To Our R/UOP Preceptors:

What a pleasure welcome new and returning preceptors to the RUOP program! This year 120 first year medical students will work with you and other volunteer preceptors in rural and urban underserved communities in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. Once again, we are truly appreciative of your efforts to make this experience happen for our future physicians.

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. 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.

Besides working with you in the clinic, your student will also be working on a community medicine project. A university-based faculty mentor is assigned to assist the student with this portion of his/her experience through a web-based curriculum. Students have found that their work with the community has deepened their overall understanding of what it means to work with underserved populations. Please ask your student to explain this process to you. An informational brochure is enclosed with this mailing, as well.

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.

Roger Rosenblatt, MD, MPH, MFR
R/UOP Director

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