



2019 - 2020 Annual Report

For The RTT Collaborative

Message from the Executive Director

Certain Uncertainty

"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."

- Approved by the RTTC Board, November 2015



I like Gillie Bolton's phrase "certain uncertainty" in describing reflective practitioners and their ability to act decisively in the presence of uncertainty. (Bolton G. Reflective Practice: Written and Professional Development. London: Sage Publications, Inc., 2001)

I included the above quotation in last year's Annual Report confident in our trajectory, even certain in the face of uncertainty, but blissfully unaware of what a year might bring! As we approach the 8th anniversary of our founding, we indeed have exceeded the 50 programs mark. In response to our growth the Board at its May meeting acted decisively and approved the hiring of an Associate Director, Kara Traxler, in spite of this year's unexpected challenges.

A pandemic has exposed health care disparities across geography, race, and economic status and laid bare the inequities inherent in our health care system. It forced [the reconfiguration of our Annual Meeting to an Online platform](#), has brought travel to meetings and on site consults to a standstill, and has consigned many of us to working from home and fighting 'Zoom fatigue.' Racial injustices have brought attention to structural racism in our nation's institutions and have polarized our neighborhoods. Maternity deserts and rural hospital closures have escalated. Add to it all wild-fires and hurricanes and the chaos of this presidential election year – it's crazy!

But with every crisis comes opportunity. Mark Holmes, Director of the SHEPS Center at the University of North Carolina, in speaking to grantees of the Rural Residency Planning and Development grant program, said, "Recognition of these challenges has led to a 'Golden Age of Investment in Rural.'" Rural is on the minds of many – presidential candidates, policy wonks, television producers, journalists, and medical students.

Yet good things have happened. The RTTC Annual Meeting was a rousing success. As promised, the ACGME established a programmatic unit, Medically Underserved Areas/Populations and Graduate Medical Education, and has declared rural training tracks as their first priority. In spite of dwindling numbers of rural-origin students, more learners than ever are participating in rural programs in medical schools and exploring their options for rural residency training for both physicians and nurse practitioners. Although legislative action on the funding of rural GME has stalled, word on the street is that Congress "wants to do something for RTTs!" A collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians and the federally funded Rural Residency Planning and Development program has resulted in the launch of a Rural Residency Consultant Learning Community for the purpose of growing our capacity to offer technical assistance to new and existing programs.

We will of course continue to plant seeds, but a time of harvest may be upon us. Taking concrete and confident steps in the face of uncertainty, banking on what is known and what we can do, and refusing to be paralyzed and ruminate over what we cannot, we embrace the future.

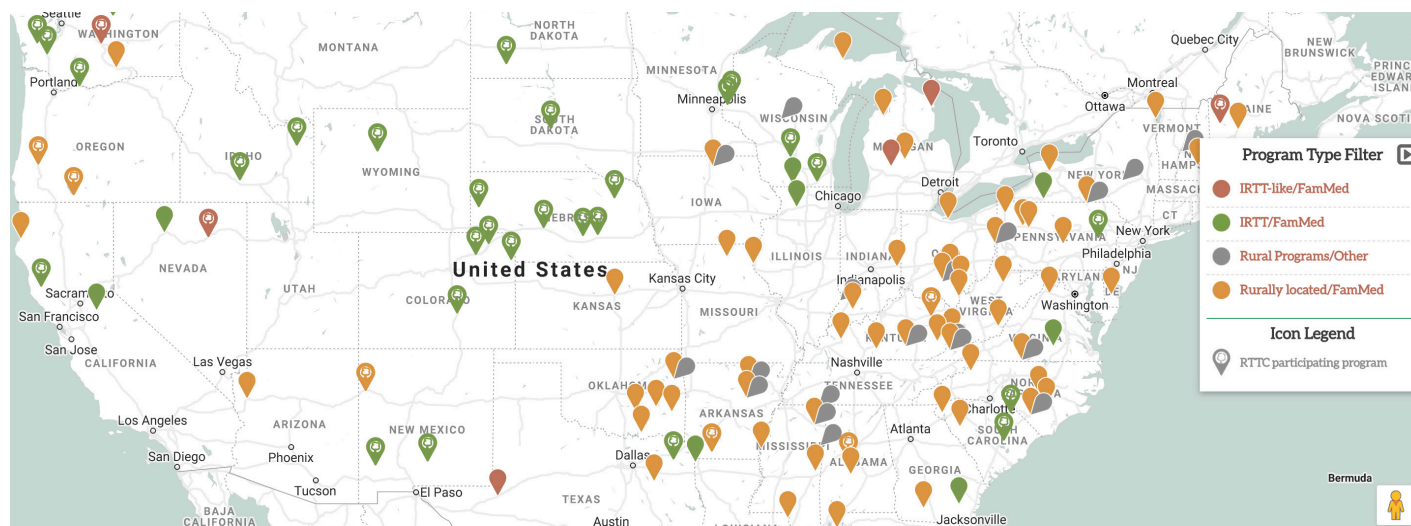
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall Longenecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Randall Longenecker MD
Executive Director



