UW Residency Program Profiles

In the winter edition of the Wyoming Medicine Magazine, we take the time to profile the third-year University of Wyoming family medicine residents in the Casper and Cheyenne programs. This year we asked them the following questions:

- 1. Where are you from originally and where did you attend medical school?
- 2. What made you consider Wyoming for your residency?
- 3. What makes Wyoming a unique place to practice?
- 4. If you were recruiting medical students to UW Family Medicine Residency Program, what would you tell them?
- 5. What are your plans for practice after graduation? Are you interested in practicing in Wyoming?

Annie Le Cheyenne, Wyoming

- **1.** Phoenix, Arizona; A.T. Still University Mesa, AZ. I spent 3 years in the Seattle area for my education.
- **2.** I'm interested in full scope family medicine which seemed feasible if I train in the least populous state.
- 3. The culture and mindset.
- **4.** I love my patients. Most of my patients care about me as much as I care about them. I feel like an honorary family member sometimes. I will miss my Cheyenne patients when I leave residency.
- 5. I recently completed interviewing for geriatrics fellowship and am waiting for Match Day in November. After training, I plan to continue practicing family medicine with a subspecialty in geriatrics and interest in hospice & palliative care. I have no interest in practicing in Wyoming (sorry!); I am returning to a bigger city!



William Christman Ratliff

Cheyenne, Wyoming

- I am originally from Texas and I attended medical school at Ross University School of Medicine.
- 2. I originally learned about the residency program in Cheyenne when I was in college and I took a Wilderness EMT course in Lander, WY. There I met a former graduate of the program who told me about the rural focus of the residency and the broad scope that they train their residents in. Also, the proximity to outdoor activities make Cheyenne an ideal place to go to residency.
- **3.** We have beautiful natural resources as well as amazing small towns throughout the state. The challenge of these small towns adds a new and exciting challenge to medicine.
- **4.** If you like the outdoors and want to learn how to practice broad spectrum, rural family medicine, then this is the ideal program for you.
- **5.** I plan on practicing full spectrum family medicine in a rural location.





Hannah Dupea, MD

Casper, Wyoming

- 1. Bigfork, Montana; University of North Dakota.
- **2.** I am interested in the Rocky Mountain region, full-spectrum family medicine program with strong OB and pediatric components and ultimately my sense of connection with the residents and faculty.
- **3.** Meeting both rural and urban community needs, and the personal connections I have made with patients and co-workers, not only at work but also during community events, church, skiing, hiking, etc.
- 4. If you like teamwork, are ready to work hard, and want true broad-spectrum training, this program is a good fit for you. So many people have challenged and supported me in my training: faculty, support staff, community attending physicians, clinic and hospital nurses, and my fellow residents. It has been a good experience!
- 5. I am planning to stay in the Rocky Mountain West. I am open to staying in Wyoming, but I am looking at options in Montana to be close to family. I plan to work primarily in the outpatient clinic setting with a focus on procedures, pediatrics and women's health. I am also interested in working in urgent care and the ER a few times a month. One day, I hope to branch out in a "fee-for-service" type practice.



Kyle Jordan, MD Casper, Wyoming

- 1. San Diego, California; St. George's University SOM.
- 2. I considered Wyoming because after living in Brooklyn for the past two years, I desired a different kind of connection with my community. When I lived in Brooklyn, I would rarely see the same people on my usual subway commute, which depersonalized so much of the medical experience.
- 3. Medical training in Casper presents a great opportunity to work more directly alongside different specialists, both medical and non-medical, to assist my patients in their overall care. Particularly as a Family Physician, that opportunity has been invaluable in my ability to become a better team player, which can only help my overall care quality.
- 4. Since I do recruit people actively through residency interviews, I tell them the following things: (1) Although Casper has a population of only 55000, we field a much larger area of patients and our pathology diversity amongst those individuals is greater than you can imagine. (2) Our specialists know us and want work alongside us for great outcomes.
- 5. I plan to work primarily in the outpatient setting as a traditional family medicine physician preferably in small-medium sized clinic in an area within 2-3 hours of a major metropolis. I believe that after my travels from San Diego to Seattle to Grenada to New York City and finally Wyoming, my current spiritual home lies in the Pacific Northwest, so I plan to pursue my practice there immediately after residency. I am definitely a fan of Wyoming though and will have to consider the northwest corner seriously at some point as long as I choose the right missus.



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Jonathan Fausett, DO

Casper, Wyoming

- 1. Rural Utah; Des Moines University in Iowa.
- **2.** I came to the Casper residency program to receive unopposed broad-spectrum training in a rural setting.
- **3.** Geographic isolation and a mentality of rugged independence makes medical care in Wyoming unique.
- **4.** For intensive broad spectrum training in family medicine, there in no better program in the WWAMI region.
- **5.** My next adventure will be in rural Arkansas, but I would not mind coming back to practice in Wyoming someday.



Elisabeth Gehringer, DO Cheyenne, Wyoming

- 1. I grew up in Sedro-Woolley Washington and attended medical school at Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences.
- **2.** The opportunity to learn full-spectrum family medicine and all the wonderful people who are a part of the program.
- **3.** The opportunity to provide care for a large number of people in a place with a small-town feel.
- **4.** The UW Family Medicine Residency Program at Cheyenne is a fantastic place to learn full scope family medicine in an unopposed residency setting.
- **5.** Although I have greatly enjoyed my time here in Wyoming I plan on moving back to Washington state so that I can be closer to my family.



