

“Rethinking the Pipeline to Rural Practice”

The RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting – Online
Hosted by the RTTC participating rural program in Tyler and Pittsburg, Texas
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, or following, Eastern Time** - April 7 to 9, 2021
<https://rttcollaborative.net/meetings/annual-meeting/>



Join other health professions educators from rural training programs around the nation, to achieve the following:

1. Describe the evidence for effective pipeline strategies in rural health professions education and training
2. Implement at least one strategy or tool in taking a more ecological, less linear approach
3. Share at least two novel ideas for program development, finance, governance, and curriculum design
4. Adapt at least one innovation implemented by others to their own program
5. Become part of a growing network of individuals and organizations engaged in the education and training of health professionals, both undergraduate and graduate programs, from around the nation

Prescribed credit(s) for this activity have been requested from the American Academy of Family Physicians.

This year's Annual Meeting will again be conducted on an online Zoom platform. As every year, this event promises to be a wonderful opportunity for the community of practice in rural health professions education and training to meet for mutual inspiration and encouragement. We want to express appreciation to our participating programs, our host committee, our collaborative sponsors, and our meeting sponsors for helping to make this meeting possible. For a full listing, [see page ??ff](#). This year's meeting explores the metaphor of the pipeline and the many paths to competent rural practice.

****Note that all times in this agenda are given in Eastern Time, with the opening each day beginning at 11AM Eastern (10 AM Central, 9 AM Mountain, and 8 AM Pacific)**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Gathering:

Zoom will be available at 10:30 AM EDT; feel free to join early and send a private chat message to others as they arrive!

Meeting Link: Join Zoom Meeting

[Drop Box access](#) [for poster reviews](#)

Day I: Paths to Rural Practice

11:00 AM EDT **Welcome** – Randall Longenecker, Executive Director, The RTT Collaborative (Ohio) and Leslie Tingle, Program Director, Rural Family Medicine Residency, UT Health Pittsburg (TX)

11:15 AM EDT **An Unexpected Journey**
Speaker: Beverly Waddleton, Quitman, TX

11:45 AM EDT **NETworking Session I: kNowing, Engaging, and Telling**
The audience will be randomly assigned to Zoom breakout groups of 5-6 individuals

1. Introduce yourselves by briefly sharing a unique aspect of your path
2. Why did you come to this meeting?
3. What do you hope to gain?

Disband as you wish by leaving the Zoom room when needed to prepare for the breakout presentations and workshops at 12:30 PM EDT

12:30 PM EDT Workshops I

| Pipeline A | Pipeline B | GME | Research - UME |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1A Yield to Primary Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">• F Macaluso (CO)• K James (CO)• M Deutchman (CO) | 2A NC Rural Pipeline <ul style="list-style-type: none">• C Roberts (NC)• M Bazemore (NC) | 3A Program Emergence and Variation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E Hawes (NC)• A Weidner (WA)• C Page (NC)• M Holmes (NC) | 4A Using Research to Address the Leaky Pipeline <ul style="list-style-type: none">• K Lord (TX)• T Leigh (TX)• A Diego (TX)• M Hopper (TX) |
| 12:55 PM 5-minute break – Workshops start at 1:00 PM EDT | | | |
| 1B Urban to Rural <ul style="list-style-type: none">• M Deutchman (CO)• R Silva (CO)• M DeHerrera (CO) | 2B Rural Physician Assistants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E Larson (WA) | 3B Program Maturity and Vitality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S Crane (NC)• J Pauwels (WA)• R Bush (WA) | 4B Longitudinal Research Thread <ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Leigh (TX)• K Lord (TX)• C Henley (TX) |

Special Feature – Pipeline Conversation

1:30 PM EDT A Pipeline Conversation with John Wheat, led by Randy Longenecker

2:15 PM EDT Adjourn for the day (Zoom meeting open for networking until 2:30)

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Gathering:

Zoom will be available at 10:30 AM EDT; feel free to join early and send a private chat message to others as they arrive!