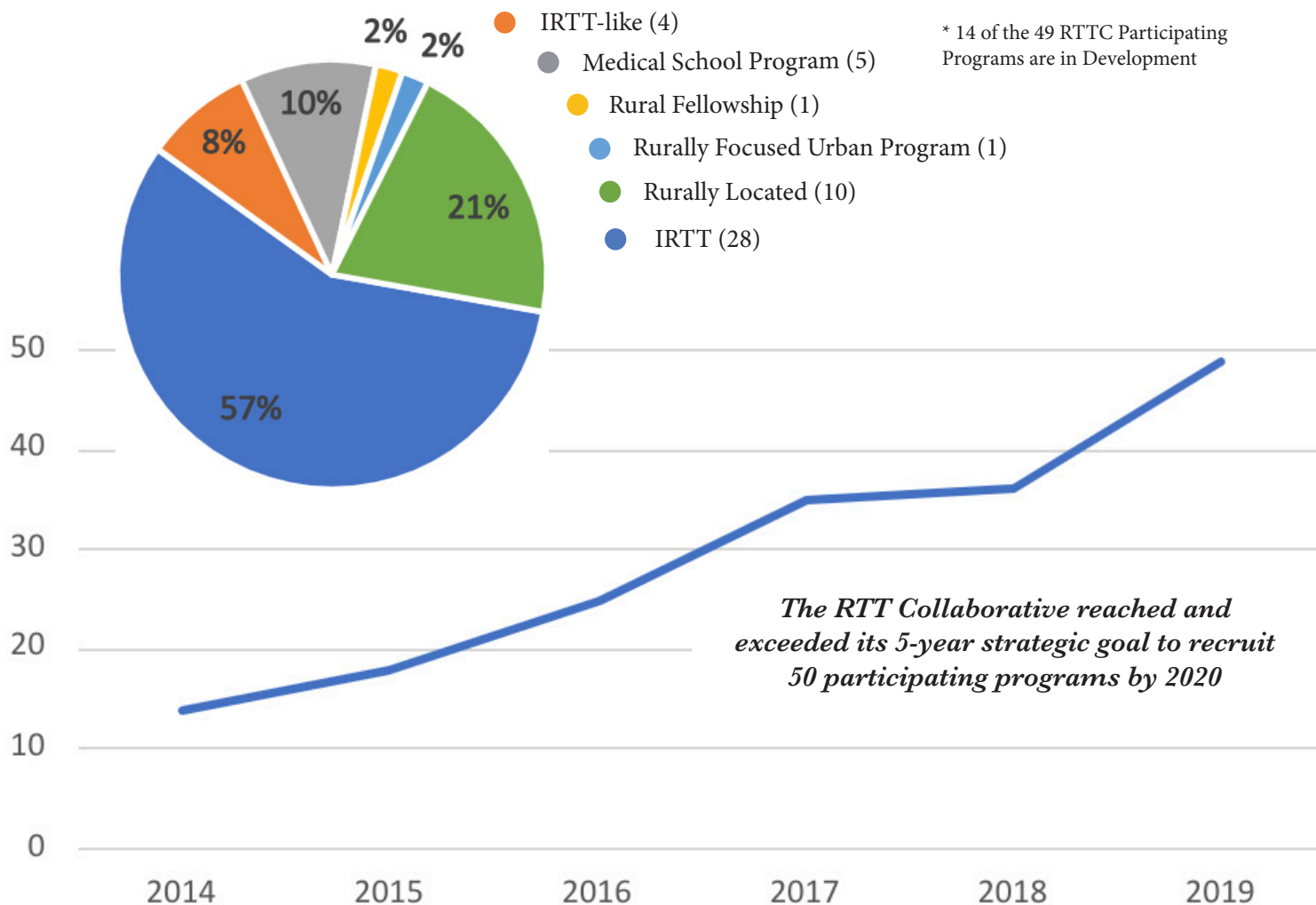
The RTT Collaborative
in rural health professions education and training
Growing our own...together

