

Medical Student Education

Cultivating Family Physicians for Wisconsin

A healthy Wisconsin needs more family physicians. The University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH) Office of Medical Student Education provides statewide educational experiences and advising services for students throughout all four years of medical school.

We teach students today to become the family physicians of tomorrow.

Family Medicine Education is Critical

1. States with a strong family medicine workforce have lower health-related costs and better health outcomes.^{1,2}
2. By the year 2030, Wisconsin is projected to have a shortfall of over 2,000 physicians, or 20 percent of the current workforce. Family physicians are most needed to address this deficit.³
3. Students from rural communities, who attend public medical schools, and who have rural or inner-city educational experiences are more likely to choose family medicine.⁴
4. We must offer students more educational experiences in family medicine—and better support the community-based physicians statewide who serve as teachers.



A medical student performs an obstetrics exam during our annual procedures workshop.

Learn more about how you can support our medical student education program and help create more family physicians for Wisconsin.

¹<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2004/04/07/hlthaff.w4.184/suppl/DC1>

²http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Starfield_Milbank.pdf

³<http://www.wha.org/pubarchive/reports/2011physicianreport.pdf>

⁴<http://www.graham-center.org/dam/rgc/documents/publications-reports/monographs-books/Specialty-geography-compressed.pdf>

Our Educational Successes

We introduce medical students to family medicine through:

- Electives and statewide preceptorships in which students gain hands-on clinical experiences;
- A Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG), which provides a supportive environment for students to explore family medicine, learn clinical skills, and develop personal relationships with our faculty; and
- Special programs, including a summer research and clinical assistantship, a summer externship, an annual procedures workshop, and an advising program for third- and fourth-year students.

For two years in a row, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has recognized us as a “Top Ten” program for matching students into family medicine, and in 2015, named our FMIG a Program of Excellence.

The Brillman Awards: Supporting Students



Lester Brillman, MD, was a family physician in Beloit, Wisconsin, for 60 years. Feeling that family doctors are often overlooked, he wished to empower medical students to choose family medicine.

Thanks to Dr. Brillman’s estate gift, the DFMCH offers awards that recognize student excellence, leadership and advocacy in family medicine; support student research and conference participation; and honor the contributions of community preceptors.

How Can You Help?

Here are some ways your donation can help support medical student education:

- \$200 can cover the cost of two students participating in the Basic Life Support in Obstetrics course;
- \$400 can support one student in a one-week family medicine summer research or community externship;
- \$600 can help one student attend the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Students; and
- \$1200 can help one student attend the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Conference on Medical Student Education.

To discuss a contribution, please contact Linda Haskins at (608) 263-3402.



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