



Get Involved with WWAMI

BY ROBERT MONGER, MD



This spring I completed my sixth and final year on the Wyoming WWAMI medical school admissions committee, and in looking back over that time it has been an amazing experience. The Wyoming students who apply to WWAMI each year are impressive both in their academic backgrounds and in their desire to serve our state as physicians. If you have ever considered applying to become a member of the admissions committee, I would strongly encourage you to do so because it is an inspiring process to be a part of.

This spring I also had the opportunity to go to Laramie on a number of occasions to give lectures to the first-year medical students, which is a fun and interesting thing to do. They are excellent students and very interested in any kind of clinical perspective that you can provide to them to supplement the huge amount of basic science that they learn in their first year.

It continues to be very competitive for students to be admitted into the program, and almost all students who are offered a seat in the class accept.

Twenty students per year from Wyoming are admitted each year, and for this year's class that will be starting in the fall of 2018, we've only taken two students from the alternate list. Also, congratulations to three Wyoming WWAMI students who were elected this year to the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) national medical honor society: Natalie Eggleston (Jackson), Kayla Morrison (Casper), and Lindsay White (Douglas).

More than 200 Wyoming residents have now earned degrees through the WWAMI program, which started in 1997, and the program continues to have an excellent return rate for WWAMI graduates practicing in Wyoming at nearly 70%. If you are interested in finding out more information about the students who return to Wyoming, I would encourage you to take a look at the University of Wyoming WWAMI website for more details.

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There are a number of changes coming to the Wyoming WWAMI program starting this year. Perhaps the biggest change is that the entering 2018 Wyoming WWAMI class will stay in Laramie for their first year and a half of medical school, instead of leaving for Seattle at the end of the first year, and the program is actively recruiting both M.D. and PhD instructors for the extra courses that will now be taught in Laramie.

Following completion of the first year and a half, the students will then have some time to study for the important Step 1 exam and to move to Seattle where they will then begin their clinical rotations.

The other significant change for the program is that they have built a new cadaver lab which will be in operation starting this summer, and instead of the lab being located across the hallway from the student classroom on the fourth floor of the health sciences building, it will be out the door and down the sidewalk in the biological sciences building. The space where the cadaver lab is currently located in health sciences will be remodeled and turned into traditional classroom space.

The Wyoming WWAMI program continues to thrive under the outstanding leadership of the WWAMI Director Dr. Tim Robinson and the Wyoming WWAMI Assistant Clinical Dean Dr. Larry Kirven, and WWAMI continues to promote student clinical opportunities in our state such as the R/UOP program and the TRUST program, in addition to numerous third and fourth year clerkships.

Wyoming WWAMI is an outstanding program and a true asset to our medical community but it doesn't work without the active support of Wyoming physicians. There are many opportunities for you to participate, from having premed college students shadow you in your office to being a preceptor for the third and fourth year clerkships.

I encourage you to get involved and support this outstanding program that we are so fortunate to have here in Wyoming.

