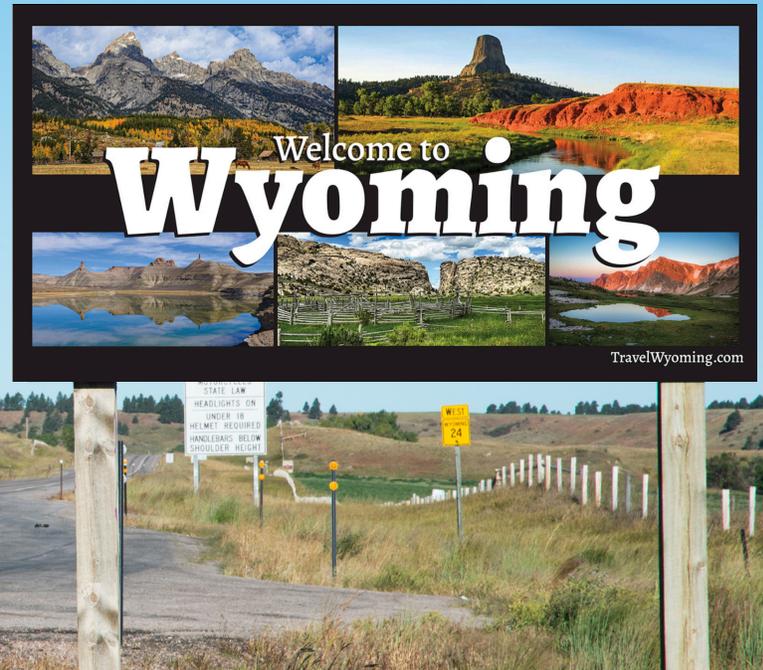




Recruitment

Wyoming Branches

New docs tell the story of why they're choosing to stay



Practicing medicine in Wyoming comes with unique benefits, and obstacles. These five doctors recently graduated from the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency programs in Casper and Cheyenne. Wyoming Medicine Magazine asked them to send their own stories about why they chose to stay in Wyoming.

Alex Bergeron, DO Buffalo

I am currently practicing emergency and hospital medicine at Johnson County Healthcare Center in Buffalo, Wyoming. I rotated in Buffalo during my residency training in Casper and fell in love with the town, the patient population, and the incredible Bighorn mountains. I love the Mountain West and always planned on practicing in a rural location in Wyoming because of the great people, and the wide-open spaces the state has to offer.

Prior to medical school, I worked as a firefighter/EMT, a ski patroller, and a river guide in Wyoming and Montana. This lifestyle provided plenty of opportunities to explore mountains and provide medical care

in prehospital and wilderness environments. This solidified my desire to become a physician, to continue to provide medical care for rural mountain communities.

When not working, I enjoy the outdoors. I love to fly fish, whitewater kayak and alpine ski. I am captivated by using the snow to navigate the mountains in the winter, then utilizing that same frozen precipitation after it melts to navigate the rivers while kayaking and the streams while fishing. These are just some of the many reasons Wyoming is such a perfect fit for me and my family.

My wife Ashley and I have two kiddos who have completely fallen in love with Buffalo. They have been going to the enormous town pool and local playgrounds and have been getting used to their new schools. They have also been making new friends, and enjoying all the opportunities our new hometown has to offer. The people of Buffalo have been very welcoming and accommodating, and I feel incredibly fortunate for the opportunity to practice medicine and raise my young family in this wonderful Wyoming community.



Alex Bergeron, DO

Kristi St. Clair, MD

Worland

I was born in Georgia and spent most of my life in a small town called Appling. I completed my undergraduate education in Statesboro, Georgia at Georgia Southern University where I majored in chemistry. I knew I wanted to go to medical school since I was 15 but I was prepared to go into analytical chemistry



Kristi St. Clair, MD

if medical school did not pan out. Luckily, I was accepted to medical school and attended the Medical College of Georgia which was very close to my hometown.

