



New Faces and Old Favorites

BY ROBERT MONGER, MD



Now that COVID-19 restrictions are easing, things are somewhat back to normal for our Wyoming WWAMI medical students. The White Coat Ceremony for second-year medical students was recently held in-person in Laramie, which is a great event for students and their families to celebrate this milestone in their education—transitioning from the foundations phase to the patient care phase—where they will rotate through hospitals and clinics all over the WWAMI region. The students will be spending their next year of medical school completing all of the standard third-year clerkships including pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, OB-GYN, surgery, and family medicine. We have great teaching physicians throughout our state and many of our students will spend much of their third year in Wyoming learning from our great doctors.

Our new director in Laramie is Brant Schumaker, DVM, MPVM, PhD. Prior to coming to WWAMI, Dr. Schumaker was an associate professor with the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, and he has an interesting background of being heavily involved with the One Health program which studies the connections between human, animal, and environmental health including zoonotic diseases like rabies and brucellosis. He has worked extensively with the Wyoming Health Department and the Wyoming Legislature and was an important contributor to the state's response to COVID-19. He is a great guy to work with and we're lucky to have him taking over the foundations phase of medical education for our Wyoming students.

On February 22, 2022 we held WWAMI Legislative Day at the Capitol in Cheyenne. Our students were able to meet with legislators and the governor, and they were introduced on the floor of both the House and the Senate chambers. Additionally, the students met with State Public Health Officer Alexia Harrist, MD, PhD, to hear her perspective on COVID-19 and other public health issues facing our state. Although our students are from Wyoming, many of them had never been inside our beautiful Capitol before, and they enjoyed taking a tour of the building. We are thankful to the Wyoming Legislature for fully funding medical education in Wyoming for the next two years.

One of the special programs that we offer in WWAMI is the Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST) program, which is a longitudinal experience for medical students to spend

much of their clinical training during medical school in one community in Wyoming. TRUST students spend a week in their TRUST community before medical school even starts to get to know the physicians and community. They train in the community for four weeks during the summer between their first and second year, and then around five months at the beginning of their third year. In recent years we've had three TRUST sites in Wyoming: in Douglas, Powell and Thermopolis, and we are adding Lander as a TRUST site. Starting in the fall of 2022 we will have four Wyoming TRUST students, which is great.

Match day for this year's graduating class was on March 18 and as usual our Wyoming students did extremely well in the match including five going into internal medicine, three family medicine, two pediatrics, two psychiatry (one categorical and one combined IM/psych), two general surgery, two anesthesia, two emergency medicine, two radiology (one diagnostic and one interventional), one ENT, and one urology. Hopefully most of these students will practice in Wyoming someday.

May 29 in Seattle was the first in-person WWAMI medical school graduation ceremony since 2019.

**Save the date for the WWAMI
25th Anniversary Gala and the
WMS annual meeting October
28-30 in Laramie.**

Finally, if you haven't heard already, 2022 is the 25th anniversary of WWAMI in Wyoming and we will be hosting a gala celebration in Laramie Oct. 28-30 in conjunction with the Wyoming Medical Society's annual meeting. We're planning many fun events during the meeting including WWAMI class alumni reunions, a medical student poster competition, tours of the Health Sciences Building, and a gala dinner. We hope that you'll be able to join us. The Wyoming Medical Society is a great partner of Wyoming WWAMI and on behalf of Wyoming WWAMI, thank you for all you do to support medical education in our state. 