

“Minnesota’s Future Doctors” On Duluth Campus

Twenty-three college students enrolled in Minnesota's Future Doctors program were on the University of Minnesota Medical School's Duluth Campus on Monday, June 25. The students have successfully completed their first year at a college or university and are interested in becoming doctors, serving Minnesota's diverse urban and rural communities.

On the Duluth Campus the students participated in a full day of activities, including: admissions information; learning stations on intubation, histology and paleopathology; health disparities in rural Minnesota; the Center of American Indian and Minority Health; tours of the medical school and discussions with current medical students.

Inspired by two medical students, Minnesota's Future Doctors is a new program which recruits and prepares highly talented, committed, and hardworking minority, immigrant, rural, and economically disadvantaged students for careers within the Minnesota medical community. The program was conceived in 2005 by two medical students at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Gareth Forde and Matthew Fitzpatrick who realized their classmates did not reflect the diversity of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota Medical School and the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine support the project. Minnesota's Future Doctors launched in November 2006 with Jo Peterson as its director.

During the six-week immersion program, the students learn about medical school, participate in college enrichment coursework, volunteer and develop health-related service projects, and interact with minority physicians and communities of color. They meet new friends, encounter mentors, and use electronic portfolios to reflect and record what happens during a very rich program. Housing, meals and stipends are provided to Minnesota's Future Doctors. After that first summer, they will have the opportunity to spend two more summers preparing to apply to and preparing to succeed in medical school.

91 diverse Minnesotans applied for the positions. The admissions committee selected 23 college freshmen on March 1, 2007. The first cohort, and future cohorts, will spend three summers (and portions of their academic years) with the program.

Association of Clinical Scientists Names M. Kent Froberg Clinical Scientist of the Year

The Association of Clinical Scientists, an organization with members from the international clinical science community, has named M. Kent Froberg, D.V.M., M.D. its Clinical Scientist of the Year at its national conference held in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Froberg, a pathologist at the University of Minnesota Medical School--Duluth Campus, has been a member of the association for ten years and was president of the organization from 2005—2006.

According to Peter Farmer, M.D., chair of the organization's awards committee, "Dr. Froberg was selected because of his outstanding efforts at the advancement of clinical science, his support of the goals of the association and his outstanding performance as president of our organization."

Dr. Froberg has been a faculty member in pathology at the UM medical school for ten years. He earned his D.V.M in 1978 and practiced veterinary medicine in rural Wisconsin. At the age of 43, he entered the University of Minnesota Medical School—Duluth Campus, and earned his M.D. in 1993. After four years in residency at Geisinger Medical System in Pennsylvania and the University of Minnesota, he returned to the Duluth Campus medical school as a professor of pathology.

The Association of Clinical Scientists was formed more than fifty years ago by F. William Sunderman, Sr., M.D. and other scientists with a common interest in laboratory medicine. The association has provided a forum for physicians, researchers and clinical scientists to advance research and learning in laboratory science.

The 450 members of the Association include pathologists, clinical chemists, molecular and cell biologists, microbiologists, immunologists, hematologists, cytogeneticists, toxicologists, pharmacokineticists, clinicians, cancer researchers and other doctoral scientists who are experts in the applications of laboratory methods to clarify, diagnose and treat human diseases.

17 Native American Students Participate in Summer Medical Education Programs in Duluth

17 Native American students are participating in a series of study in the field of medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School – Duluth Campus. The program is organized and sponsored by the Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH). Participating students include pre-matriculation medical students, undergraduate college students and high school students exploring careers in medicine. The summer program has taken place since 1973. Last year 56 students participated in programs on the Duluth campus for six weeks. Because of a major loss of federal funding, fewer students could be accommodated this year and some of the programs were shortened.

During their six-week program, high school students experience what it takes to become a physician; undergraduate students participate in a pre-medical program, a set of courses for prospective or entering students to gain early exposure to the rigorous academic expectations of medical school; and current medical school students are involved to support and teach the NAM (Native Americans into Medicine) students and by encouraging, mentoring and advising them.

Dorscher Receives University of Minnesota President's Outstanding Service Award

Joycelyn Dorscher, M.D., Director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health received a prestigious University of Minnesota President's Outstanding Service Award for her local, state and national efforts at promoting diversity in medical education. She was honored at a reception at Eastcliff, the official residence of the University president.

The President's award recognizes exceptional service to the University, its schools, colleges, departments and service units that must have gone well beyond the regular duties of a faculty or a staff member, and demonstrate unusual commitment to the University community.

Dorscher, Turtle Mountain Band, has been a faculty member at the University since 1997. In addition to her position as director of CAIMH, she is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine on the Duluth campus. She is also the immediate past president of the Association of American Indian Physicians and the Co-Chair of the Duluth American Indian Commission, an advisory board to mayor of Duluth.

Raymond G. Christensen Named Minnesota's Rural Health Hero

Raymond G. Christensen, M.D., was named Minnesota's Rural Health Hero on June 19 by Minnesota Commissioner of Health Dianne Mandernach. Mandernach presented the award to Christensen at the Minnesota Rural Health Conference, *Growing Rural Healthy Communities*, at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center.

Christensen is the Assistant Dean for Rural Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School-Duluth campus, where he has developed programs that enhance the school's mission: encouraging students to become family and primary care physicians in rural and Native American communities. His honor includes a long list of contributions to enhancing rural health.

"You don't receive an honor like this without the assistance of many deserving people working by your side," commented Christensen. "I interfaced with a lot of great people; the stars were right; we took some risks and effected some important change." Looking toward the future, Christensen said that his job isn't done. "I have always felt my calling was to provide health care access in rural America personally, to work on policy that improved access and to do what I could to help select and excite young people about living and serving rural America."

Christensen was chosen as Minnesota Rural Health Hero for advocating on behalf of today's health care consumers and educating tomorrow's rural health providers. He is a board-certified family physician and co-founder of the Gateway Family Health Clinic in Moose Lake, Minn., where he continues to practice. Dr. Christensen was the driving force behind the Summer Internship program; he helped develop the trauma system in northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin, the Arrowhead EMS Association, the Northern Lakes Health Care Consortium, the Minnesota Center for Rural Health, the Minnesota Office of Rural Health and Primary Care and the Rural Health Resource Center. He has advocated for rural health through the Minnesota Health Care Commission, Area Health Education Center and regional coordinating boards. He served as president of the Minnesota Rural Health Association and is currently the Clinical Services Chair for the National Rural Health Association.