

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
TRUST MT

*Targeted Rural Underserved Track
Dillon, MT ~ July 28-August 8, 2008 BBB*



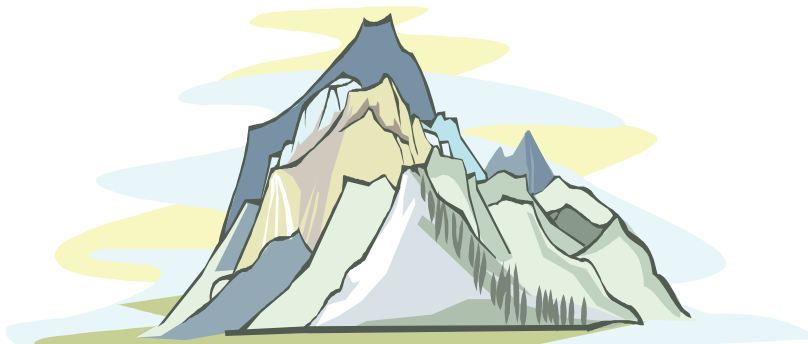
**Please welcome Ben Ruffatto
Entering '08 Medical Student
University of Washington
School of Medicine**

Please welcome entering '08 student Ben Ruffatto to the TRUST MT program (see next page). He will spend the next two weeks shadowing Dr. Burke in Dillon and will then head to MSU Bozeman for his first year of medical school. Ben grew up in Whitefish, Montana, raised by parents who are both high school teachers. He is an avid skier, both cross-country and alpine, and spends his summers out in the mountains in Glacier National Park leading week-long tours through the backcountry. Adding to his competency in the wilderness, in 2007 he received his Wilderness First Responder certification. This 72-hour class served to fuel his desire to study medicine. His undergraduate years were spent at MSU Bozeman, where he studied cellular biology and neuroscience. Ben is driven to serve and is sincere in his relationships with others, always with a heart for the under dog. His work as an Eagle Mount Volunteer, an organization that provides therapeutic recreational activities for people of all ages with disabilities and children with cancer, profoundly impacted his desire to choose a career in the service field, rather than continue in the laboratory. Additionally, Ben has spent the last almost two years volunteering at the Shepherd's Hand Clinic, a free health clinic for the uninsured and working poor of the north Flathead Valley in Whitefish. During his time at the clinic, he was inspired by the compassion and selflessness of his fellow volunteers caring for those coming to the clinic.

Ben is a welcome addition to MSU's entering class of 2008 and we are delighted to have him on board for the inauguration of the TRUST MT program.

Ben Ruffatto
Entering '08 WWAMI MT
TRUST MT Participant
benruffatto@yahoo.com

Burke Hansen, MD
Primary Preceptor TRUST MT
30 Hwy 91 South
Dillon, MT 59725
Phone: 406- 683-1173
bhansen@barrethospital.org



Frank Newman PhD.
Director Montana TRUST
fnewman@montana.edu

Linda Hyman PhD.
Assistant Dean
University Phase/Montana
lhyman@montana.edu

Jay Erickson MD
Assistant Dean
University Phase/Montana
jerick@u.washington.edu

The Montana WWAMI program is pleased to introduce the Montana TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) program which started this summer with a pilot group of three students. The goal of Montana TRUST is to increase the number of Montana WWAMI students choosing a primary care specialty or other needed specialty and returning to practice in the rural and urban underserved areas of Montana. A cohort of five students will be selected this coming year with a targeted admissions process that will choose Montana students likely to practice in a rural or urban underserved practice.

The program will use existing programs, as well as, new programs to create a continuum that selects, educates and supports Montana students with an interest in rural or urban underserved medicine. Students will be matched with a rural or urban underserved mentor at the time of admission. They will complete a 2 week pre-matriculation experience at the practice and participate in weekend experiences with the mentor during that first year. Between first and second year the students will spend a month with the mentor continuing the continuity experience.

Students will have the opportunity in the third year to be placed in the Billings or Missoula TRACKS or participate in the WRITE program a 5 month rural continuity experience in Montana. Grants have been submitted to support the program and use of some of the funds will support student travel to regional and national meetings of interest to rural or underserved medicine. Students will participate in the Underserved Pathway at the UWSOM as well as an online journal club and monthly lectures of interest. The TRUST program will mentor students as they choose a specialty and residency.

The Montana TRUST website has further details on the program.

<http://www.montana.edu/wwwwami/TRUST.pdf>

