stature a physician has in a smaller community

Objectives

- Develop an increased self-awareness and become a better physician as a result of this experience
- Appreciate the rewards of the practice independence
- Understand the increased importance of his/her role, together with the special nature of the patient-physician relationship
- Ability to function effectively as a member of a team in a small community
- Awareness of personal limitations and timely recognition of need for triage to tertiary care center
- Begin to understand the complexity of providing geriatric care in a smaller community with limited resources

The goals and objectives are achieved through a combination of structured experience together with didactic instruction.

[Revised and approved at the Faculty Meeting April 3, 2012]

[Revised and approved at the Faculty Retreat June 20, 2014]