Pediatric News
An electronic newsletter from the Department of Pediatrics

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Importance of Community-based Preceptors

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our volunteer faculty for their dedication and commitment to our students. In particular, I would like to recognize the faculty who make up our Greater Nebraska clerkship sites (sites listed below). Without this group of dedicated faculty, many of whom have been teaching for years, we could not provide the critical training grounds for our next generation of pediatricians in Nebraska.

As many of you may know, there is a critical shortage of primary care training sites for students nationwide. To complicate the issue, Pediatrics ranks nationally at the top of all specialties (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, General Surgery, and Psychiatry) as being the most difficult to find core sites for primary care education. As a result, we have long turned to our Greater Nebraska sites to aid in teaching our students. Their influence cannot be understated as they annually provide the general pediatric training sites for 40-50% of our students.

To further recognize their efforts, I must emphasize that not only do they provide the needed educational locations for our students but they continue to also educate at the highest level. For many years, the Greater Nebraska clerkship sites have received the highest student satisfaction feedback ratings. In a healthcare era where pressures to see more patients have caused many to turn away from educating students these core volunteer faculty have remained committed and do so without significant compensation and likely enough praise. I am hopeful as we populate Nebraska with many of the students they have trained we will see the next generation of physicians show the same dedication to education.

Greater Nebraska:

- Kid Care, Fremont | Preceptors: Terry Wooldridge MD
- Pediatric Partners, Fremont | Preceptors: Madeleine MacDonald MD, Paige Groppe MD
- Grand Island Clinic, Grand Island | Preceptors: Karen Higgins MD,
Agnes Gomes MD, Timothy Gardner MD, Janice Kutilek MD, Doug Boon MD
- Children & Adolescent Clinic, Hastings | Preceptors: Shade Whalen MD, Janet Howe MD, Kristen Johnson MD, Noelle Sherrets-Ratigan DO, Daniel Leonard DO
- Kearney Clinic, Kearney | Preceptors: Steven Haskett MD, Angie Kratochvil MD, Ken Shaffer MD, Katherine Keifer MD
- Lincoln Pediatric Group, Lincoln | Preceptor: Douglas Ebers, MD.
- Pediatrics PC, Lincoln | Preceptors: Alicia Cruce MD, David Duensing DO, Robert Koch MD
- Adolescent & Child Care PC, North Platte | Preceptors: Dell Shepherd MD, Kathy Lopez MD
- Childrens Physicians Plattsmouth, Plattsmouth | Preceptors: Tina Scott MD
- Regional West Physicians Clinic - Pediatrics, Scottsbluff | Preceptors: Ashleya Franques MD, Cynthia Guerue MD

In addition to the Greater Nebraska sites, I would like to recognize the volunteer faculty in Omaha who also provide vital training sites. Although Omaha training sites are more abundant, the numbers of actively participating sites are limited. In particular, I would like to recognize Methodist Physicians Clinic Council Bluffs, Village Pointe Pediatrics, Children’s Physicians Val Verde, Children’s Physicians Mission Village, Omaha Children’s Clinic, and Children’s Physicians Plattsmouth for their dedicated work over the past few years. These physicians have taught the majority of the 20-30% of Omaha based students who are not in the UNMC Physicians Clinic (60-70%).

Legacy of Support

When I joined the Department of Pediatrics in 1997, there was a robust network of general pediatricians in Omaha and throughout the state who were teaching our medical students. This system was established by the work of Dr. Fred McCurdy, who currently resides in Texas. His work was instrumental in setting up the success we have training our students.

One key for this was to solicit and integrate the feedback from our preceptors. Any issues with logistics, communication, etc. that cropped up they had concerns with, we made every attempt to rectify. There were some things that were out of our control, but we made sure to communicate it back to the preceptors.

After Dr. McCurdy moved on, Dr. Hobart Wiltse was asked to come out of retirement to continue functioning as a liaison with our volunteer faculty. The two of us had some great road trips visiting with all of the preceptors in the state. Since he had trained most of them, the discussions were a mix of reminiscing as well as business.
That brings me to the point of this article. The relationships we foster with the volunteer faculty are critical for the success of our program. Dr. Reinhardt and I have discussed plans to make trips to the clinics throughout the state as well as in Omaha this year. Over the next several months, we will begin planning these trips to continue this long tradition to continue this strong tradition.

Save the Date

Pediatric Research Forum
May 14-May 15, 2015
Children's Hospital & Medical Center

Consider presenting a poster at our annual forum! Faculty, fellows, house officers, and students are encouraged to present posters of the work you have been doing!

More information will be coming in the next several weeks!