

Duluth Campus Faculty and Student Awards 2007

On Thursday, April 26, 2007 the Duluth Campus held its annual farewell awards banquet, an event that celebrates and honors the faculty and sophomore medical students who are transitioning to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus. Eleven Duluth second-year students received awards with many of them receiving multiple awards.

Excellence in teaching is celebrated with several honors and awards and all involve the students in the selection processes. To recognize and encourage high achievement by Medical School students, awards and honors are given for outstanding scholastic achievement, leadership, community service, and research contributions.

Many of the awards have their own application or nomination procedures. Other awards are chosen directly by departmental committees or other means. Some awards are administered through the Medical School and the Minnesota Medical Foundation, and others are determined by departments or other academic units.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Teacher of the Year FIRST YEAR Basic Science:

Winner: Arlen Severson, Ph.D.
Honorable Mention: Lillian A. Repesh, Ph.D.

Teacher of the Year SECOND YEAR Basic Science:

Winner: Kent Froberg, M.D.
Honorable Mention: George Trachte, Ph.D.

Teacher of the Year SECOND YEAR Clinical Science:

Clinical Faculty
Winner: Alan Johns, M.D.
Community Faculty
Winner: Vincent Ohaju, M.D.

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

T. JOHN LEPPI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ANATOMY: Erin Peterson and Hannah Brandts

BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AWARD: Erin Peterson, Justin Peltola, and Christopher Bell

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY: Erin Peterson

PATHOLOGY AWARD: Justin Peltola

PHARMACOLOGY AWARD: Erin Peterson

PHYSIOLOGY AWARD: Justin Peltola

FAMILY MEDICINE AWARDS

DR. REINO PUUMALA AWARD: Amanda Noska

For the student who demonstrates the finest qualities of a rural family physician.

DR. WM E. JACOTT AWARD: Angie Mattke

Presented for the best OSCE

STUDENT AWARDS

LAMPSON MEMORIAL AWARDS: Sonia Karimi and Dann Bowman

Given to one male and one female student. Given in memory of Laird and Mary C. Lampson, and Dr. Herbert Lampson, a former St. Louis Health officer who made significant contributions to the understanding and epidemiology of tuberculosis in Minnesota. These students were chosen by their classmates because of their contributions to the class.

MEMORIAL AWARD: Dann Bowman

Given by a friend of the medical school who wishes to remain anonymous in memory of her late husband. The students nominate one of their classmates for this award to recognize one of their own who has exhibited the characteristics of generosity and kindness to others, has helped his or her class to achieve, and who has exhibited the ability to interact with others in a positive fashion.

NICOLETTE NORTON SCHOLARSHIP: Daryn Collins

An endowed scholarship established by Mr. Tom and Mrs. Pat Grossman to memorialize an effervescent, child, Nicolette Norton, who passed away at the age of seven from cancer. Chosen by classmates, the recipient of this scholarship is a second year student who best exemplifies the finest qualities of a primary care physician - respect for people, empathy, dignity, integrity, warmth and compassion.

STUDENT SERVICE AWARD: Amanda Noska

Chosen by classmates based on merit from among students who have given their time and talents to help their community outside of the medical school.

DR. JOHN J. DWYER SCHOLARSHIP: Sonia Karimi

Chosen by classmates recognizing his/her potential for a rural family practice and exemplifying the finest qualities of a family physician.

CHARLES M. AND RUTH H. BAGLEY SCHOLARSHIPS: Karlyn Halfaker, Keith Leitzen, Amanda Noska and Justin Peltola

Selected because these students have demonstrated the ability to perform clinically in an outstanding manner and to interact positively with his or her patients.

AWARDS PRESENTED IN THE TWIN CITIES

The following is a list of third and fourth year students who began their medical school on the Duluth Campus and who received awards at the Minnesota Medical Foundation's Honors and Awards Reception and Program on April 19, 2007. [Click here](#) for a complete list of awards presented to medical students at this event.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD: Tara Frerks

LEONARD TOW GRADUATING MEDICAL STUDENT HUMANISM AWARD IN MEDICINE: Tara Frerks

TRAVEL AWARDS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES: Brianne Brandt-Griffith, Josie Muzquiz, Liza Jain, Erin Kuisle, Ross Perko

DR. JAMES E. RUBIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Matt Carlson

Exhibits the highest degree of excellence in diagnostic skill and ethics

GAVISER-HAYES AWARD: Kara Sellung

Best exemplifies a deep level of compassion for patients and their families during surgical rotation

Third-Year Students Inducted into Medical Honor Society

At a reception and program this month, three of the 12 new junior members inducted into the Medical Honor Society, Alpha Omega Alpha are students who started their medical education in Duluth: Ben Smith, David Polzin and Dan Hoody.

The mission of the Minnesota chapter is to promote scholarship and research at the University of Minnesota medical school, to encourage a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and to recognize high attainment in medical science, practice and related fields.

