

WOW Bus Riverstone Health

Last May, WWAMI students visited the new RiverStone Health WOW Bus. NP Katie Keith provided the tour and discussed current and future plans for the bus. This mobile health unit provides a range of services such as routine check ups, immunizations, urgent care, limited lab services and many other services that are vital to the care of Montana families. Such services are available to everyone, regardless of insurance or their ability to pay. This is a fantastic asset to the Yellowstone County and surrounding areas. WWAMI students appreciate exploring the many ways communities help care for their citizens, including the rural populations in the state.



MS3s Zarryn Duong, Mackenzie Winters, and Eli Engledow

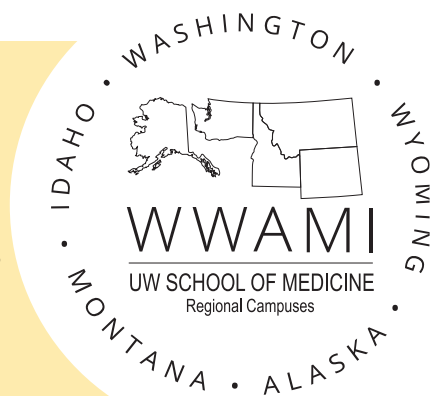


Eli Engledow, Zarryn Duong, Mackenzie Winters, Jenny Jutz, WWAMI Billings Track Coordinator and RiverStone Health /AHEC Student Placement Coordinator, and Nikole Bakko, Eastern Montana AHEC Outreach Coordinator

SUMMER 2025

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STUDENT NEWS

Celebrating Residency Match, Montana WWAMI 2025

March 21, 2025 ~ Upon their "almost completion" of their undergraduate medical education, Montana WWAMI students celebrated Match Day with their peers and with medical students across the country. Twenty-six Montana WWAMI students matched into 13 specialties in 13 states: Anesthesiology, Orthopedic Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Pathology – Anatomic and Clinical, *Family Medicine, *Pediatrics, *Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Surgery – General, Ophthalmology, and Thoracic Surgery. Nearly 50% of the 2025 graduating class matching into a *primary care specialty.

FACULTY APPRECIATION & AWARDS



Pam Heibert, MD, MACP

Pamela J Hiebert, MD, MACP, UWSOM Clinical Instructor, is the recipient of Mastership in the American College of Physicians. "The Mastership is the highest honor bestowed upon ACP members, recognizing excellence and significance in contributions to the college, the science, and the art of

medicine." Dr. Hiebert practices internal medicine at Bozeman Health where she teaches WWAMI clerkship students. She also serves as the director for the Primary Care Preceptorship program for Montana WWAMI Foundations, matching first and second-year medical students with area physicians and clinics for the start of their clinical learning. She is an active member of the Bozeman Health and Ethics Committee and sits on the Board of Directors for the Bozeman Health Foundation. Congratulations to Dr. Pamela Hiebert on this well-deserved recognition.



Dr. Chris Jons with Dr. John Schaeffer

John Schaeffer, DO John Schaeffer, DO, UWSOM Clinical Associate Professor, is a Neurologist in Missoula who has devoted his last 18 years of clinical work to teaching WWAMI students. In December he was honored at a Missoula faculty development event for his remarkable commitment. Dr. Schaeffer was surprised by a compilation of messages from former and current students who shared how his teaching during their medical education benefited them in their careers and future endeavors. We appreciate you, Dr. Schaeffer!