I chose family medicine because I knew I would need to be in a field where I would never be bored and have a lot of opportunities for different experiences throughout my career. I also really

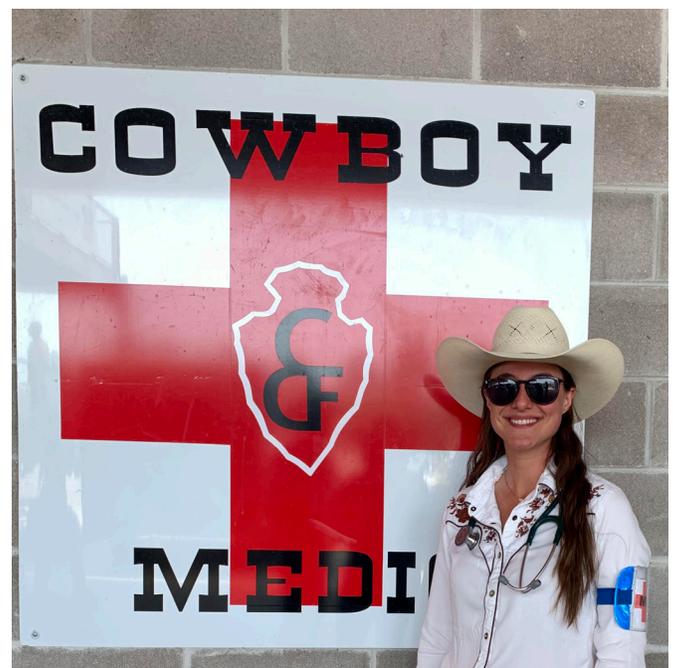
appreciated the long-term flexibility in day to day scheduling; I could work for a few years in the emergency room or inpatient and still have the clinic to fall back to when I start to feel the burnout creeping in. Some of my areas of passion include sports medicine, emergency medicine and obstetrics. When I began looking for a residency program, I kept my future practice goals in mind. I wanted to be able to practice full scope family medicine, including obstetrics and emergency medicine, and I wanted to feel competent while doing so. I knew this was a tall order and I spent a long time looking for the right residency program to train me to do just that.

I finally found the program in Cheyenne through the University of Wyoming. It was just the right size - small enough to get the right amount of direct teaching and coaching but large enough to have a hospital that does not have to ship out all the interesting patients to a larger hospital. It was unopposed so I would not have to worry about losing procedures or interesting cases to other resident groups. It included excellent education in all my areas of interest - direct connections with a division 1 sports program (that conveniently does not have any sports medicine fellows), high volume OB care that was taught directly from obstetrics providers and a lot of opportunities to work in the emergency department and with the trauma team. I knew Cheyenne was the right place for me and that is where I completed my training. I covered the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo and was able to care for all the cowboys and cowgirls that came to the rodeo each year. It was a thrilling time and I treasure it dearly.

My initial career plan was to go back to rural Georgia to practice full spectrum family medicine but after my three years in Cheyenne, I quickly realized that Wyoming was where I was meant to be. I loved hiking long before I moved to Wyoming but the vistas and trails here are unlike anything I saw on the East Coast. Since moving to Wyoming, I have now learned to snowboard and I don't think I will ever be able to live in a place without mountains again.

After coming to the realization that I wanted to stay in Wyoming, I began looking for the right place to practice medicine while still being able to hike and snowboard with very little travel time. While Wyoming has a lot of small towns, it was challenging to find a town that is still allowing family medicine providers to practice obstetrics and would be close enough to the mountains to satisfy my free time. I ultimately decided to work in Worland where I will be covering the family medicine clinic, labor and delivery and picking up emergency room shifts. This allows me to live in Ten Sleep where I can be right at the base of the Bighorn Mountains and only 15 minutes away from a local ski area.

I couldn't be happier with my career choices, and I feel very blessed to have found not only an excellent residency program to train me but also a beautiful small town to live and work in. Wyoming has been very good to me and I hope to repay the favor.



