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Rural and Urban Underserved Program Update: Underserved-Focused Clinical Experiences

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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.



Suturing Workshop 2017

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 Gonzales, MS II PIE Location: Taos, NM

"During orientation, RUUP went on a site visit to the Zuni IHS hospital. I remember being amazed at the variety of services that the hospital was able to offer to the local community and was impressed by the expansive skill set that many of the doctors had to utilize in their daily practice. If it hadn't been for RUUP, I would have been much more nervous for PIE and probably would have opted to go to another location"

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."

Jaron Kee, MS IV

"Being part of the RUUP program gave me a unique opportunity during my Family Medicine Clerkship to work in a independent clinic serving mostly primary Spanish speaking patients. I was able to learn about offering primary care to this population in addition to challenges faced by undocumented patients. The experience solidified my desire to be a family medicine physician serving the most vulnerable in our communities."

Jennifer Prosser, MS IV

"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!"

Hadley Pope, MS IV

"While I was in Shiprock for my OBGyn clerkship, I had the opportunity to participate in my first delivery. It was a moment that I will never forget."

Beverly Williams, MS IV

Participants

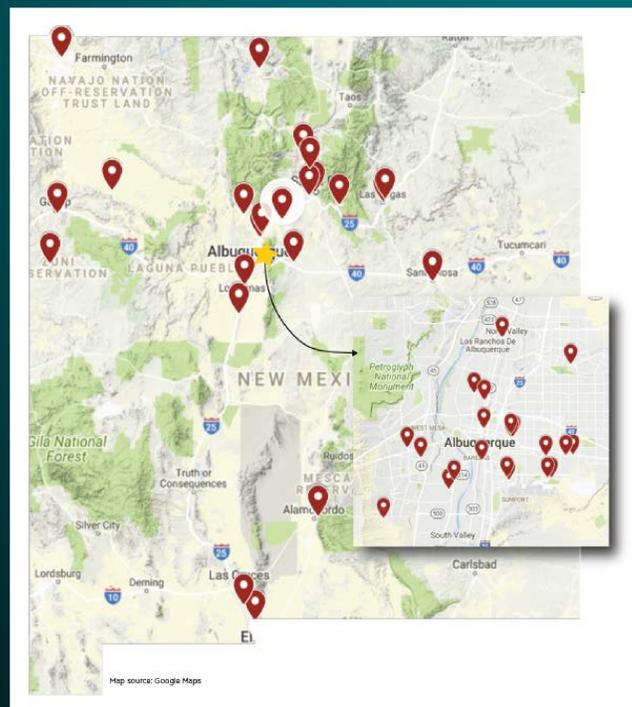
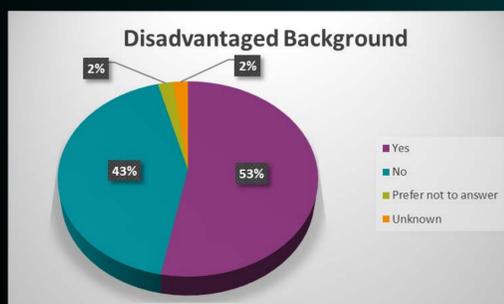
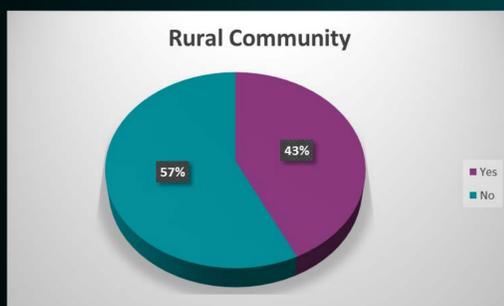


Figure 3. Locations RUUP students have participated in clinical experiences. Graphic created by Ashley Cummings, UNM Prevention Research Center



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

Future Directions

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

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Figure 1 & 2: Program Participants numbers from years 1-3; class of 2019, 2020 and 2021