

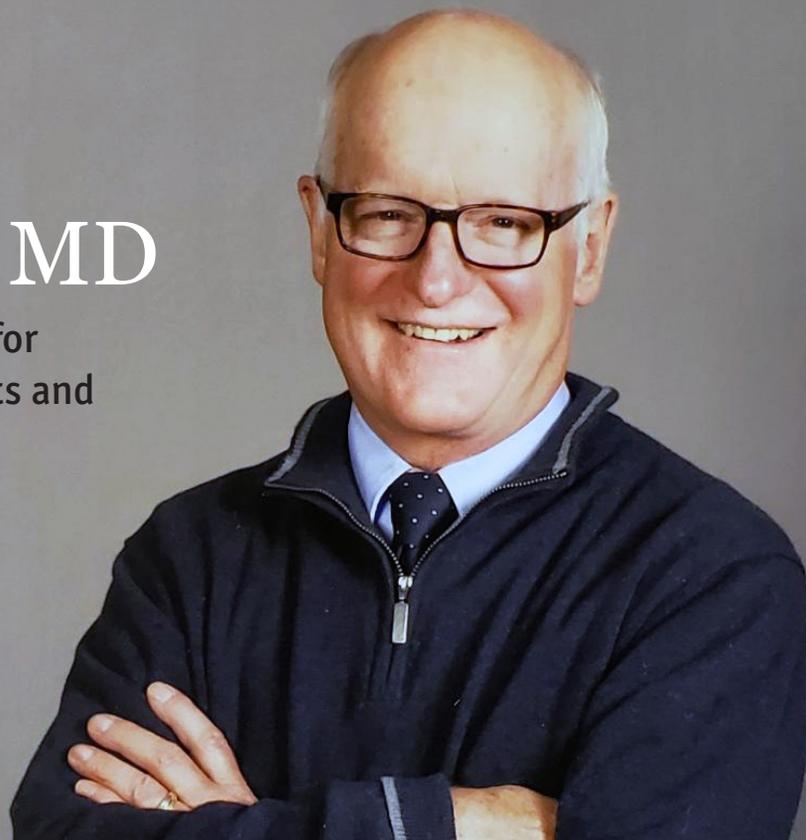


Serving with purpose

Mike Jording, MD

Newcastle physician recognized for his work guiding medical students and promoting patient care

BY JOANNE MAI



Mike Jording, MD, FAAFP, believes in giving back—especially if it helps the next generation.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with the medical students and residents,” he says. “It’s nice to see them later, doing the work, and being successful.”

His support of medical students, including his proposal of an endowment to provide scholarships to University of Wyoming students pursuing medical careers, is just one of many reasons he was chosen as the Wyoming Medical Society 2025 Physician of the Year. This award recognizes exemplary service, dedication to patients, and significant contributions to advancing medicine in Wyoming.

Practicing medicine in Wyoming for more than 40 years, Dr. Jording is a board-certified, family physician providing compassionate and comprehensive care to the communities of northeastern Wyoming. He has been a dedicated member of the Wyoming Medical Society since 1983.

“Dr. Jording represents the very best of Wyoming medicine,” said Sheila Bush, Executive Director of the Wyoming

Medical Society. “He is the kind of physician every community hopes for—steady, skilled, humble, and wholly devoted to the well-being of his patients. His career is a testament to what it means to serve with purpose.”

Beyond his full-time clinical practice, Dr. Jording has played an active role in shaping health policy and advancing rural health initiatives throughout Wyoming, including serving as president of the Wyoming Medical Society from 2006 to 2008.

“He is widely respected for his clinical excellence and unwavering commitment to rural health, serving as a trusted medical leader, mentor, and advocate in Newcastle and

throughout the state,” said Robert Monger, MD, Editor in Chief of Wyoming Medicine Magazine and Wyoming Medical Society member. “He is recognized for mentoring younger physicians, fostering a strong sense of community among healthcare professionals, and consistently prioritizing patient-centered care.”

A notable achievement in Dr. Jording’s career is the founding of the Centennial Scholarship Fund in 2003 to support

“He is the kind of physician every community hopes for.”

Wyoming WWAMI medical students. The scholarship was established to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Wyoming Medical Society. Dr. Jording later played a key role in launching the WAFP Medical Student Scholarship.

“As I looked through scholarship opportunities at the University of Wyoming, I noticed that the one college that had no scholarship was the College of Health Sciences for pre-medical or medical students,” said Dr. Jording. “I thought there was an opportunity for the Wyoming Medical Society to lead the way.”

He said he looked across the room at then-WMS Executive Director, Wendy Curran, and got the impression that she had the same thought.

“Soon there was a proposal to develop a Centennial Scholarship Fund, which had a challenge to raise \$50,000, and the state would match it,” Dr. Jording said. “Almost immediately, we had \$100,000. Over the years, it’s grown and has helped many pre-med and medical students.”

But creating scholarships isn’t the only way he has given back to the next generation of medical professionals. Dr. Jording spent years mentoring, tutoring and hosting medical students and residents to help them meet their goals.

“When I came out of my residency, I was really interested in the teaching aspect, so I did a year or two of traveling to Cheyenne Family Medicine from Torrington (where he first practiced family medicine),” said Dr. Jording, the son of a public school teacher and a businessman. “When I moved to Newcastle (about six years later), Casper Family Medicine had a real need for a visiting attending, so I started going down there for a day each month.”