Timothy Nostrum, MD Casper, Wyoming

- 1. Kalispell, Montana; Medical University of the Americas
- 2. I was born in Riverton, so I have a lot of family in Wyoming.
- 3. The rural communities and the friendly, tough patients I meet every day.
- **4.** This residency program is filled with great people, and as a resident, you will receive strong inpatient experiences in addition to autonomy from the faculty.
- **5.** I'm still looking at my options, but I love Wyoming, so it's always possible I will practice in the state after graduation.

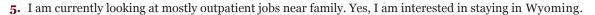




Boyd Tamanaha, MD

Casper, Wyoming

- 1. Silver Spring, Maryland (the Washington D.C. area); Ross University.
- **2.** My wife is from Idaho and we were looking for a full spectrum family medicine program in the Mountain West region that was unopposed (no other residencies in the hospital).
- **3.** Wyoming is the perfect balance between "old fashion" medicine and modern medicine. To elaborate, Wyoming still values physicians who care for the patient and family as a whole, not just the pathology. This is all while practicing evidence-based medicine in an efficient manner.
- **4.** We residents are treated like physicians, not trainees. We have tons of autonomy to make decisions and take charge of our patients. That being said, we never feel abandoned or without help from faculty.





James McLennan, MD

Casper, Wyoming

- 1. Reno, Nevada; University of Medicine and Health Sciences in Saint Kitts.
- 2. I rotated as a medical student at the Casper residency program and at Wyoming Medical Center. I loved the area and love rock climbing in the rugged, Western landscape.
- **3.** Practicing medicine in Wyoming is unique because I've had the opportunity to serve the underserved and rotate in rural and urban areas.
- **4.** The Casper residency program has outstanding faculty interested in teaching residents full-spectrum family medicine, and it has prepared me to practice in urban and rural communities.
- **5.** Wyoming holds a special place in my heart because I met my wife here and my daughter was born here. I plan to practice family medicine with my father in Reno, but I might practice in Wyoming as well.



Kody Nillson, MD Casper, Wyoming

- 1. Monroe, Utah; Ross University Medical School.
- 2. Unopposed program and proximity to Utah.
- **4.** Unopposed program with great exposure to a wide variety of patients and pathology.
- 5. Hospital medicine in Utah or Nevada.



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Jason Caswell Cheyenne, Wyoming

- 1. I am from Michigan and went to Wayne State University School of Medicine.
- **2.** I was already a flight surgeon for the military in Cheyenne and was impressed with the program.
- 3. The collegial nature of the physicians makes this place so unique.
- 4. We have excellent facilities, staff, and patient base.
- 5. I haven't totally made up my mind on where, how, etc that I want to practice.



Jonathan B. Egbert Cheyenne, Wyoming

- **1.** I am from Rexburg, Idaho originally. I attended the University of Science Arts and Technology Montserrat.
- **2.** I grew up near western Wyoming and was familiar with the program in Cheyenne as I rotated with a doctor that graduated from the program. I liked the idea of a rural family medicine program that was unopposed and broad scope.
- **3.** Family doctors are well respected here and are both capable and expected to manage a diverse and complicated population, which makes every day exciting.
- **4.** This is a great state. The programs in Wyoming are fantastic broad scope residencies for people who would like to be comfortable managing diverse and complicated populations.
- **5.** I intend to practice part time in Wyoming upon graduating, likely locums type practice in local family medicine clinics as well as rural emergency departments.



Sarah Abdellatif, DO

Casper, Wyoming

- 1. New York City; Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- 2. I wanted a full spectrum family medicine program in a rural area so I'd have the opportunity to learn all aspects of family medicine and be exposed to many different situations.
- **4.** You'll get a great education here. Autonomy is good from attending faculty. It's also a good place if you're interested in OB since most people get more than enough deliveries and you have the opportunity to first assist or perform c sections.
- 5. I plan on completing a sports medicine fellowship and hope to return to Texas.





Benjamin Leishman

Cheyenne, Wyoming

- **1.** I'm originally from Morgan Utah. It's a small town about 4,000 people. I went to Medical School in Missouri at AT Still University in Kirksville.
- **2.** Truthfully, I missed the mountains and the West. The Residency in Cheyenne also offers incredible training with full scope Family Practice, which is also what I was looking for in Post Graduate Training.
- **3.** Wyoming is rural. Even Cheyenne has a small-town feel. Wyoming patients like having Family Doctors that have a wide range of medical knowledge and skill like the Old School Family Doctors. This puts pressure on us to learn as much as we can, and get the experience we need to meet expectations.
- 4. This is a fantastic place to train. It is Rural and only trains Family Physicians so you get one on one training with the Attending physicians. We will teach you many skills in every setting, Outpatient to ICU. When you aren't working, you can enjoy the amazing Outdoors that Wyoming has to offer.
- **5.** I am currently applying to Sports Medicine Fellowships. Wyoming is on the list of places I would like to practice after my Fellowship.





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