A University and AHEC Partnership: Creating lasting rural training as part of an urban-based University program

Melody A. Jordahl-Iafrato, MD, FAAFP
Jerome Koleski, MD

Objectives

- Identify potential funding for rural learning through Area Health Education Centers and local partnerships.
- Describe rural learning opportunities for residents in an urban-based residency.
- Describe the methods UACOM SC FMR uses to maximize time away while conforming to ACGME requirements for continuity care.

UACOM SC FMR History

- Mission
  - We welcome aspiring family physicians into a residency marked by excellence at all levels - achieving new heights of teaching, scholarly work, mentorship, and inter-professionalism as we care for vulnerable populations in under-resourced areas of Arizona.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON
Family Medicine Residency
South Campus

- Opened 2010
- Community hospital, university program in Tucson
- Part of U of A Department of Family and Community Medicine

Rural Experience

- Arizona Area Health Education Center partnership
  - Support for program/residents and preceptors

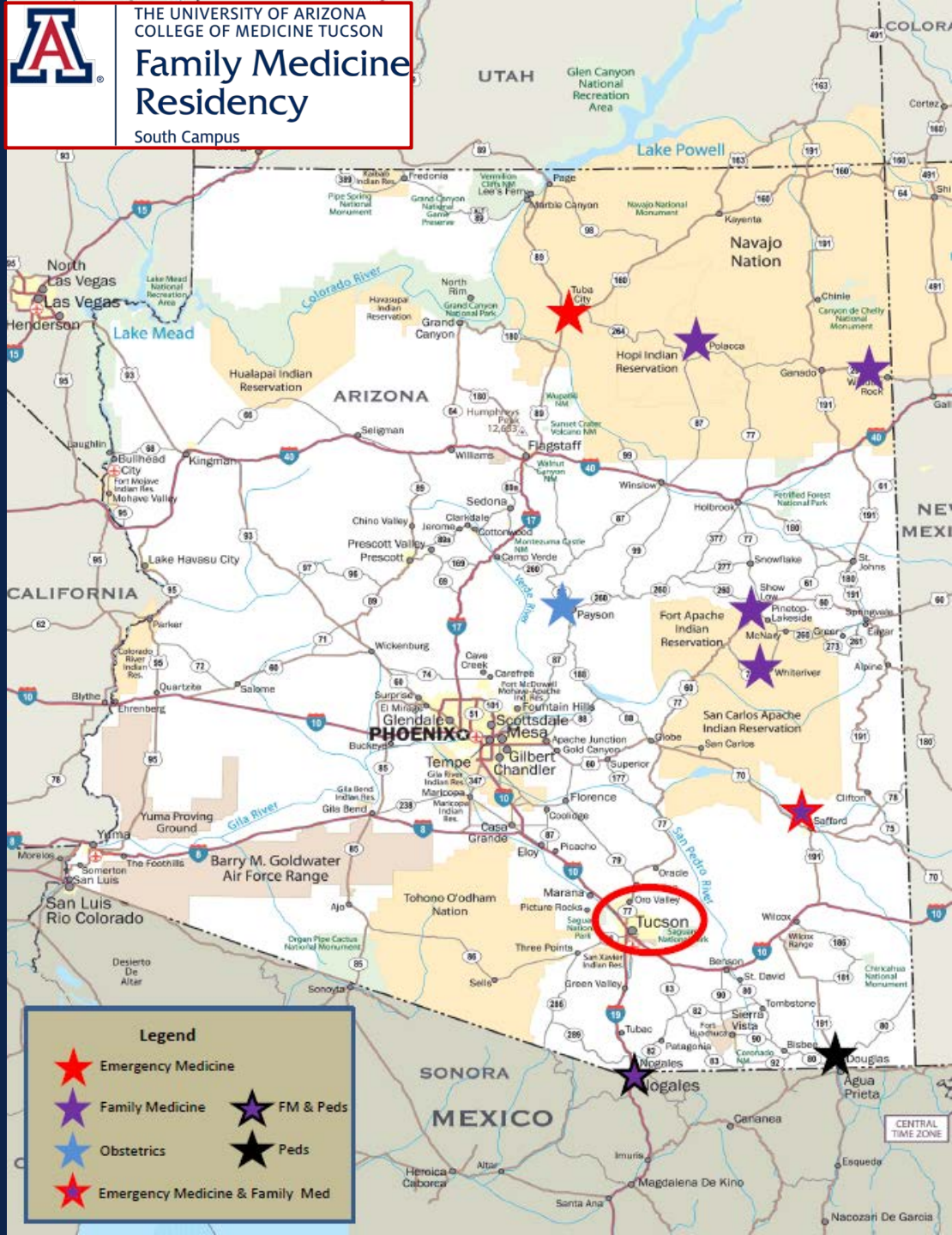
- 16 weeks required rural rotations
  - Family Medicine
    - PGY1: 4 weeks
    - PGY2: 4 weeks
  - Emergency Medicine
    - PGY2: 4 weeks
  - Obstetrics
    - PGY2: 4 weeks
- 4 weeks options rural rotation
  - Outpatient Pediatrics
    - PGY3: 4 weeks

