TO: Incoming First Year Medical Students  
University of Minnesota Medical School – Twin Cities Campus

FROM: Kathleen D. Brooks, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.A.  
Director – Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP)

SUBJECT: Rural Observation Experience (ROE) - 2016

May 16, 2016

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Minnesota Medical School!

To provide you with a unique introduction to the practice of medicine, we would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in the Rural Observation Experience (ROE). This is a voluntary extracurricular program through the University of Minnesota Medical School. The Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP), with its goal of promoting medical student interest in rural practice, coordinates this program. Over the past fifteen years, the ROE program has given many students the opportunity to shadow a rural family physician for 2-3 days and see first-hand the rewards and challenges of rural family practice medicine.

If you would like to participate in ROE, please apply before June 13, 2016. There is a limit on the number of available preceptors and site placement is dependent on availability. All interested students will be allowed to participate, depending on site availability. Students will be notified of placement by the end of June.

The ROE Orientation will be held on the Twin Cities campus on July 8, 2016 from 10-11:00 am. Then, on the dates arranged with your assigned preceptor between the dates of July 11-22, 2016, you will travel to a clinic site and accompany her/him at the clinic, on rounds, or at the hospital and nursing homes, and attend any staff meetings or case conferences. The complete duration of the ROE experience is to be negotiated between you and your assigned preceptor, although a 2-3 day experience is typical. Students are often welcome to participate in family activities and become involved with the social life of the community. Students are provided a room at the hospital or at the physician’s home. You will only need to provide your own transportation and meals.

More information available online: z.umn.edu/rpap and click on ROE
You can apply online by June 13 through this link: https://umn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0rgZvF5gHsAyCH3

What do participants say about ROE? “[it’s] a great opportunity to learn about the difficulties and rewards of being a small town primary care physician”; “I was inspired to be excited about care”

We hope you have the opportunity to take advantage of this unique experience in rural medicine. If you have any questions, please contact Brinsley Davis, Program Specialist in the RPAP office at 612-624-3111 or rpapumn@umn.edu.