Meeting Link: Join Zoom Meeting

[Drop Box access](#) for poster reviews

Day II: Pipelines, Tracks, and Streams

11:00 AM EDT **Welcome** – Kara Traxler, Associate Director, The RTT Collaborative (WI)

11:15 AM EDT **Pipelines And Pathways: Strategies To Improve Recruitment Efforts Among Rural And Underrepresented Students In Medicine**

Speaker: Kent Willis

12:00 PM EDT **NETworking Session I: kNowing, Engaging, and Telling**

The audience will be randomly assigned to Zoom breakout groups of 5-6 individuals

1. Introduce yourselves
2. What have you learned so far?
3. What questions do you still have? (someone in the group may have the answer!)

Disband as you wish by leaving the Zoom room when needed to prepare for the breakout presentations and workshops at 12:30 PM EDT

12:45 PM EDT Workshops II

| Pipeline A | Pipeline B | GME | Research - GME |
|---|--|--|---|
| 5A Pre Pre-Premed • A Smith (TX) | 6 Ohio Rural Physicians Training Pathways • L Martensen (OH) • S Casapulla (OH) • A Heintzelman (OH) • S DiMario (OH) | 7 Rural Program Director Development NIPDD Fellows 2019-20 • D Kreckel (ME) • P Jenkins (KY) Rural PDU • K Traxler (WI) • D Schmitz | 8 Value of Rural Training • D Patterson (WA) • L Peterson (KY) • D Schmitz (ND) |
| 5B Homegrown Doctors • A Smith (TX) | | | |



Please join us this afternoon for a special trip to the [Pittsburg, TX RTT!](#)

Special Feature - Tyler and Pittsburg, TX

3:00 to 5:30 PM EDT

| | |
|---------|---|
| 3:00 PM | <p>Schedule of events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Health Challenges in Northeast Texas: Disease Burden and Population (P McGaha)• Gestation, Birth and Relocation: History of the Pittsburg program (L Tingle, T Youngblood) <p>15-minute break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video Tour of UTHP Critical Access Hospital and Campus and Local Community• Experiential education Family Medicine Residents Supporting the Pittsburg Independent School District: Anatomy and Physiology Classes, Sports Medicine and Resident Shadowing• Questions and Answers |
| 5:30 | <p>Wine Down with a Taste of Texas</p> <p>Participants are free to wander among Zoom affinity groups, and open their Texas wines (Details for ordering from Los Pinos Winery and Restaurant to be released to registrants in February)</p> |
| 6:30 | <p>Adjourn</p> |



Friday, April 9, 2021

Gathering:

Zoom will be available at 10:30 AM EDT; feel free to join early and send a private chat message to others as they arrive!

Meeting Link: Join Zoom Meeting

[Drop Box access](#) [for poster reviews](#)

Day III: Continuing the Journey

11:00 AM EDT **Welcome** – Dave Schmitz, Associate Director, The RTT Collaborative (ND)

11:15 AM EDT **“FORHP efforts to encourage education and training in rural communities”**

Speaker: Tom Morris, Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (DC)

12:00 PM Break

12:15 PM EDT Workshops III

| Curriculum | Curriculum | Curriculum | Curriculum |
|---|--|--|---|
| 9 Agromedicine in the Education and Training of Future Rural Clinicians <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel facilitated by V Casanova (TX) | 10 Maternity Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">• M Deutchman (CO)• F Macaluso (CO)• K James (CO) | 11 Integration of Rural Psychiatry and Family Medicine Residency Training <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Xantus (TX) | 12A Near Peer Ultrasound <ul style="list-style-type: none">• C Weeks (TX)• L Weindruch (TX) 5-minute break 12B Critical Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Dennis (MT)• V Mohl (MT)• G Brand (MT)• C Seger (MT) |

1:15 PM Envisioning a Future for Rural Health Professions Education and Training

Randall Longenecker, Executive Director, The RTT Collaborative (Ohio)

Leslie Tingle, Program Director, Rural Family Medicine Residency, UT Health Pittsburg (TX)

General session with small group discussions facilitated by select speakers

2:00 PM Adjourn (Zoom meeting open for networking until 2:30)

We are interested in your feedback! Please complete our evaluation at the end of each conference day, or before if you have to leave, by using the QR code or clicking the link below:



Plenary Speakers 2021

An Unexpected Journey

Beverly Waddleton DO, Family Physician, UT Health East Texas Physicians, Quitman, Texas



