Medical School in Alaska

Current State
And
Future Directions
WWAMI – Alaska’s Medical School

Alaska WWAMI: A story of dynamic development

- From smallest regional site to largest: 10 ⇆ 20 per yr
- Applicant interviews in Anchorage – first outside Seattle
- PreMed Summits, annual since ‘06 - > 200 multiple sites
- High School Summer Enrichment* - NIH and Chancellor’s awards
- All Alaska WWAMI research faculty have extramural grants (NIH)

* Della Keats / U-DOC / NIDDK
What is WWAMI?

- WWAMI is Alaska’s Medical School
- An enduring partnership among the states of: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, & Idaho
- Its purpose is to provide high quality, cost-effective medical education, with a focus on the workforce needs of the region.
### Medical School in Alaska WWAMI

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<tr>
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<th>1\textsuperscript{st} Year</th>
<th>2\textsuperscript{nd} Year</th>
<th>3\textsuperscript{rd} Year</th>
<th>4\textsuperscript{th} Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Science</td>
<td>Basic Science taught in Alaska at UAA</td>
<td>Basic Science taught in Seattle at UWSoM</td>
<td>Required Clerkships: Can be taken in any WWAMI state or via the Alaska Track</td>
<td>Required and Elective Clerkships: Can be taken in any WWAMI state, internationally or all in Alaska</td>
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• Its purpose is to provide *high quality*...medical education

**US News & World Report**

America’s Best Graduate Schools, 2009

- #1 Primary Care  – 15 consecutive years
- #1 Rural Medicine  – 17 consecutive years
- #1 Family Medicine  – 17 consecutive years
Its purpose is to provide...*cost-effective* medical education

Alaska WWAMI students pay in-state tuition

- about $19,000 in 2008-2009
- Alaska subsidizes about $50,000 per student/yr
- “effectiveness” depends on return on investment
• Its purpose is to provide...*focus on the workforce* needs

*Rate of Return:*

47% of AK WWAMI (124/263)

compare national average = 39% (AAMC)

compare AK WICHE = 18% (DHSS)

*Return on Investment:*

88% return from all WWAMI graduates (230/263)
Where are we going?
Where are we going?

Currently underway:

- 20 students enter third year, fall 2009
- Current legislation seeking 24 per year
- 3rd year and 4th year clerkships expanding
- Alaska Track has 9 students this year
- New residency rotations in pediatrics, psychiatry...
Where are we going?

Future Plans:

Alaska Physician Supply Task Force

Report, 2006

- expand Alaska WWAMI to 30 per year ASAP
- as possible increase to 50 per year
- all 4 years offered in Alaska
- empanel a group to assess medical education in Alaska, including an Alaska-based medical school
WWAMI is Alaska’s Medical School

- 3 years of medical school in Alaska
- High quality, #1 US News & World Report
- Produces physicians who practice in Alaska
- Excellent return on investment for Alaska

The Challenge – retain current strengths while building capacity to serve current and future needs.
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