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Crystal Krabbenhoft
Jennifer Prosser
Anastasiya Haponyuk
Katarina Leyba

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Crystal Krabbenhoft¹, BS; Beverly Williams², BA; Jennifer Prosser², BA; Anastasiya Haponyuk³, BS; Katarina Leyba³, MBA
¹UNM Family and Community Medicine; ²UNM School of Medicine Candidate 2019; ³UNM School of Medicine Candidate 2021

Mission Statement

Support, mentor, and prepare interested medical students to fulfill their goal of effectively providing healthcare to underserved groups in New Mexico.

Goals

- Attract medical students from diverse backgrounds who have a strong interest in caring for the underserved in New Mexico.
- Provide a medical school experience that trains and supports them to become leaders in the care of underserved communities.
- Provide mentoring and experiences that supports their interest in the care of the underserved throughout medical school.
- Enable these students to serve as a catalyst for others at UNM to appreciate the rewards and challenges of caring for New Mexico’s underserved.
- Increase the number of UNM School of Medicine graduates who pursue careers devoted to improving the health and health care of New Mexico’s underserved populations.

PIE

An individualized approach is made to match students with preceptors and in communities that align with each participant’s future career goals.

“Not only was I able to witness the medicine that I had learned in the classroom, but I was also able to do home care visits and create partnerships with local organizations that allowed me to be an advocate for the patients I had seen daily in clinic. The role of being a physician in a small community extends beyond providing care to patients. It also affords you the opportunity to be immersed in many aspects of how the community shapes your patients and their health. Without the help of RUUP, I don’t think I would have had the opportunity to experience such tight-knit interactions in a community where my family lives.”

Deanna Gonzalez, MS II    PIE Location: Taos, NM

“I am so glad that I went to Alamogordo for part of my Surgery Clerkship with the RUUP program. Unlike at UNMH and the VA, I was working with only one resident and was able to participate much more actively in surgeries. I was even the first assist in several surgeries!”

Shannen Ramey, MS II    PIE Location: Zuni, NM

Clerkships

Modification have been added to several clerkship rotations that enhance the curriculum for program participants without adding additional requirements. Modifications include a 2 week rotation in Shiprock, NM for OB/GYN and a 1 week rotation in Alamogordo with their surgery rotation.

“The RUUP clerkship opportunity to work in a rural hospital reinforced my interest in working with underrepresented populations, keeping me dedicated and excited about practicing in Native country one day.”

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Future Directions

- Community Service Projects
- Phase III Electives
- Residency Mentoring: Matching into RUUP-aligned Programs
- Continued Monthly Seminars in RUUP related topics

Participants

Figure 1 & 2: Program Participants numbers from years 1-3; class of 2018, 2020 and 2021

Figure 3: Locations RUUP students have participated in clinical experiences. Graphic created by Ashley Cummings, UNM Prevention Research Center

Casa de Salud site visit in South Valley, Albuquerque, NM.

Suturing Workshop 2017

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