

2018 - 2019 Annual Report



The RTT Collaborative
in rural health professions education and training
Growing our own...together

Message from the Executive Director



Taking the Long View

“We will become an anchor for US efforts in rural medical education and eventually all rural health professions education, engaging 20 financial sponsors and 50 rural program participants, both UME and GME, in a national cooperative by 2020. As a primary source of expertise in rural place-based education, we will become the organization a rural community needs to grow its own healthcare workforce.”

Approved by the RTTC Board, November 2015

In summarizing a year past, especially one that has gone well, or in reacting in the moment to the latest bump in the road, it is easy to be distracted from the long view forward. As the RTTC approaches the seventh anniversary of its founding and publishes its 4th Annual Report, it is more important than ever to take the long view. Looks like it's time for a new vision, now that we've almost reached our goal!

We are widely recognized as the go to source of up to date and reliable information regarding rural medical education. We are experiencing an increase in diversity of participating programs, even as the total number of RTTs temporarily decreased this year as a result of loss of grant funding. IRTT-like programs flourish as do urban programs with a rural focus, and our efforts to recognize urban programs with a record of producing rural graduates have been positively received by both students and programs. The number of medical school rural tracks decreased slightly, but already this year we have tripled the number.

Our annual meeting attendance since the days of the RTT-TA (2010-2016) has trended upward, even as [this year's meeting](#) attendance, likely for reasons of location and timing, dipped slightly. Next year's meeting, in contrast, is on track to be the largest ever; a tribute to the growing CoP that now includes leadership representatives from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The ACGME, in part influenced by in person testimony from the RTTC to the Underserved Areas Work Group in July 2019, is establishing a new division devoted to the support of rural and underserved programs. In 2018-2019 the AAFP prepared and in July 2019 launched a rural initiative, [Rural Health Matters](#).

Although the number of programs dipped at the end of the year, as we removed programs who have not continued their active payments, we are already ahead of last year's number of paid participants at this same time in October last year. With the launch of the Rural Residency Planning and Development Technical Assistance Program last October and the awarding of grants to 27 developing programs in family medicine, internal medicine and psychiatry, we are already seeing an increase in participating programs and several consultations are in the offing.

Financially, as a “profitable non-profit” without federal or grant funding, we are holding our own, with retained earnings in the amount of approximately one and a half year's budget and a goal of eventually reaching 2 years in reserves. [Charitable contributions](#) have remained stable but restricted to a few committed individuals. Hopefully in this coming year we will be able to find new sponsors. We have had discussions with Residency Program Solutions (RPS) as to how we might continue to work together to equip experienced program directors to take up the mantel from those of us who have been doing this for a long time, and “grow our own” consultants to meet a growing demand for credible guidance in the design and development of new rural programs.

The RTT Collaborative's Board of Directors, for the first time invested a full day in strategic planning in Denver in February 2019. Although we didn't definitively answer the question we had tackled, “How big should we become?” we do hope, in this next year, to establish a “next” vision going forward. We welcome your ideas and wise counsel.

Randall Longenecker MD

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall Longenecker".



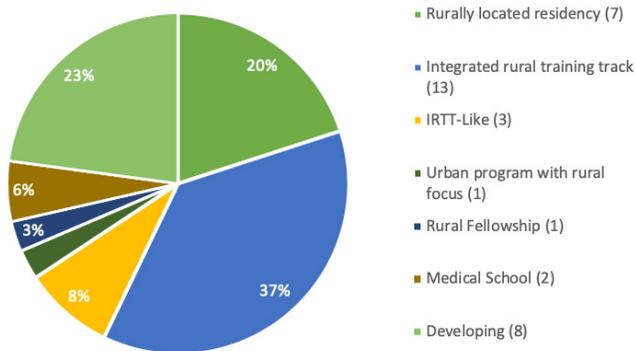
Participating Programs



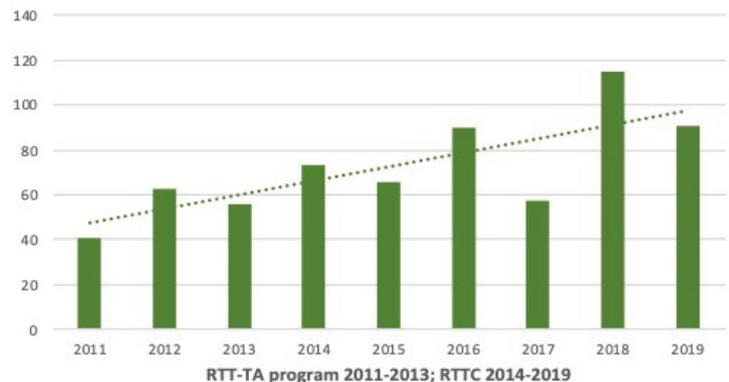
Click here for a link to the [rural programs residency map](#).

