



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



**AAFP**

## Explore Rural at National Conference

**AAFP National Conference Student Edition >> 2018**



Matthew Peters, of the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, discusses a resolution he co-authored in 2016 that asks the AAFP to collaborate with The RTT Collaborative and National Rural Health Association.

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**Don't Miss our Annual Breakfast- see inside for more details!**



Find us online- [rttcollaborative.net](http://rttcollaborative.net)

# Explore Rural at National Conference

Welcome to National Conference, a place to explore possibilities for a future in family medicine! For those of you interested in eventual rural practice or an interest in a residency with a broad scope of training, here are several important features you should not miss:

## Visit Booths 1524-1526 – The “heart of rural” at National Conference

- **The RTT Collaborative booth #1524** – a place to come for answers to your questions and for rural information of all types; Get a free annual membership in the National Rural Health Association; as a cooperative of rural programs in medical school and residency, look for this symbol.



- **Rural PREP booth #1526** – The collaborative for Rural Primary Care Research, Education, and Practice; among other things a source of microresearch funding for students and residents who conduct research projects in rural places and scholarly activity relevant to rural health



- **3RNet booth #1525** – The Rural Recruitment and Retention Network, your connection to rural practice opportunities in virtually every state

## Attend Rural Presentations

- Patient and Community Centered Care in the Rural Landscape, August 2 @ 1:30 PM, 3501G; August 3 @ 10 AM, 3501A
- Caring for the Underserved: Role of the Family Physician, August 2 @ 10:45 AM, 3501D; August 3 @ 1 PM, 3501C
- AAFP Rural Interest Group meeting August 3 @ 4 PM, 3501C

# Board Position Open for Student or Resident

The RTT Collaborative is looking to appoint a medical student or resident member to our Board.

Responsibilities include quarterly online meetings (using ZOOM), one of which is an in-person meeting usually in association with the Annual Meeting. This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 15-17, 2019 in Lewiston, Maine. The student or resident member will receive reimbursement for any travel and lodging expenses associated with in-person meetings and will receive free registration to the Annual Meeting.

To be eligible, a student must be a participant in any medical school rural program. Preference will be given to those students from medical schools who are currently [participants in The RTT Collaborative](#), of which there are currently only three. Residents must be from a rural residency in our listing of rural programs, and as above, preference will be given to residents from RTTC participating programs.

Please indicate your interest in applying to Dr. Longenecker, Executive Director, at [longenec@ohio.edu](mailto:longenec@ohio.edu) with the subject line: "RTTC Student (or Resident, whichever applies) Board Application." **Please respond by August 6.**

Please include a one-page summary as to why you believe you would be a particularly good candidate for this position. Students should include a letter of support from their medical school's rural program director and residents from their residency program director.

## Join Us for Breakfast

Students attending the National Conference are invited to [register for a special inquiry breakfast](#) on rural training opportunities in medical school and residency from 7:00 to 8:15 AM on Saturday morning, August 4, in the Hotel Phillips. During this hot sit-down breakfast, courtesy of The RTT Collaborative and the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME, you will have the opportunity to engage with other students and residents in conversation, facilitated by rural faculty. **Please register by July 30.** Registration is limited to 30 student participants. We will be filling the group on a first come, first serve basis, from now until the day prior to the conference, **so don't delay!**

# Featured Programs With a Proven Track Record of Producing Rural Physicians

There are a significant number of rurally-focused or engaged programs that do not meet the RTT Collaborative definition of a rural program, yet produce many rural doctors. The RTT Collaborative Board wishes to recognize any residency program, urban or rural, in any specialty who has a history of placing graduates in rural community practice. The following programs have achieved, on a 3-year rolling average, 35% graduation to rural practice or greater than 3 residents per year who have established an initial place of practice in a rural community:

- Firelands Regional Medical Center Program, Firelands Regional Medical Center, Sandusky, OH – 50%
- Hidalgo Medical Services Family Medicine Residency Program, Silver City, NM – 60%
- North Colorado Medical Center Wray Rural Program, Wray, CO – **100%**
- OHSU-Cascades East Family Medicine Residency, Klamath Falls, OR – 78.26% and 6 rural graduates per year
- Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency, Sioux Falls, SD – 66.67% and 6 rural graduates per year
- Spokane Teaching Health Center Rural Program, Colville, WA – **100%**
- St. Claire Family Medicine Osteopathic Residency Program, Morehead, KY (to be combined with the UK program below, July 1, 2018) – **100%**
- The University of Oklahoma Rural Residency Program @ St John's, Bartlesville, OK – 85.71%
- University of Arizona College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency South Campus – 45.83% and 4 rural graduates per year
- University of Kansas (Wichita) / Via Christi Hospitals Wichita Program - Family Medicine, Wichita, KS – 51.85% and **9 rural graduates per year**
- University of Kentucky Rural (Morehead) Family Medicine Residency Program, Morehead, KY – 66.67%

If a program is not listed, it could be that the program has less than 3 years of graduates to report or has simply not applied for recognition. Encourage them to apply next year!

