The Rural Osteopathic Medical Education Program:
Training Students for life and practice in rural and underserved communities

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Rural Osteopathic Medical Education (ROME) Program

• Mission: To create solutions for healthier rural communities

• Our Goals
  • To provide a foundation for life and practice in a rural community
  • To prepare the graduate for acceptance into premier medical education programs
  • To prepare osteopathic graduate for practice in a changing rural environment in the 21st century

• Additional curriculum given to prepare students in rural locations with a preceptor based model

• Recent changes in Admission Process- Class of 2021
ROME Rural Scholars Program: Curriculum Overview

**Year 1**
- Semester 2
  - MEDE 7416
  - Rural Medicine
- 15-Hour Rural ER Observation

**Summer**
- TAFP FM Preceptor (optional)
- 4-Day Rural Practice and Lifestyle Practicum
- International Rotation @ MFU Rural/Primary Care (optional)

**Year 2**
- Semester 3
  - MEDE 7624 Rural Medicine 3
- Semester 4
  - MEDE 7220 Rural Medicine 4
Year 1 & 2

- Skills development
  - patient communication
  - physical exam
  - procedural skills
  - well woman exam

- Trained patients for reinforcement of communication and exam skills
Ultrasound training

- **SONOSIM**: required web-based US training
  - utilizes probe that simulates hands on US
- Students required to do 4 to 5 modules per semester with testing and Mastery quiz
- Ultrasound workshops: done in SIM lab 3 to 4 times per semester
MERCY CLINIC:
Early Clinical Experiences

Faith-based free clinic
Located about 5 miles from UNTHSC. Open Tues/Thurs Evenings 5 to 8pm

Rome students spend 3 to 4 evenings per semester seeing patients with ROME faculty (Dr Gibson, Dr Hadley)
ROME Rural Scholars Program: Curriculum Overview

- Year 3
  - Family Medicine+OMM 12 Weeks
  - Internal Medicine 8 Weeks
  - Surgery 8 Weeks
  - OB-GYN 6 Weeks
  - Pediatrics 6 Weeks
  - Psychiatry 4 Weeks
  - Elective 4 Weeks
    - Option for Rural-GLOBAL Rotation in Thailand
    - Option for Malawi Women’s/Children’s Health Rotation

- Map of Texas and surrounding states with marked locations.
Preceptor vs HUB Model
Research Opportunities

• Community Health Research Projects
  • Nutritional Literacy and Habits Among Rural Texans
  • An Evaluation of Pre-Natal Behaviors in a Rural Texas Community
  • Identifying Barriers to Breast Cancer Screening/Mammography in Fredericksburg, Texas

• HRSA Grant- Dual Degree DO-MPH program

• Future Research Opportunities
  • Women’s healthcare in rural Texas; reducing women & child mortality
  • Telehealth
  • Butterfly IQ
International Rotations

- Rural vs International
- Student interest driven
- 3rd and 4th year possibilities
- Opportunity for advanced procedural skills
- Graduate certificate of global health
Students at Mae Fah Luang
January 2017
Malawi Global Medicine Program
Rural Scholars 2010-2017

Gender
- Female
- Male

Ethnicity
- White
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Black

Source: UNT Health Science Center
Rural Scholars 2010-2017

- 39% • In Practice
- 54% • In Residency
- 2% • In Fellowship
- 5% • Cannot Reach
### Rural Scholars 2010-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Speciality</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care Specialty</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Specialties</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rural Scholars 2010-2015

33% Practicing in area of less than 50,000
Rural Scholars 2010-2015

59% Serving in Medically Underserved Areas

17% Serving in Health Professional Shortage Area
Future Directions

• What can we do to give back to Rural Communities?
  • Research initiatives
  • Faculty development- access to library and medical education resources, CME, on-site short courses (e.g. ALSO, ACLS)
Questions?

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