

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
TRUST MT

*Targeted Rural Underserved Track  
Butte, MT ~ August, 2008*



Jens  
Olsgaard

**Please welcome Jens Olsgaard  
Entering '08 Medical Student  
University of Washington  
School of Medicine**

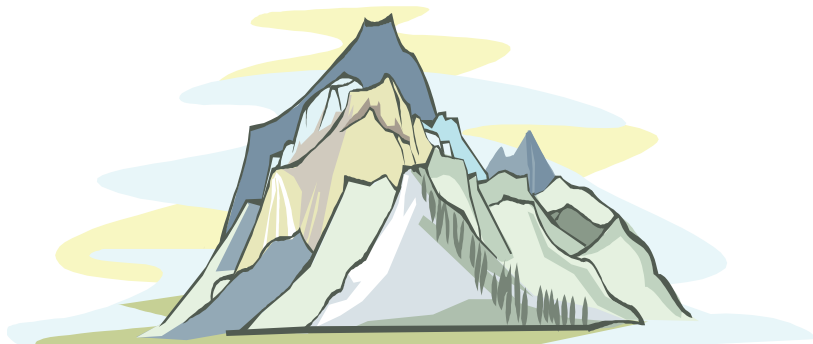
Please welcome entering '08 student Jens Olsgaard to the TRUST MT program (see next page). He will spend the next two weeks shadowing Dr. Shawna Yates at the Butte Community Health Clinic and will then head to MSU Bozeman for his first year of medical school. Jens spent his childhood in Rudyard, MT, a rural town of about 150. Jens' understanding of the paucity of medical care in rural Montana was made clear to him early on, as his family had to drive over an hour to the nearest hospital, which could provide only limited care. Even the nearest pharmacy was an hour away.

His undergraduate years were spent in Tacoma at Pacific Lutheran University where he double majored in Psychology and Environmental Studies. After his undergraduate studies were complete, he spent a year in the Post Baccalaureate program at MSU Bozeman. Recent employment in the health field includes his time as a medical assistant in the Gallatin County Community Clinic. He also spent time as a caregiver at Highgate Senior Living in Billings where he assisted with Alzheimer residents' daily living needs.

For two years, 2004-2006, he served as an Environmental Education Volunteer with the Peace Corps, spending his time in Chongqin China. It was during his service in China that he realized that he could make a difference in the world as a physician to the underserved. His commitment to social and environmental justice clarified into the idea of addressing these matters through his practice of medicine. Jens 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.

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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>