Richard M. Tucker Award UW Medical students nominate educators from the WWAMI region and based on those nominations the UWSOM selection committee chooses honorees who have demonstrated true enthusiasm and outstanding dedication in providing teaching and mentoring. In 2025, the Richard M. Tucker Award honors were bestowed upon: Daniel Mitchell, DO, UWSOM Clinical Instructor, IM, Bozeman Health and Nate Cook, MD, UWSOM Clinical Instructor, IM, Community Hospital of Anaconda



*Daniel Mitchell, DO,
UWSOM Clinical Instructor,
IM, Bozeman Health*



*Nate Cook, MD, UWSOM
Clinical Instructor, IM,
Community Hospital of
Anaconda*

Laura Goodell, MD



Laura Goodell, MD, UWSOM Dept. of Family Medicine Clinical Associate Professor, is a Montana WWAMI alumnus (E03) as well as a former WRITE student (Hailey, Idaho). After completing her residency at MFMR in Billings, she practiced rural primary care in Dillon, Montana. Since 2015, Laura has focused

her talent and energy chiefly on medical education in Bozeman and currently serves as a Clinical Guide and Block Lead in the Foundations curriculum. Engaged in innovation & governance, she also serves as the Academic Co-chair for Curriculum at UWSOM. Serving for the past five years as Montana's Stern Regional Faculty Educator, an endowed position to teach, coach and mentor faculty physicians, Dr. Goodell has been instrumental in providing faculty development to teaching physicians across the state. When she's not teaching, she maintains a part-time clinical practice at Student Health Partners at MSU. She has two kids, Oliver (17) and Beth (13) and enjoys outdoor adventuring with her family & partner Baldwin, including Nordic skiing or hiking in the mountains, gardening, cooking and gathering with others over a good meal. We appreciate the hard work, innovation, and planning that Dr. Goodell does to train excellent, compassionate and skilled physicians to serve the WWAMI region.

FACULTY RESOURCE

Montana Stern Faculty Educator

Teaching Communication: Empathy and Exploring Emotion in Serious Illness

Training in communication about serious illness is needed at all levels of medical education. Empathetic communication, defined as both responding to emotions and actively appreciating another's world view, is associated with better outcomes for patients and families. Clinicians who do not have a framework for responding to emotion when discussing bad news typically focus on information exchange and miss the patient's emotional and social cues. To address this gap, the mnemonic NURSE can be used to teach learners how to respond to a patient's emotions. For example:

Name: "I wonder if you are feeling anxious." "I can see this comes as a great shock." (observe and name the emotion: anxiety; shock).

Understand: "I can only imagine how difficult this news must be to hear." "If I understand what you are saying, you are worried how your treatment will affect your work." "People going through your situation often report experiencing... Is that how you feel?"

Respect: "I'm impressed with how well you have handled this."

Support: "I will be there to help you through this." "Please let me know what I can do to help you."

Explore: "Can you tell me more about...?"

When used effectively, these skills communicate caring and help patients and families navigate their emotions and cope with their circumstances, both of which help with goals of care and decision making amidst serious illness or end of life. Empathy helps us uncover and understand patient values.

Mookherjee 2016 Handbook of Clinical Teaching

MONTANA WWAMI TRACKS AND CLERKSHIPS

Each spring, a group of UWSOM patient care phase students embark on their clinical learning. Clerkship rotations are available to WWAMI students in communities across the state including Great Falls, Helena, and Kalispell. Montana also offers training tracks in Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula, allowing completion of many third year required clerkships (internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics psychiatry, surgery, and OB/Gyn) within a track location. Tracks are a popular option for students who want to stay in their home state as much as possible. Montana also offers a fourth year Explore and Focus Track which is a state-based track.

BILLINGS TRACK



In May, Area Health and Education Center representatives and Billings Track students met with local high school students at the Billings Career Center to discuss opportunities and paths into various healthcare careers. Topics covered included medical school expenses, scholarships, and specifics about the Billings WWAMI track and clerkship experience. Montana WWAMI encourages student participation in such pipeline activities.



MS3 WWAMI Students Eli Engledow, Zarryn Duong, and Mackenzie Winters

Frank Discussions in Billings

At "Frank Discussions," named in honor of Dr. Frank Newman, an instrumental pioneer in the founding of Montana WWAMI and former director, the Billings Track Office provides informal social and educational activities for WWAMI students, resident physicians, and preceptors. Recently, WWAMI students were treated to a session with Dr. Mike Geurin on crafting personal statements for residency applications. Previous Billings Track Director and current MFMR Faculty and DIO, Dr. Geurin practices at Intermountain Health. Each year he presents his tips and tricks to "Writing your Personal Statement," helping third-year students gear up for the residency application process. He is a regular presenter at the annual PreMed conference as well. Thank you Dr. Geurin!