Participating Programs

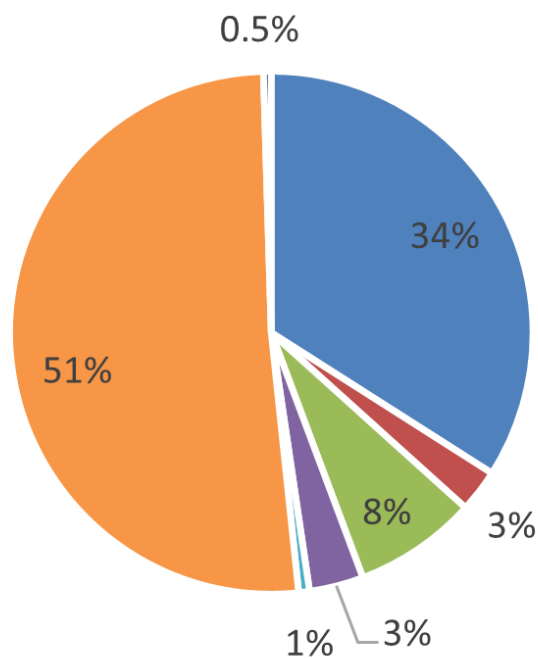


In 2019-2020, The RTT Collaborative expanded [the rural programs map on its website](#) to include other specialties of primary importance to rural places. The rural programs map now includes Internal Medicine, General Surgery and Psychiatry in addition to Family Medicine programs.

2019 - 2020 Participating Programs



Financial Graphs

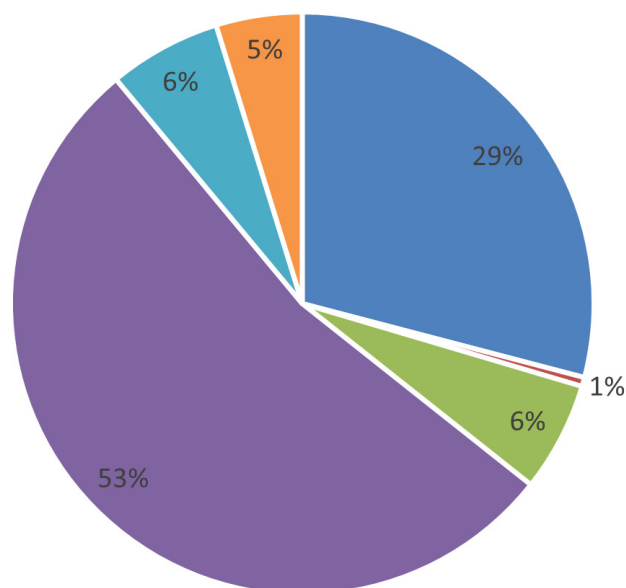


Income

- Annual Meeting Income (\$64,150)
- Charitable Contributions (\$5,000)
- Consulting (\$14,375)
- Contracts (\$6,312)
- Interest Income (\$1,258)
- Participating Program Fee (\$96,500)
- Direct Services (\$900)

Expenses

- Annual Meeting Expense (\$52,535)
- Communications (\$907)
- NIPDD Scholarships (\$11,000)
- Personnel (\$96,206)
- Travel and Meetings (\$11,289)
- Other (\$8,627)



Newsletter Highlights

September 2019

- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) creates the Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) program
- AAFP National Conference Highlight
- New Board Members: S. Robert Epstein, M.D. and Robert W. Gobbo, M.D.

