

ROBERT “LEO” ANDERS

WWAMI
TRUST
UW MEDICINE

Targeted Rural Underserved Track

Western Washington

Entering Class of 2015

TRUST seeks to provide a continuous connection between rural, small city underserved communities, medical education, and health professionals in our region. Our goal is to create a full-circle pipeline by guiding qualified students through a special curriculum that connects continuity communities in WWAMI to the University of Washington School of Medicine and its network of affiliated residency programs in an effort to help meet the workforce needs of the region.

Ketchikan,

My name is Leo Anders and I have spent most of my life in Alaska, primarily in Anchorage where my family moved in '95, when I was 3 years old. Growing up I spent a lot of time in the Chugach mountains which I continue to explore regularly. The idea of being a physician in rural AK came to me gradually. The first spark flew when I was 16 watching an ER doc in Anchorage sew up a cut in my shin. Later I explored medical careers in South America and gained an interest in global health and working in remote, impoverished areas. My first experience exploring off the road system was actually outside of Ketchikan in the summer of 2015. I spent two weeks hitch-hiking around Prince of Wales island and appreciated the pace of life in the small towns of Coffman Cove and Naukati, as well as the independence and freedom that people manifested. I've since explored elsewhere in rural AK and like the strong relationships that physicians build with their patients in small communities, and the need for flexibility and creativity when working in a remote environment. In my spare time I enjoy travelling the world, hiking in the mountains, and have recently begun learning how to paraglide. I also like reading and writing science fiction stories, cooking, and playing a good, long game of chess.

Cheers,

Leo



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