For a listing of rural programs in Family Medicine in the United States, visit the Student section of The RTT Collaborative website: <https://rttcollaborative.net/students/med-students-residency/>

# Collaborations

The RTT Collaborative is proud of the work we accomplish within the rural medical education community. Partnerships with other organizations create a space in which ideas can be shared and problems can be solved. The [Rural Health Information Hub](#) is excellent destination and one-stop shop for information, opportunities, and resources in rural health, and the RTT Collaborative is proud to have been a partner of the RHI Hub since our inception in 2012. The [National Rural Health Association](#) is a leading non-profit and membership driven organization of individuals and organizations across the US, providing communication and leadership with regards to all rural health issues. [Rural PREP](#) is the collaborative for Rural Primary care Research, Education, and Practice, a grant funded effort to promote research in building a solid evidence base in health professions education and training in rural places. Finally, the [National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network, or 3RNet](#), leads the way in the recruitment and retention of rural physicians in practice. With the help of these organizations, the RTT Collaborative and its participating programs continue to improve rural medical education and the health of rural communities.



# What is a Rural Program?

## Randall Longenecker MD, Executive Director

What is a “rural program” and what does it matter anyway?!

I remember my first visit to National Conference in 1998. I was there representing my newly minted rural training track residency program in Bellefontaine, Ohio. I was eager to connect with others and was pleased to see a listing of over 150 rural programs in the conference brochure. Imagine my dismay, when I discovered that this was a self-reported designation, and that many of the programs offered a fairly restricted scope of training and were actually located in the suburbs! My subsequent experience as a rural program director of an integrated 2-2-2 rural training track has convinced me that for students seeking to prepare for rural practice or looking for a broad scope of training in any location, definitions do matter. Even though 60% of the students we recruited to our rurally-located program had no initial intention of going into rural practice, 75% of them ultimately did. They had become comfortable with the idea of rural practice and had come to experience its rewards.

The federal government established a definition in 2003 that I believe it is a good one, i.e. any residency in which trainees spend >50% of their time training in a rural location. Separately accredited rural training track programs and programs that are primary located in a rural place, on the average, have a rate of graduation to rural practice that is 2 to 3 times that of urban programs.

If you want to know if a family medicine residency is in a rural location, you can enter the address of the family medicine practice in the [“Am I Rural?”](#) tool online. For residencies in hospital-centric specialties other than family medicine, simply enter the address of the main participating hospital.

Since that first visit to Kansas City in 1998, I have committed myself to providing meaningful information to medical students at this conference and elsewhere. For more information about rural education and training and a listing of the 92 rural family medicine programs in the United States, go to the student section of [The RTT Collaborative website](#).

Admittedly, many physicians in rural practice did their residency training in the city. This year, we have chosen to recognize any program, including urban programs, who produce large percentages or large numbers of rural graduates. See Featured Programs With a Proven Track Record of Producing Rural Physicians on page 4.

# RTTC Participating Programs Exhibiting at National Conference



Booth #	Participating Rural Residency Programs
642	St. Luke's Family Medicine Residency Program (Bethlehem, PA)
927	North Colorado Family Medicine Residency Program (Wray, CO)
929	Sterling Rural Training Track (Sterling, CO)
932	University of Colorado Family Medicine Residency (Ft. Morgan, CO)
933	Southern Colorado Family Medicine Rural/Alamosa (Alamosa, CO)
939	CHI Mercy Health-Roseburg Family Medicine Residency (Roseburg, OR)
1005	University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (Canton, IL)
1024	Providence Oregon Family Medicine Rural Program (Hood River, OR)
1028	Samaritan Health Services Family Medicine Residency (Watertown, NY)
1029	Oregon Health & Science University-Cascades East (Klamath Falls, OR)
1104	University of Texas Rural Family Medicine Residency Program (Pittsburg, TX)
1210	WWAMI Family Medicine Residency Network (multiple locations)
1211	Family Medicine Residency Western Montana (Kalispell, MT)
1217	Family Medicine Residency Idaho (Magic Valley & Caldwell, ID)
1224	Family Medicine Residency Spokane (Colville, WA)
1228	Central WA Family Medicine Residency (Ellensburg, WA)
1232	St. Peter Family Medicine Chehalis Rural Training Program (Chehalis, WA)
1238	Swedish Family Medicine Residency Cherry Hill (Port Angeles, WA)
1240	University of WA Family Medicine Residency Program (Chelan, WA)
1303	University of AZ COM South Campus Family Medicine Residency (Tucson, AZ)
1315	Cahaba Family Medicine Residency Program (Centerville, AL)
1330	Hidalgo Medical Services Family Medicine Residency Program (Silver City, NM)
1429	Western WI Rural Family Medicine Residencies (Amery & New Richmond, WI)
1503	Central Maine Medical Center Family Medicine Residency (Rumford, ME)
1528	Sioux Falls Family Medicine (Pierre, SD)
1634	East Carolina Dept. of Family Medicine (Greenville NC)
1728	University of Wisconsin (Baraboo, WI)
1729	St. Mary's Family Medicine Fellowship (Wisconsin)
1806	McCleod Health Cheraw Family Medicine (Florence, SC)
1942	Ukiah Valley University of CA -Davis (Ukiah, CA)

Booth #	Information regarding rural training and placement
1524	The RTT Collaborative (Athens, OH)
1525	3RNet (Jefferson City, MO)
1526	Rural PREP (Seattle, WA)
1729	Wisconsin Collaborative for rural Graduate Medical Education (Sauk City, WI)