Soon medical students and residents were spending time at Cedar Hills Family Practice Clinic, where Jording and his partners served patients in the Newcastle area.

“We were a full spectrum clinic,” said Dr. Jording. “This was a hot spot for residents and students to come and participate.”

His service to the two University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency clinics was noticed by Beth Robitaille, MD, UW’s Designated Institutional Official for rural graduate education.

“Dr. Jording was a staunch supporter of physician education,” she said. “He hosted Casper Family Medicine residents in Newcastle for their rural rotations throughout his years of practice. He also traveled to Casper each month to teach and supervise residents as clinic attending for over 30 years, finally hanging up his teacher’s hat in December 2024. He exemplifies the quintessential Norman Rockwell rural family doc with his commitment to lifelong learning, clinical acumen, community service, kindness, and humility.”

Being a rural healthcare provider was important to Dr. Jording, who grew up mostly in Wheatland before moving to Newcastle during high school. However, he didn’t start out studying medicine. Jording studied chemical engineering at the University of Wyoming.

“In high school I was good at science, but I was much better at math than any other subject,” he said. “I applied for scholarships and received one for engineering. I had an interest in pre-medicine at the time and they assured me that I could follow the course and apply it to medicine.”

He received several job offers to work in engineering but none were in rural Wyoming, so he had a difficult decision to make.



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“I enjoyed engineering a lot,” he said. “It was a big decision to apply to medical school, but I recognized that as a physician you could choose where you wanted to work. That was an important part of my decision to stay true to my rural upbringing.”

Dr. Jording went on to Creighton University in Omaha and completed residency in family medicine in Sioux Falls, South Dakota before accepting a position with a clinic in Torrington. When he was looking at clinics to join, he met Lanny Reimer, MD, who was in the process of forming the clinic in Newcastle that Jording would eventually join.

“He said, Mike, if you ever want to come to Newcastle, we’ll have a place for you,” Jording said about his conversation with Dr. Reimer when he let him know that he had selected to join



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the Torrington clinic. Dr. Jording said it was a tough decision, especially still having family and friends in the Newcastle area. “Lanny was about five years ahead of me in school and we just knew each other by names. But everyone knew he was one of the smartest guys around.”

Six years later, when the Torrington clinic was undergoing some changes, Dr. Jording remembered that conversation with Dr. Reimer, who true to his word, welcomed Dr. Jording into the Cedar Hills clinic. The two, along with Charles Franklin, MD, spent more than three decades together rotating calls, working nights and serving in the emergency room.

“Mike was a great guy to work with—dedicated to his patients,” said Dr. Reimer. “We were all comfortable being away from our patients because we knew they would be well taken care of (by the others).”

The trio sold their clinic to Monument Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota in 2013, but continued working together to serve patients in Newcastle and the surrounding areas.

In addition to his medical leadership, Dr. Jording has a deep love for history.

Dr. Jording currently serves as president of the Weston County Historical Society’s board and is past-president of the Wyoming Historical Society. He has received multiple awards for his contributions to preserving Wyoming’s rich historical heritage.

He is a published author of several history books, including one about Wyoming’s monuments and markers—a topic he became interested in during road trips with his family as an elementary school student.

Recently, he combined his love for medicine and history by authoring an article that appeared in Wyoming Medicine Magazine about obstetrical care in northeast Wyoming over the past 100 years.

Although he enjoyed researching and writing the story, he said with a laugh, “I’m not on the road to becoming a medical history writer.”

Dr. Jording retired from his medical practice in January 2021, however, he continued to serve for the past four years as

a consultant to the state, providing medical exams for patients who are qualifying for Social Security Disability.

This past February, Dr. Jording completed a 12-year term as a trustee on the Wyoming Board of Medicine, where he was part of a team reviewing applications for medical and physician assistant licensure and disciplinary actions to determine if those who wanted to practice in Wyoming were prepared to provide safe care to the people of Wyoming.

“Being able to participate in that aspect of practicing medicine really made me a better physician,” said Dr. Jording. “That opportunity was a major factor in forming my ability to interact with patients, families, lawyers, the community and state leaders, among others.”

None of these opportunities were things that Dr. Jording set out to achieve. “I realize that they are opportunities not everyone gets. I don’t take a lot of credit for the success because it was the staff and other board members—everyone working together to make things happen.”

With that inclusive spirit, he and his wife Peggy spent years welcoming medical students and residents into their home for meals—creating lasting bonds with professionals across the state, many of whom will still stop by or honk their horn when

they see the Jordings in their Newcastle garden. “That always makes me smile,” said Dr. Jording.

“Dr. Jording has devoted his career to serving the people of Wyoming—both through his medical practice and his broader contributions to the state,” said Dr. Monger. A proud University of Wyoming graduate, Dr. Jording received the university’s Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Alumni Association in 2011. “His passion for supporting future generations of physicians is evident in his long-standing commitment to medical education and mentorship. He is truly deserving of this award.”

The Physician of the Year Award will be presented to Dr. Jording this November at the Wyoming Medical Society’s Annual Conference in Laramie, where colleagues will gather to celebrate his outstanding career and lasting legacy. 



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