MS3 students Taylor Beach, Armita Norouzi, Caleb Hoopes, with Dr. Mike Geurin

BOZEMAN TRACK



Allergy & Immunology Elective Clerkship



Michael DiCello, MD, Clinical Instructor, IM, with Allergy & Asthma Consultants of Montana is the site director for the new 2-week clerkship in Bozeman. This is an exciting opportunity for WWAMI students to learn about asthma, food and drug allergies, as well as diseases of the eye and skin. Welcome Dr. DiCello!



WWAMI Clinical Journal Club

Dr. Jay Erickson regularly hosts a Bozeman WWAMI Clinical Journal Club. These early morning sessions bring students together to explore pertinent healthcare topics using peer-reviewed journal articles

and research. Areas of focus have been around guideline creation such as hypertension and hyperlipidemia. Students have also looked at cancer preventive screening including breast cancer, colon cancer. These topics have engaged great discussions among the students and Dr. Erickson.

MISSOULA TRACK

Each spring, University of Montana and Missoula WWAMI host students from Nagasaki University Japan.



In 2025, two students, Yuta Torikoshi and Hikari Goto, were able to complete clinical rotations in Missoula. WWAMI Missoula Program Manager Liz Kelsey and Track Director Dr. Chris Jons go above and beyond to ensure the students have a unique and hands-on learning experience during their stay in Montana.



Medical students Katie Powers, Aaron Nichols, Yuta Torikoshi, Hikari Goto, Andrew Oh, Paige Kershaw, Zach Connolly with Track Director Dr. Chris Jons

WWAMI Faculty Development – CME Events



The annual Montana WWAMI Faculty Development Conference held April 4-6, 2025, took place at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in Anaconda. The conference theme, **Forward into the Future: Nurturing Excellence in Montana WWAMI Medical Education** provided an array of engaging topics for the weekend, including two particularly inspiring talks by CMO of Codman Square Health Center in Boston and Vice-chair at Boston University Medical School Dept. of FM, Renee Crichlow, MD: *All of Us and the Necessity of Action and Putting Mission into Motion, Skill-building for Longterm frameworks for Sustainable Change*. This annual conference provides WWAMI educators, leaders, and students opportunities to share ideas and learn alongside each other. Preconference meetings included the annual TRUST/WRITE Faculty Forum and the bi-annual MT WWAMI All-Faculty Retreat. Please mark your calendars for the next faculty development Conference at Fairmont, April 10-12, 2026.



UWSOM Montana WWAMI students: Marlow Schulz, Darcie Caldwell, Cheslea Koessel, Amanda Jennings

Missoula Faculty Development

The Missoula Track office hosted a faculty development session on March 3, 2025, with Drs. Somnath Mookherjee and Laura Goodell who presented their talk, *Generations Intertwined: Teaching Medicine with Purpose and Perspective*.

Additional information about faculty development and faculty resources, including details about applying for faculty appointment can be found at:

<https://www.montana.edu/wwami/mtwwamifacultydevelopment.html>

Billings Faculty Development

In January, Billings area WWAMI Preceptors met with Drs. Laura Goodell, Jay Erickson, and Amy Solomon for a dinner and faculty development session on Writing Letters of Recommendation for Billings clerkship students.



Pictured back: Dr. Laura Goodell, Dr. Ava Swayze, Dr. James Denisar-Green, Dr. Jay Erickson, Dr. Dale Agner; Front Row: Dr. Heidi Duncan, Dr. Lisa Malody, Jenny Jutz (Student Coordinator) Dr. Mike Geurin, Dr. Amy Solomon

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