Kristi St. Clair, MD



Recruitment

Tommy Foster, DO Lander

There was little doubt of where I wanted to put some roots down. I am currently working with Lander Medical Clinic in Lander doing family medicine and obstetrics. My journey to Wyoming began with a book about fly-fishing the Rocky Mountain backcountry. I grew up an avid backpacker, camper, fly-fisher, traveling from Texas to New Mexico and Southern Colorado. It was after I read that aforementioned book that I turned my interest to the Wind River Range. My first trip up here was about 12 years ago. It was during that trip that I felt an undeniable feeling that this is where I wanted to spend the rest of my life. So, the journey took shape with the first steps of changing careers and going to medical school (which was the result of a lengthy discussion with my mentor). I did a rotation in Casper during medical school and subsequently put all of my eggs into that basket. Luckily it worked out and I was accepted into the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Program in Casper, where I focused on obstetrics with an interest in mental health and substance abuse. It is my goal to focus on these things in practice as I feel that they are needed in any community I have worked in.



Tommy Foster, DO

My course in life, in medicine has been a circuitous one, but one that I feel has followed sincere interests and passions. I feel I am finding my home here, both in terms of my patients and practice, as well as the community in which I am settling into.

Philip Gard, DO Thermopolis

I was born and raised in Riverton, Wyoming. For most of my life I have had the desire to be a doctor. I thought it would be the best way for me to serve people throughout my career.

I went to Central Wyoming College and then the University

of Wyoming. I met and married my wife, Mary, at UW. I went to Pennsylvania for medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM). Both of my children, Levi and Rosalie, were born while we were in Pennsylvania.



Phillip Gard, DO

I did residency at the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency - Casper. I was part of the Rural Training Track which allowed me to get amazing, full-spectrum training for the last two years in Thermopolis. I am lucky enough to stay with Hot Springs Health in Thermopolis providing full-spectrum care.

I wanted to come back to Wyoming because I wanted to stay close to home. The people here are truly the best. I have always wanted to come back and serve the community I grew up in. I get to do that here at Hot Springs Health.

Sreedivya Venturi, MD Casper

For Sreedivya “Divya” Veturi, MD, choosing where to build her career has never been just about finding a job—it has also been about finding a place that feels like home. What began as a residency opportunity quickly grew into a deeper connection to the people, the community, and the kind of medicine she wanted to practice. Now, after pursuing advanced fellowship training, she is returning to Wyoming with a renewed sense of purpose and a long-term commitment to serving the state.

Dr. Veturi completed her Family Medicine residency at the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Program in Casper, where she developed a strong foundation in rural and comprehensive primary care. Residency provided her with the opportunity to experience the breadth of family medicine—delivering babies, caring for children, managing chronic



Sreedivya Venturi, MD

illnesses, and supporting patients through every stage of life. It was this full-spectrum approach that solidified her passion for family medicine and underscored the vital role family physicians play in Wyoming communities.

During her residency, Dr. Veturi also recognized a critical need: expanded maternal care. Many rural and underserved communities face barriers in accessing obstetrical services, and she saw firsthand how family physicians with obstetrics training could make a difference. This realization led her to pursue additional training in advanced obstetrics, where she is honing her skills in high-risk maternity care, women's health procedures, and newborn medicine. By combining this advanced training with her broad foundation in family medicine, she is strengthening her skillset to care for families across generations while also addressing maternal health needs in rural settings.



Sreedivya Venturi, MD

What drew Dr. Veturi to Wyoming in the first place—and what continues to inspire her to stay—is the people. During residency, she experienced the trust and resilience of her patients, the dedication of her colleagues, and the collaborative spirit that defines Wyoming healthcare. She recognizes the

unique relationships in Wyoming, where patients value physicians in a profoundly meaningful way, and physicians take pride in caring for their community.

Returning to her residency roots makes this next step especially meaningful. Dr. Veturi will once again be walking the halls where she trained, this time as a colleague to her former mentors. She looks forward to contributing not only to patient care but also to resident education, ensuring that the cycle of teaching and mentorship continues.

Her decision to stay in Wyoming reflects both professional aspirations and personal values. By combining advanced obstetrical training with her commitment to community-based, full-spectrum family medicine, Dr. Veturi is ready to continue building a career defined by service, education, and connection. For her, Wyoming is more than a place to work—it is the place she has chosen to call home. 

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