AHEC Support

- Program/resident
  - Travel
  - Housing
  - Trainings
  - Administrative support
    - Faculty
    - Coordinator

- Preceptors/sites
  - Stipend
  - Training

- Distance to rural rotation locations
  - Nogales: 65 miles, 1 hour
  - Douglas: 116 miles, 2 hours
  - Safford: 125 miles, 2 hours
  - Payson: 194 miles, 3 hours
  - Show Low: 198 miles, 4 hours
  - Whiteriver: 203 miles, 4 hours
  - Fort Defiance: 347 miles, 6.5 hours
  - Tuba City: 349 miles, 5.5 hours
  - Polacca: 351 miles, 6 hours



Hopi Health Care Center

- Indian Health Services facility
- Located in Polacca, AZ
- Residents rotate through several services
  - Outpatient
  - Inpatient
  - Emergency room

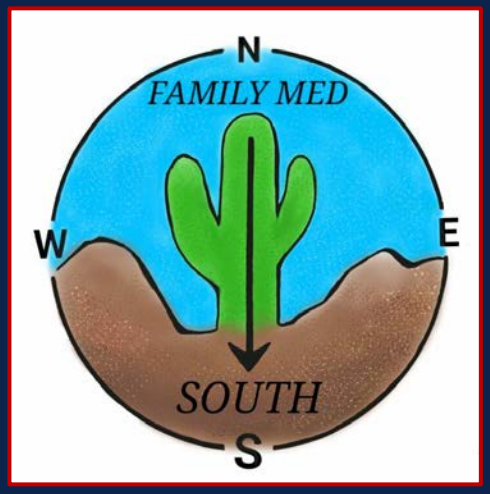
Safford, AZ

- FM: Gila Valley Clinic
  - Independent practice
- Residents experience full spectrum family medicine
  - Inpatient
  - Outpatient
  - Obstetrics, including surgical
- May work with medical student, no other residents

- Emergency Medicine
- Work with EM and FM trained docs
- Only learners in the environment

But how do we follow the rules?

- Track weeks out of clinic to comply with 40 week rules
- Residents do not travel back for continuity clinic



- PGY1
  - Start of block :Clinic on Monday AM, start Tuesday
  - End of block: Clinic Thurs AM, teaching Thurs PM, clinic Friday AM/PM
- PGY2
  - Start of block: Clinic Monday AM/PM
  - End of block: Clinic Thurs AM, teaching Thurs PM, clinic Friday AM/PM

Graduate Outcomes

Class	Practicing in AZ	Rural Practice	Underserved Population	Practice in more than one clinical setting
2012 *4 graduates*	1	0	1	1
2013 *8 graduates*	0	4	4	2
2014 *8 graduates*	5	0	5	4
2015 *7 graduates*	4	1	6	4
2016 *9 graduates*	7	2	9	7
2017 *8 graduates*	4*	6	8	8
Totals *44 graduates*	21 (48%)	13 (29.5%)	33 (75%)	26 (59%)

Graduates in Rural Practice

- 29.5% currently practicing in rural areas
  - Majority working with Indian Health Service
  - Majority in AZ
    - Also in AK, IL, ME, WY, BC

- 75% working with underserved populations
  - Rural
  - FQHC
  - Academics

Questions?