



Alaska WWAMI

**Biomedical
Program**



Medical School in Alaska



Current State and Future Directions

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What is WWAMI?

- WWAMI is Alaska's Medical School
- An enduring partnership among the states of:
Washington, **W**yoming, **A**laska, **M**ontana, & **I**daho
- Its purpose is to provide *high quality, cost-effective* medical education, with a *focus on the workforce* needs of the region.

Alaska WWAMI – Alaska's Medical School



E1973 UAF

1971

start at UAF

10 students

1989

restart at UAA

10 students

2007

class expansion

20 students



E2008 UAA



Medical School in Alaska WWAMI

1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year
Basic Science taught in Alaska at UAA	Basic Science taught in Seattle at UWSOM	Required Clerkships: Can be taken in any WWAMI state or via the Alaska Track	Required and Elective Clerkships: Can be taken in any WWAMI state, internationally or all in Alaska



3 Years of Medical School in Alaska



WWAMI – Alaska’s Medical School

Alaska WWAMI: A story of dynamic development

- From smallest regional site to largest: 10 \Rightarrow 20 per yr
- Applicant interviews in Anchorage – first outside Seattle
- PreMed Summits, annual since '06 - > 250, multiple sites
- High School Summer Enrichment* - NIH and Chancellor’s awards
- All Alaska WWAMI research faculty have extramural grants (NIH)

Past 5 Years

CAHDRE

* Della Keats / U-DOC / NIDDK



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- Its purpose is to provide *high quality*...medical education

US News & World Report

America's Best Graduate Schools, 2010

- #1 Primary Care – 16 consecutive years
- #1 Rural Medicine – 18 consecutive years
- #1 Family Medicine – 18 consecutive years





Alaska WWAMI

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- Its purpose is to provide...*cost-effective* medical education

Alaska WWAMI students pay in-state tuition

- about \$19,000 in 2008-2009
- Alaska invests about \$50,000 per student/yr
- “effectiveness” depends on return on investment



Alaska WWAMI

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- Its purpose is to provide...*focus on the workforce needs*

Rate of Return:

47% of AK WWAMI

compare national average = 39% (AAMC)

compare AK WICHE = 18% (DHSS)

Return on Investment:

86% return from all WWAMI graduates



Where are we going?

Currently underway:

20 students enter fourth year, fall 2010

considering 24 per year

3rd year and 4th year clerkships expanding

Alaska Track has 5 to 10 students per year

New residency rotations in pediatrics, psychiatry...

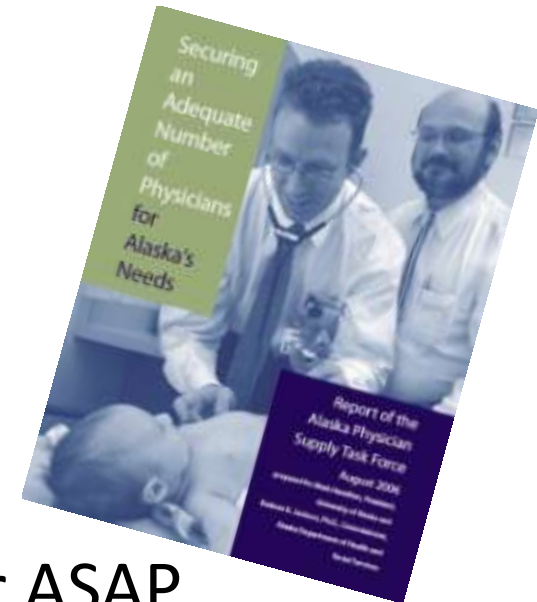


Where are we going?

Future Plans:

Alaska Physician Supply Task Force Report, 2006

- expand Alaska WWAMI to 30 per year ASAP
- as possible increase to 50 per year
- all 4 years offered in Alaska
- empanel a group to assess medical education in Alaska, including an Alaska-based medical school



Alaska's Medical School Today

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION – MEDICAL SCHOOL

Year 1: 20
Anchorage

Year 2: 20
Seattle

Year 3: 20
Alaska/Region

Year 4: 20
Alaska/Region

Anchorage

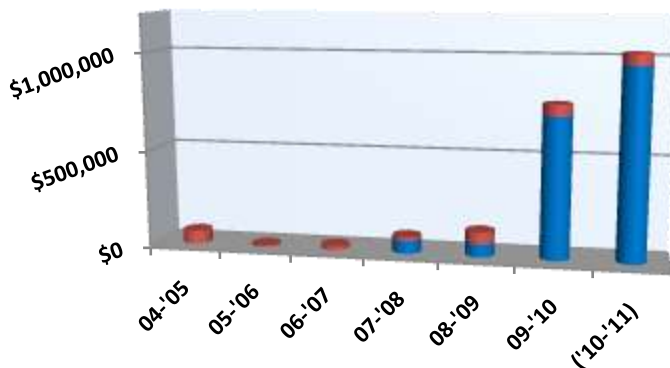
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY

Family
Medicine:
12

Pediatrics: 2

Psychiatry: 2

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



PATHWAY PROGRAMS



WWAMI -
Alaska's
Medical
School

Launch YOUR Career in Medicine at the 5th
Annual
Alaska PreMed Summit
Saturday, March 27, 2010
*National Health-care Policy: What
Medical School Applicants Should Know*



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Alaska WWAMI Steering Committee

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Director, Alaska Family Medicine Residency
(a WWAMI Family Medicine Residency Network member)
Providence Alaska Health Systems

Suzanne Tryck

Director, Regional Programs in Alaska
Univ. of Washington School of Medicine

The Future of Alaska's Medical School

The Challenges:

1. We're **NOT** too small
2. Clinical experiences
3. Applicant pool
4. Residency positions
5. Clinical/translational and biomedical research

Medical Education Development Timeline

