

## Letter to our Preceptors

To our R/UOP Preceptors

Thank you for your commitment to precept our students. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year of success for R/UOP! The popularity of the R/UOP program continues since its inception in 1989: this year we will again be placing over 100 first year medical students with preceptors in rural and urban underserved communities in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

As a preceptor, you will have a life-long influence on our future physician's career, and continue the age-old process of teaching future generation of physicians. You may be wondering just how much of an imposition an eager pre-clinical student is going to be. Teaching takes time, an admittedly precious, limited resource to you. But teaching is a superb way to continue your education. Students can at times free up bits of your time by talking with patients who need an ear as much as they need your personal attention. Patients often cherish the extra attention that they get from students.

Finally, as a conscientious physician you may be anxious about whether you'll be a good teacher. Remember the good and bad teaching from your own student and resident days, and you will recall how significant and appreciated a good mentor can be. Someone probably helped shape your careers - as you may now shape those of your students. By taking the responsibility seriously you already have the critical foundation upon which you can build good teaching skills. There is much to learn about effective teaching. This handbook has some tips collected by your predecessors and from the students, themselves.

We want to thank you again for your support and involvement in the teaching of medical students. The Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program continues to be one of the most important experiences for students at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

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