

PREPARING FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Duluth Campus first-year students gathered to hear the 2007 summer interns tell about their experiences in communities around the state. Designed to encourage first-year students to sign-up for the two-to-eight week internships, the event included leaders from the Area Health Education Centers, St. Luke's Hospital, and St. Mary's Duluth Clinic who supports the efforts to provide medical students clinical and/or research opportunities during the summer session. In addition, representatives from the Minnesota Medical Association Foundation and the Minnesota Medical Foundation attended.

Nine of the 67 students that participated last summer gave lively descriptions of their experiences in small community hospital and clinics where they observed rural patient care, assisted in surgical procedures, Ob deliveries, emergency care and routine medical office visits. Many also were involved in interdisciplinary experiences in the community including working with pharmacists, home care services, morticians, veterinarians and other health professionals.

Summer Internships are organized by Dr. Ray Christensen and Lori Isaacson in Duluth and are open to Duluth and Twin Cities first-year students. 70 internships were offered last year. Some of the students participated in more than one internship.

DULUTH EDUCATORS PUBLISH RESULTS OF PRENATAL CARE AND DELIVERY CURRICULUM RESEARCH

(Research results published in the national **Journal of Family Medicine**, the official journal of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. <http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm2008/toc.cfm?xmlFileName=fammedvol40issue1.xml>)

Motivated by the fact that the number of US family physicians who deliver babies continues to decrease for a variety of reasons, an educational team from the Duluth campus developed a new *Obstetric Longitudinal Program* (OLP) designed to expose first-year medical students to the longitudinal experience of prenatal care and delivery. The curriculum included reinforcement throughout clinical training to increase their knowledge of pregnancy care and to encourage inclusion of pregnancy care in their future family practice and it was set up as a research study with a control group. Results showed that, compared to the control group, OLP participants had higher knowledge scores at the end of the program and expressed greater likelihood to include deliveries in their future practice. Further studies are needed to determine if such early medical education experiences actually change the future practice of family physicians.

Because of student demand, the course became an elective in the Duluth curriculum.

The team included: Ruth Westra, DO, MPH; Irina V. Haller, PhD, MS; Jeff Adams, MD; Bonnie J. Peterson; Jennifer Pearson, MD. The article is a result of collaboration between the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Duluth, University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth (Drs Westra, Adams, and Pearson and Ms Peterson) and Division of Education and Research, St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System, Duluth, Minn (Dr Haller).

PROHASKA PRESENTS RESEARCH IN FLORIDA AND CHILE

Joseph Prohaska, Ph.D., Department of Toxicology, was recently invited to national and international conferences. He presented "Copper Related Transporters and Signaling in Cellular Homeostasis" at the International Symposium on Molecular Biomarkers of Copper Homeostasis in Valpariso, Chile. He also presented his research, "Copper-Dependent Ferroxidases and Mammalian Iron Homeostasis," at the University of Florida in Gainesville to the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