The **Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society**, commonly called **Alpha Omega Alpha** and abbreviated **AOA** or **AOA**, is the only national honor society for medicine in the United States. It was founded in 1902 by William Webster Root and five other medical students at the college of Physicians and Surgeons which later became the University of Illinois at Chicago medical school. Root and his colleagues wished to promote excellence in medical education. Only top medical students are elected, based on criteria such as grades, leadership and ethics.

Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians Annual Research Day

A total of 22 presentations were made at the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians Annual Research Day, March 24. <http://www.mafp.org/rfabstracts.asp>

Second year medical student Karen Myren presented the results of her study on "Prevalence of Surgery Due To Incontinence Following Vaginal and Cesarean Section Delivery".

Second-year resident Tina Paulson Hyser presented on "The Routine Post-Partum Pap Smear: An Invitation to Abnormality" – and then rushed back to Duluth to assist in the delivery of one of her patients.

Jennifer Brown - a senior who has matched to our residency in Duluth - presented a paper on "Examining the Effectiveness of Free Clinic Services on Patient Over-Utilization of the Emergency Room.

Andrew Mulder, also a fourth-year student, presented on "Diabetes in the Latino Population in the Kandiyohi County Area".

Hanson Receives MAFP Award for Contributions to Family Medicine.
Med School Alumni among nominees for Family Physician of the Year

University of Minnesota Medical School student, Harrison Hanson has received the Medical Student Award for Contributions to Family Medicine Award from the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP). He was presented with his award during the MAFP Spring Refresher on April 19, 2007. The Medical Student Award recognizes a fourth-year medical student for family medicine activities on a local, community, medical school, state or national level. Candidates are typically nominated by fellow students and/or teachers. Those who nominated Hanson described him as a compassionate leader and a dedicated champion of family medicine.

Hanson's interests include medical missions and international medicine. His volunteer experience includes being chairperson of the Christian Medical Association, as well as leading a group of high school students on a service project to an orphanage in Mexico. In addition, nine days after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast,

Hanson and another medical student flew to Mississippi to volunteer at an outreach clinic. In 2001, he volunteered for three months at a rural clinic in Honduras, and earlier this year he completed an extensive one month externship in Ghana, West Africa.

Hanson did his Rural Physician Associate Program training in his hometown of Long Prairie, MN. He will do his family medicine residency training in Mason City, Iowa.

Alumni of the University of Minnesota Medical School who were nominated for the Minnesota Family Physician of the Year Award include: Keith Oelschlager, M.D. Vadnais Heights, Deborah Dittberner, M.D. Alexandria, and Craig Solberg, M.D. St. Paul. David Agerter M.D. of Kasson was named Family Physician of the Year. Finalists were selected from a field of 23 family physicians nominated by patients and colleagues.

The MAFP is a professional association of approximately 3,000 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students organized to assist family physicians in providing quality medical care in Minnesota. The MAFP is the largest medical specialty organization in Minnesota and is a state chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Center for Rural Mental Health Studies on the Duluth Campus Receives Grants to Expand Telemental Health Services

The Center for Rural Mental Health Studies on the Duluth Campus has received two grants that total approximately \$14,000 to support the expansion of telemental health services to Mora, Minnesota.

"Disparities: Unequal Opportunities, Unequal Outcomes" was one of seven projects that received awards from President Bruininks' Initiative on Children, Youth and Families. The project was among 60 proposals submitted for the award, all of which addressed important issues related to the disparities that confront children, youth and families in our Minnesota communities today.

Another grant was received from the Minnesota Department of Commerce and Quest in support of the expansion of the telemental health operation. This funding will allow the Center to upgrade one of the internal units at the medical school and purchase equipment for Mora.

The Center's work introducing and expanding telemental health services to rural clinics was honored last summer when Gary Davis, Ph.D., LP, University of Minnesota Medical School – Duluth Campus was named 'Rural Health Hero' at the Minnesota Rural Health Conference in Duluth. Dr. Davis received the award for his leadership in serving rural communities with mental health consults via virtual telemedicine. Since the program began in 2002, Dr. Davis and his colleagues have treated approximately 130 patients from rural areas using virtual communication via video conferencing.

MEDS: 40% of Duluth Campus First Year Students to Travel Internationally

Twenty-one students, almost 40% of the first year medical student class on the Duluth Campus, will visit Africa, Australia, Central America and South America this summer through the Duluth Campus Medical Education through Diversity and Service (MEDS) group.

Students will engage in medical education and service experiences in Australia, Ghana, Uganda, Morocco, Belize, Barbados, Mexico, Nicaragua and Honduras. Funding to support their travels comes through MEDS student fundraising efforts and support from: individuals, the medical school and UMD, the Minnesota Medical Foundation, and St. Mary's Duluth Clinic.

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