Beverly Lynne Waddleton was born in Mineola, Texas and grew up in Quitman, Texas, where she graduated from Quitman High School as Salutatorian of her class in 1970. She received a B.S. in Zoology from Iowa State University in 1974, a Doctor of Osteopathy degree from Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (University N TX Health Science Center) in 1981, and completed an Internship at Hurst General Hospital in Hurst, Texas, later became board certified by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

In 1982 she returned to Quitman and set up a solo private family practice which she ran for twenty-two and one-half years. In 2005, she began working for East Texas Medical Center (now UT Health East Texas) in their Rural Health Clinic. She is presently medical director of the clinic and Cardio/pulmonary Rehab. Until the COVID pandemic, she has also taught and supervised Rural Family Practice Residents through the UT System.

She is a member of First United Methodist Church Quitman where she sings in the choir and occasionally serves as church pianist. She has been honored as a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, a KLTW Black History Honoree, Texas Physician

of the Year, 2015, one of 50 Heroes for UNTHSC (Univ. N. TX Health Science Center) at Fort Worth and received the Masonic Lodge 2020 Community Builder Award.

She has been married to Dr. John F. Johnson (a retired professor at Jarvis Christian College) for the past 36 years. They have 2 sons, Travers and Alston. She is also thankful to be a 20 year breast cancer survivor.

Special Feature – A Pipeline Conversation

John Wheat MD, MPH, Professor of Family, Internal, and Rural Medicine, University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

John Wheat MD, MPH, is a native of rural Alabama with 40 years of professional development and academic service in rural health. A professor at the University of Alabama, he is known as founding director of the Rural Health Leaders Pipeline, which he guided for 25 years, and for research developments in rural medical education, agricultural medicine, and rural access to health care. He has published a number of papers summarizing the results of those efforts, most recently “Pipeline Programs Can Support Reforms in Medical Education: A Cohort Study of Alabama’s Rural Health Leaders Pipeline to Engage Community Leaders” in *the Journal of Rural Health*, November 2020.

Dr. Wheat completed a sabbatical in Australia correlating educational programs for rural medicine there with those in the United States. Dr. Wheat has served as Chairman of the North American Agromedicine Consortium, Bureau Member of the International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health, and Co-Chairman of the NRHA Rural Medical Educators Group. Dr. Wheat’s numerous awards include the Distinguished Educator Award from the National Rural Health Association for his design and implementation of the Rural Healthcare Leaders Pipeline Program. Dr. Wheat has published extensively in the areas of Agromedicine and Rural Health.



He enjoys working with students and rural communities, growing peas, corn, and green fields, hunting with his beagles, and nurturing his family and grandchildren.

Pipelines And Pathways: Strategies To Improve Recruitment Efforts Among Rural And Underrepresented Students In Medicine

Kent L. Willis PhD, Associate Provost - Institutional Effectiveness & Engagement, the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Tyler, Tyler, Texas



Dr. Willis serves as the Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs and Assistant Professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. In addition to work with outreach efforts to improve student preparation for careers in medicine and public health, he teaches graduate courses in public health communication and research methods. Dr. Willis serves on the Board of Directors of several non-profit and education organizations, including East Texas Baptist University, Leadership Tyler, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) of East Texas, and People Attempting to Help (PATH). He received his undergraduate degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Hampton University in Hampton, VA.

FORHP Efforts to Encourage Education and Training in Rural Communities

Tom Morris, Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Washington, DC

In his role as Associate Administrator, Tom oversees the work of the [Office of Rural Health Policy](#), which is charged with advising the Secretary on rural health issues. The Office, which has an annual budget of \$317 million, administers a range of research and capacity building grant programs that serve rural communities. Tom has served on a number of cross-cutting rural efforts during his career, including the White House Rural Council from 2010 through 2018 as well as the current work of the HHS Rural Task Force and was one of the authors of the 2020 HHS Rural Action Plan.

In 2012, Tom was the recipient of the HHS Distinguished Service Award and in 2015 he was awarded a Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service. Over the course of his Federal career, Tom has testified on rural health issues before the House and Senate. He has past work experience in the U.S. Senate as well as various policy and program positions within HRSA and HHS. A 1996 Presidential Management Intern, Tom came to government after a career as a newspaper reporter and editor. He has an undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Community Health from East Carolina University. He also earned a Certificate in Public Leadership from the Brookings Institution in 2008.