December 2019

- The Cost of Justice and Health Equity
- RTT celebrates six participating programs in rural track or pathway program in allopathic and osteopathic medical schools across the nation

March 2020

- Competence as a Virtue: Knowing, Being, and Doing
- GME Initiative Annual Summit
- HRSA's Rural Residency Planning and Development Program: An Update from the Technical Assistance Center

June 2020

- Annual Meeting Summary
- Participating Program Highlights from Montana
- Rural PREP Teaching Kits
- List of Lists of Rural Programs

The RTT Collaborative



Members of the Board

Michael Woods, Retired Program Director, University of Oklahoma-Rural Residency Program (IRTT), Ramona, OK (President)

Robert Gobbo, Program Director, Providence Hood River Family Medicine Rural Training Program and One Community Health, Hood River, OR (Vice President)

Andrew Bazemore, Director, American Board of Family Medicine, Washington, DC

Dan Burke, Program Director, University of Colorado Morgan County Rural Training Track, Denver, CO

Lisa Dodson, Regional Campus Dean, Medical College of WI, Central WI Campus, Wausau, WI

Ted Epperly, CEO, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, Boise, ID

Robert Epstein, Program Director, Swedish Port Angeles RTT, Port Angeles, WA

Jay Erickson, Director of TRUST for UW & Regional Campus Dean for MT, Whitefish, MT

Ed Evans, Program Director, Seneca Lakes Family Medicine Residency Program (IRTT), Seneca, SC

Stuart Hannah, Program Director, Rural Program (IRTT), Baraboo, WI (Vice President)

Joyce Hollander-Rodriguez, Program Director, Cascades East Family Medicine Residency Program, Klamath Falls, OR

Dave Kermode, General Surgeon and director of a surgical skills enhanced family medicine fellowship in development, Des Moines, IA

Darrick Nelson, Program Director, Hidalgo Medical Services Family Medicine Residency Program (IRTT), Silver City, NM

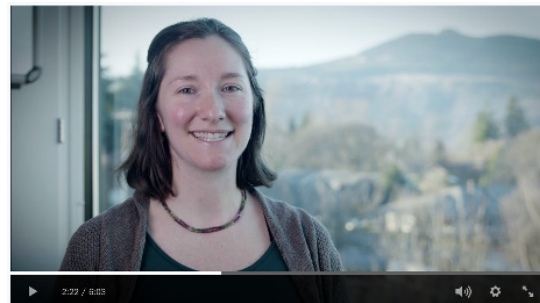
Mike Shimmens, Executive Director, 3RNet (Rural Recruitment and Retention Network), Jefferson City, MO

Resident & Student Representatives

William French, MED1 student, University of Washington School of Medicine, Bozeman, MT

Mya Stayton, PGY2 resident, Cahaba Medical Care RTT, Centreville, AL

Hood River Family Practice Video



Good things are happening in Rural! To view, click [here](#) or on the image above. Video courtesy of [the Providence Hood River Family Medicine Rural Training Program](#).

Directors

Randall Longenecker, Executive Director; Professor and Assistant Dean, Rural and Underserved Programs, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens, OH

Kara Traxler, Associate Director; Rural GME Development and Support, Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME, Sauk City, WI

Dave Schmitz, Associate Director; Professor and Chair, Family and Community Medicine, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Grand Forks, ND

Dawn Mollica, Administrative Director; Administrative Director of the Office of Rural and Underserved Programs, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens, OH

2019-2020



Photos courtesy of
Rural PREP and Randall
Longenecker



Thank you for your support over the years!

The RTT Collaborative is a national board directed 501(c)(3) non-profit cooperative of programs in rural health professions education registered in Ohio and anchored at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Our purpose is to sustain health professions education and training in rural places through mutual encouragement, peer learning, practice improvement, and the delivery of technical expertise, all in support of a quality rural workforce. The "RTT" moniker in our name is a tribute to our earliest participating integrated rural track residency programs, but also speaks to our expanding community of practice representing other rural education and training pathways and programs in other specialties and professions. Charitable contributions to The RTT Collaborative are 100% tax deductible.