

Mission Physician



What??

- A program to attract young people to enter family medicine
- Supported by Altru Health System
- Aided by a grant from Dakota Medical Foundation
- Directed by Family Medicine Residency Program

Who??

- Junior and senior high school students
- Non-metropolitan schools, mainly smaller towns and rural
- Identified and selected by school principals, health occupation counselors, and word of mouth



Mission Physician

Where??

- In Altru Hospital
- At the Family Medicine Residency
- Around the Community
- At the Canad Inn



When??

- June and July 2009
- Beginning on a Sunday evening and ending the following Friday afternoon
- Five camps in total, maximum of 10 students per camp



Why??

To combat the shortage of family physicians.

Family physicians are more likely to:-

- come from rural areas
- come from less affluent families
- be motivated by a sense of service
- to identify with their patients and community



Importance of May 23, 2007

First time in history, World's population more urban



Consequences

- Redistricting - new urban legislatures redraw lines to favor other urban legislators



- Changes in school funding such as consolidation

- Restructuring education formulas to force consolidation

- Unconsolidated rural schools face funding difficulties

- All medical schools admitting fewer students from rural origins

- Medical schools with rural mission had less decline

- Medical schools with greatest decline most recently



Problem of elitism

Medical schools place emphasis on MCAT scores

- poor indicator of future success

Admission committees are impressed by "service" and "travel"

- rural students are financially disadvantaged and "needed to support family"



Rural students need advocacy!

Better predictors of success are background and work ethic, hence "Mission Physician"



The following physicians generously volunteer their time to mentor students if wished:

Brad Braunagel MD, Valley City

Kamille Sherman MD, Dickinson

Laura Walker MD, Hettinger

Shelly Selph MD, Richardton

Rup Nagala MD, Oakes

Dawn Mattern MD, Minot

Mark Olson MD, Williston

Rob Kemp MD, Williston

Marc Neilsen MD, Williston

Dave Field MD, Bismarck

Brenda Miller MD, Bismarck

Louise Murphy MD, Bismarck

Shelly Seifert MD, Bismarck

Heidi Bittner MD, Devils Lake

Derek Wayman MD, Devils Lake

Joel Johnson MD, Park River

Philip Sedo MD, Rugby

Pat Emery MD, Wahpeton

Tracy Martin MD, Fargo

Larry Halvorson MD, Grand Forks

Jamie Roed MD, Grand Forks

Pat Moore MD, Grand Forks

Todd Schaffer MD, Carrington

Aaron Garman MD, Beulah

Chuck Nyhus MD, Harvey



Management committee

The following physicians have generously volunteered their time to assist with the management of the program.

Derek Wayman MD, Devils Lake

Todd Schaffer MD, Carrington

Chuck Breen MD, Hillsboro

Pat Emery MD, Wahpeton

Aaron Garman MD, Beulah

Mark Olson MD, Williston

Chuck Nyhus MD, Harvey



Itinerary

Family Medicine Residency

- Built by Altru Health System
- Gifted to UND in exchange for Medical Center Rehabilitation Hospital
- Unsupported by state funds

Procedures

An introduction to basic clinical procedures.



Shadowing

- Shadowing within all major hospital departments, and with faculty and residents.
- An introduction to office practice and physician-patient relationship.



- How care is actually delivered!
- How diagnosis is actually made!
- Practice rather than academic theory!



Panels/Presentations

- An opportunity to question and interact with residents in a panel setting

Presentations

- What is a family physician? Not a "community-based primary care specialist!"
- Health care careers
- Teen pregnancy and acne
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Teen suicide
- Skin cancer

Altru Hospital

- Emergency room
- Cardiac lab
- Ortho
- Neonatal Unit
- Pharmacy
- Respiratory care
- Internal medicine
- Nursing
- Bariatrics
- Pediatrics
- Critical care
- Nephrology
- Radiation therapy
- Operating suite
- Radiology
- Laboratory
- Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Renal dialysis
- Audiology
- Optometry
- Obstetrics
- Podiatry
- Nuclear medicine
- Speech pathology
- Pain management
- Hand therapy

- **CPR certification**

- **Family Practice Teaching Service**

Recreation

- Columbia Mall, shopping
- Water Park
- Movie
- Picnic, University Park
(all activities chaperoned)



Other components

- Tracking and demographic database
- Appointment of mentors
- Web-based support
- Expansion of family medicine fellowship
- Video product, summer camp & residency program
- Legislative initiative

Acknowledgements

The program has been arranged, coordinated and directed by Wanda Cary, Resident Associate, Family Medicine Residency Program.

Administrative support has been provided by Pam Carlson, Residency Program Administrator, who has also assisted with negotiations with Canad Inn, and managed the cost center set up to fund the project.

Wanda and Pam have also spent countless hours acting as "Den Mothers" for the students.

Heidi Collison, Human Resources Employment Recruiter and Coordinator of Altru's Shadowing Program, in the Human Services Department, Altru Health System, has provided all the school health occupational contacts and the arrangements for in-hospital shadowing experiences.

Video production has being carried out by the Aerospace Foundation at UND under the direction of Bob Cary.



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