Medical School in Alaska

Current State and Future Directions

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Assistant Dean, University of Washington School of Medicine
What is WWAMI?

- WWAMI is Alaska’s Medical School
- An enduring partnership among the states of: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, & Idaho
- 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

1971 start at UAF
1989 restart at UAA
2007 class expansion

10 students
10 students
20 students
# Medical School in Alaska WWAMI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Year</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Year</th>
<th>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Year</th>
<th>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Science</td>
<td>Basic Science</td>
<td>Required Clerkships:</td>
<td>Required and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taught in Alaska</td>
<td>taught in Seattle</td>
<td>Can be taken in</td>
<td>Elective Clerkships:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at UAA</td>
<td>at UWSoM</td>
<td>any WWAMI state</td>
<td>Can be taken in any</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>or via the Alaska</td>
<td>WWAMI state,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Track</td>
<td>internationally or all</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in Alaska</td>
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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)

* Della Keats / U-DOC / NIDDK
• 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
• 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
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

3\textsuperscript{rd} year and 4\textsuperscript{th} year clerkships expanding

Alaska Track has 5 to 10 students per year

New residency rotations in pediatrics, psychiatry...
Where are we going?

Future Plans:


- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1: 20</th>
<th>Year 2: 20</th>
<th>Year 3: 20</th>
<th>Year 4: 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Alaska/Region</td>
<td>Alaska/Region</td>
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GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Residency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Medicine: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry: 2</td>
</tr>
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BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

PATHWAY PROGRAMS

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
Alaska WWAMI
Steering Committee

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John Riley, P.A.-C., M.S.
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University of Alaska Anchorage

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

- **Assess Demand**: 6-9 months
- **June 2010**: Develop Plan: 3-12 mos
- **June 2012**: Physical space
  - Clinical sites
  - Faculty
  - Training
  - Student recruitment: 3-36 mos
- **June 2014**: Support instruction, clinical training, biomedical research: 4-5 years
- **June 2016**: Support graduates and postgraduate education: 3-7 years
- **June 2018**: Class Starts
- **June 2020**: Graduation
- **June 2022**: Practice
- **June 2024**: Practice
- **June 2029**: Practice