**City**

Sitka

**State**

AK

**Contacts**

**Site contacts:**

Site Directors:

Valerie Edwards, MD: vedwards@searchc.org

Irbert Vega, MD: ivega@searchc.org

Admin Contact (email student summary):

Kamala Shaddock kamala@searhc.org -- 907.966.8473

**Details**

This site will fulfill the Indian Health and Underserved Pathway Requirement.

Students will work with the site directors, Drs. Valerie Edwards and Irbert Vega, at the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital, as well as other health care clinics within the communities SEARHC serves. There are five primary care family physicians in the group who students will work with as well. Students can expect to provide a wide variety of ambulatory, in-patient, emergency, and obstetric services in Sitka and the surrounding communities, where there is limited specialist availability. One week out of the clerkship, the student *may* have an opportunity to accompany a physician on a visit to a remote village clinic. The village trip is dependent on many local factors and will not be available for all rotations.

**Community**

Sitka is a unique island community in southeast Alaska. It is a popular cruise ship and tourist destination that embraces its rich culture and history. Despite a population of roughly 8,500, Sitka inspires the arts – there are festivals, events, shows, and activities all year long. Sitka can be reached by Alaska Airlines and the Alaska Marine Highway ferries. The weather has temperatures that are mild year-round; with a maritime climate you can certainly expect rain. Outdoor recreational opportunities abound all year round. A gym pass will be available for those who prefer to stay warm and dry while they exercise.

**Duties**

Call will consist of up to one night per week. This will facilitate the opportunity to follow patients admitted through the ER during their hospital stay.

**Patients**

Students can expect to serve a diverse population of Native Alaskan and other ethnic groups, of all age ranges.

**Housing**

An apartment is located about 1.5 miles from the hospital / clinic. The apartment is fully furnished and includes basic cable, internet access, and a bicycle. The apartment has two bedrooms and is large enough to accommodate a guest, but no animals. If you’re intending on having guests / family stay, the landlords request to be notified in advance. A car is provided and can be picked up at the airport. The car should be clean and full of gas upon its return to the airport prior to your departure. Either Dr. Edwards or Dr. Vega will meet you at the airport.

**Other**

**Some facts about the weather in Sitka**

* On average, the warmest month is August.
* The highest recorded temperature was 88°F in 1976.
* February is the average coolest month.
* The lowest recorded temperature was 0°F in 1971.
* The maximum average precipitation occurs in October.
* The annual rainfall is 87 inches/year (Seattle gets 36 inches).

**Features**

Rural Sites less than 25,000