Greetings from the
CU School of Medicine Rural Track!

2005 - 2014 in Review

The CU School of Medicine Rural Track was founded in 2005 and a decade later we are still leading the charge for rural healthcare and rural workforce development. We have a diverse group of students, alumni, and supporters from across the state and country — all of whom share a common goal of improving healthcare in Colorado’s rural and underserved communities. In the last year, we said goodbye to the Class of 2014, increasing the number of Rural Track graduates to around 115. We also welcomed 18 first-year MD and 6 Physician Assistant students, bringing the total number of currently enrolled students to around 100.

Our students have many opportunities to “go rural” for the real-life clinical experience that is a major educational component of the Rural Track. In 2014, 22 MD students spent 3 to 8 weeks with a rural preceptor between their first and second year and 11 third-year MD students spent 3 months in rural communities on an integrated, longitudinal clerkship that the Rural Track pioneered in the School of Medicine.

We also emphasize community engagement through the annual week-long Interdisciplinary Rural Immersion summer program. Students experience what it is like to live and work in a rural community by learning about the local culture, economy, natural resources, education system, and healthcare. This program has taken us to Sterling, Delta, Cortez and Alamosa in past years. In 2014, we spent a week in Lamar in Prowers County. Prowers Medical Center also created a $10,000/year scholarship for a student interested in practicing in Lamar after training. This adds to our “grow-your-own” scholarships already established in Gunnison, Montrose, and Walsenburg, specifically offered to Rural Track students.

As we look to the future, we hope to continue providing the mentoring, broad skill set, and valuable experiences that help us achieve our ultimate goal—increasing the number of students who eventually enter and remain in practice in rural Colorado. We need your help to keep this program going strong. Whatever you can do, we appreciate your support and look forward to sharing coming years’ successes!

In health,

Mark Deutchman, MD
Rural Track Director
Associate Dean for Rural Health
Current Rural Track Students

Joe Jones and Tadhg Parks, 2nd year CHA/PA students during airway management workshop

Dr. Mark Deutchman assists 1st year MD student, Tamara Lhungay, during suture workshop

Jade Bryant, Sierra Hill, and Jim Bougie, 1st and 2nd year pharmacy students learning how to immunize, brand, and “cut” calves during the Interdisciplinary Rural Immersion Week in Prowers County

By the numbers...

$55 - the cost of one suture kit for a student to practice his/her hands-on skills
$100 - the cost of supplies for the sterile technique workshop
$500 - the cost for one student to participate in Rural Immersion Week
$1,000 - the cost to host a Rural Grand Rounds lunch lecture
$2,000 - the cost for one student to participate in the 4-week summer preceptorship
$340,000 - the annual cost of operating the Rural Track, 1/3 of which is covered by the School of Medicine
Rural Track Graduates

By the numbers...

50% of RT graduates matched in primary care specialties
1/3 have completed training and entered practice

Of Rural Track graduates in practice,
60% are practicing in Colorado
50% are practicing in rural communities
30% are practicing in rural Colorado

Location of Rural Track MD, PA, & Fellow Graduates Practicing in Colorado

- Alamosa
- Carbondale
- Colorado Springs (4)
- Commerce City
- Craig
- Del Norte
- Denver (5)
- Fort Morgan (2)
- Glenwood Springs
- Grand Junction
- Gunnison (2)
- Highlands Ranch
- La Junta
- Larkspur
- Loveland
- Louisville
- Montrose (2)
- Pueblo
- Rifle
- Sterling
- Walsenburg
- Westminster
Examples of our Seminars and Workshops:

- What is rural?
- Rural ethics
- Clinical guidelines
- Rural environmental health
- Surgical skills: sutures, biopsy, chest tubes

Upcoming Workshops:

**March 4, 2015**
1:30pm  Childbirth Skills (Phase II)
3:30pm  Perineal Laceration Repair (IV)

**April 22, 2015**
1:30pm  Cyst Removal (I)
3:30pm  Perineal Laceration Repair (III)

**May 6, 2015**
1:30pm  Childbirth Skills (I)
3:30pm  Childbirth Skills (III)

**May 13, 2015**
1:30pm  Suture Refresher (I)
3:30pm  Vasectomy Lab (IV)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Contribute to the Rural Track operations/endowment or scholarship fund.
- Precept students during their summer preceptorship or third-year clerkships.
- Help facilitate a workshop or share your expertise as a guest lecturer.
- Spread the word to your family, friends, colleagues, and community members about the Rural Track!