As of June 30, 2019, The RTT Collaborative had 35 participating programs across the nation. As shown below the programs that participate vary in their structure and involve both medical student and resident education. To see a map of our participating programs [click here](#) and scroll down the page for a complete listing. We also developed an interactive map this year for all active and accredited rural residency programs in family medicine (pictured to the left and accessed on line by [clicking here](#)). Look for the tree icon for our participating programs.

RTTC - Participating Program Types



Annual Meeting Attendance



Newsletter Highlights

September 2018

- In leading a rural program, are you A Sole Beacon or part of an Organic Community;
- Participating program spotlight on North Colorado family Medicine Residency Programs

December 2018

- Agency and Courage, a domain of competence for rural practice
- Rural Residency Planning and Development HRSA grant program
- Participating program spotlight on Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana - Kalispell

March 2019

- Introduction of New Board Member – Daniel Burke M.D.
- What does “Comprehensive” mean in Rural Family Medicine today?
- “Planting Trees” in eastern North Carolina, Arkansas, and Missouri

June 2019

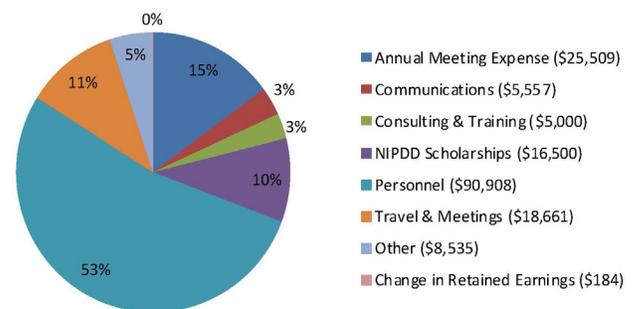
- The opportunity and importance of Walk(ing) Around in Your Community
- Annual Meeting Highlights – Lewiston and Rumford, Maine

Board Members

Michael Woods, Program Director, RTT, Ramona, OK (President)
Andrew Bazemore, MD, MPH, Executive Director, Robert Graham Center, Washington, DC
Mark Deutchman, MD, Professor, School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine & School of Dental Medicine
Lisa Dodson, MD, Campus Dean, Medical College of Wisconsin - Central Wisconsin Campus, Wassau, WI
Ted Epperly, MD, CEO, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho
Jay Erickson, MD, Assistant Dean for Regional Affairs, Assistant Clinical Dean UW School of Medicine
Ed Evans, Program Director, RTT, Seneca, SC
Stuart Hannah, MD, Program Director, RTT, Baraboo, WI (Vice-President)
Joyce Hollander-Rodriguez, MD, Medical Director, Cascades East FMRP, Klamath Falls, OR
David Kermode, DO, General Surgeon, Mercy Health Systems
Robert Maudlin, Pharm. D., Associate Director, Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Spokance Teaching Health Center
Darrick Nelson, MD, Program Director, RTT, Silver City, NM
Mike Shimmens, Executive Director, 3RNet (Rural Recruitment and Retention Network), Jefferson City, MO
Kara Traxler, Director Rural GME Development & Support, WI Collaborative for Rural GME & Rural WI Health Cooperative (Secretary and Treasurer)
Ned Vasquez, MD, Program Director, Family Medicine Residency Western Montana, Missoula, MT
Cameron Scanton, Resident, North Colorado Family Medicine Residency-Sterling RTT
Morgan Hungenberg, Resident, University of CO Family Medicine Residency Rural Track
Randall Longenecker, Executive Director, Assistant Dean Rural and Underserved Programs, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens, OH,
Dave Schmitz, MD, Associate Director, Chair, Family and Community Medicine, UND School of Medicine & Health Science.
Dawn Mollica, Administrative Director, RTT Collaborative & The Office of Rural and Underserved Programs, Ohio University



Expenses 2018-2019



Revenue 2018-2019

