Honoring WRITE Preceptor Dr. Hugh Leedy

Dr. Hugh Leedy, in Sandpoint, ID, retired from the WRITE program after ten years of teaching WRITE students. He is now practicing at Kaniksu Health Services, a federally funded CHC in Sandpoint. Idaho’s WRITE students and the program benefited greatly from Dr. Leedy’s years of participation. When asking around for comments from his colleagues, Dr. Jim Blackman, one of the founders of the WRITE program, summed up Dr. Leedy’s service best: “Hugh Leedy—outstanding teacher, good administrator of WRITE, handled difficult student problems very well, good relationship with his colleagues, committed his practice and patients to student teaching, well liked by students, shared financial resources with other teachers, brought the Sandpoint medical community together in support of medical education, good clinician.”

We thank you Dr. Leedy.

If you have any items to be included in future WRITE newsletters, please send articles and/or photos to:
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WRITE NEWSLETTER
WWAMI RURAL INTEGRATED TRAINING EXPERIENCE
Newsletter

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WRITE
WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience Newsletter
Interview with Libby Preceptor Dr. Greg Rice:

Q. As both a RUOP site and a site that hosts PA students from Rocky Mountain College, what is special about hosting a WRITE student?
A. WRITE is especially rewarding because you get to see the student progress and improve over 5 months. This particular point in their medical education is also a very exciting stage as they apply the bookwork and really get to practice medicine.

Q. Have the community projects done by WRITE students through the years been helpful for Libby?
A. Yes--always positive--some with long lasting affects.

Q. What do you think is the biggest challenge for WRITE students in Libby?
A. The biggest benefit or best part of their experience: The positive: seeing such a broad scope of medicine and how to handle it; the negative: socially isolated.

Q. What do you enjoy most about being a preceptor?
A. It makes keeping educationally up-to-date enjoyable. It's great for the morale of the office and hospital. It just makes medicine more fun and exciting!

Q. As a small community in northwest Montana, what sets Libby apart from other small communities, as far as its healthcare concerns?
A. Certainly asbestosis is a major concern in Libby and something that sets us apart. But basically, Libby is a blue-collar town. We are very proud of the healthcare we provide patients. The hospital's motto is "Excellent health care close to home." Both at the hospital and in our practice we believe in that vision.

Q. As a Family Medicine Doctor in Libby, what issues do you face in your community as a primary health care provider?
A. Economics of medicine will always be a big issue. Even with the Community Health Clinic, we continue to see a large number of Medicaid, Medicare patients as well as those with no insurance. This will always be an issue.

Thank you for all those who participated in recent WRITE survey

We recently sent out a survey to track the current location and chosen field of medicine of past WRITE students. Thank you for taking the time to answer our survey. We received a lot of responses and were able to update our records and better track the success of the WRITE program. As you know, the WRITE program, a five-month clinical rotation in a rural setting, encourages medical students to consider becoming a rural doctor in a primary care field. At this point, of the 31 WRITE students who are now doctors and have been out of residency for more than a year, 24 are in primary care--half being in FM--and 12 are practicing in rural sites.

2008 WRITE Students
This year's WRITE students include:
- Sara Cater, in Sandpoint, ID, from Bozeman, MT
- Kate Harris, in Libby, MT, from Edmonds, WA
- John Heimerl, in McCall, ID, from Palmer, AK
- Erin Lester, in Sandpoint, from Anchorage, AK
- Christina Marchion, in Lewistown, MT, from Anaconda, MT
- Meghan O'Connell, in Wasilla, AK, from Madison, WI
- Heather Ostmann, in Ellensburg, WA, from Tacoma, WA
- Tom Quimby, in Powell, WY, from Anchorage, AK

Community Projects 2008:
- Sara Cater: Promoting Immunizations in Several Different Forums in the Sandpoint Area.
- Kate Harris: Nutrition Education for the Latina Women and Children of Libby, MT
- John Heimerl: Emergency Department Trauma over a two year period: Causes and Ways for Prevention
- Christina Marchion: Community Health Fairs- Survey of Patient Characteristics and their Concerns with Subsequent Patient-centered Health Education
- Meghan O'Connell: Creating Sustainable Program of Group Visits for OB patients in Providence Matanuska Health Care Clinic
- Heather Ostmann: Public Education on Flouridation in Kittitas County
- Tom Quimby: Implementation of Electronic Tracking Programs to Improve Diabetic Care

2008 WRITE Orientation--Seattle

The 2008 WRITE Orientation took place January 26th in Seattle. All 8 WRITE students were there, accompanied by many site preceptors, college mentors, UWSoM departmental faculty, the WWAMI clinical coordinators, and assistants. The orientation included a student session with FM doctor John Anderson from Cle Elum, WA; a Library and Computer Workshop by Sarah Safra-nek; an overview of departmental requirements and feedback and grading; a lunch presentation by Dr. David Losh, “Are we Facing a Physician Shortage;” and Dr. Kelly Fryer-Edwards put together an interactive presentation on professionalism.

Students began at their WRITE sites February 4th and the program ends June 20th.