

Medical School

DULUTH CAMPUS

Update Medical School

Students excel in Summer Internship in Medicine elective

In 2003, the Duluth campus of the University of Minnesota Medical School created the Summer Internship in Medicine (SIM) elective to give medical students rural clinical experience during the summer, between their first and second years. More than 13 years later, the program has expanded to both University of Minnesota Medical School campuses and educates roughly 80 students every summer.

813 students have gone through the program since its inception creating a vital pipeline to the Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP). Students from diverse backgrounds have the opportunity to take the 2 to 4 week elective and get hands-on experience as a rural healthcare worker in training.

Andrew Pattock, second year medical student, did his training in Staples, MN, at Lakewood Health System. Pattock stated, "Coming into the SIM experience I would have said there was a low likelihood I would do RPAP. After an amazing two-weeks in a tight-knit, amazing community the chances have significantly risen! I have realized that despite growing up as a "suburbanite", rural medicine could be for me. Thank you to everyone who makes SIM happen! It is a fantastic program that I hope is available to medical students for years to come."

Students like Daniel Bullard, who participated at Blue Earth, MN, find the experience rejuvenating after a strenuous first year, "as we know, the first year as a medical student can

be difficult to adjust to a small budget, the stress of student loans, the isolation of studying alone, and being sequestered away from real patients and real world healthcare. However, my experience in SIM rejuvenated me and reminded me of why I chose a career in medicine. I feel refreshed and motivated heading into my second year after seeing my preceptor engage in interesting meaningful work every day that helped members of his community in a significant manner." Beyond the reaffirmation Bullard felt he said, "This opportunity met and exceeded my expectations. I was very fortunate to be placed with an excellent preceptor, participated in a great variety of valuable clinical experiences, and learned about rural life."

Student winter holiday party

First and second year medical students participated in an annual holiday celebration on the Duluth campus. Students participated in a secret Santa exchange and enjoyed an afternoon of holiday cheer.



Alumni Relations addition

Dr. James Boulger is a name many recognize and honor as a pillar of the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus. For more than forty years, Dr. Boulger has dedicated his life to the school and its alumni. Without a doubt he has inspired, taught and personally touched the lives of not only alumni but faculty and staff as well. As the school continues to grow and greater needs are realized, Dr. Boulger is taking a step away from Alumni Relations while accepting a new role as Emeritus Director of Alumni Relations.



Christiana Kapsner joined the team on January 3rd as the new Alumni Relations Officer. With the years of groundwork Dr. Boulger has put in place for Alumni Relations at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus, Kapsner is prepared to hit the ground running. She brings more than ten years experience from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and is eager to engage with this community.

If you have any alumni updates on achievements, contact information, life accomplishments or more please contact the alumni office at duluthmedalumni@d.umn.edu.

Vice President Joe Biden meets with moonshot participants

In June the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus hosted one of many Cancer Moonshot Summits being held across the country. This past October, Vice President Joe Biden was visiting Duluth and met privately with a small group of participants from the event. Prior to the Vice Presidential meeting the group met with Senior Policy Advisor Don Graves who wanted to learn more about research being conducted in the Twin Ports and fulfilling the promise that 10 years of progress against cancer will happen in 5 years. You can read more from the Duluth News Tribune [here](#).



Faculty/Student Highlights

- **Pedro Fernandez-Funez** recently published “A single amino acid (Asp159) from the dog prion protein suppresses the toxicity of the mouse prion protein in *Drosophila*” in *Neurobiology of Disease*.
- **Jennifer Pearson and Ruth Westra** recently published a brief report “Early course in obstetrics increases likelihood of practice including obstetrics” in *Family Medicine*.
- **Paula Termuhlen** recently published “Changes in thoracic surgery experience during general surgery residency: A review of the case logs from the accreditation council for graduate medical education” in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.
- **Emily Prazak** received the AMA Physicians of Tomorrow Award, a national recognition!
- **Alan Johns** was quoted in the September/October issue of *Minnesota Medicine*.
- **Jim Boulger** presented a paper on the successes of the Duluth campus in meeting the social missions of the Medical School in September at the third national *Beyond Flexner* conference in Miami.
- **Joel Oberstar**, '97 alumnus, received the University of Minnesota Medical School's Early Distinguished Career Alumni Award.
- **Ken Wallace** was recently published in *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology* with his article “Whither the impending European regulation of presumed endocrine disruptors?”, in *Mitochondrion* with **James Bjork** with an article titled “Cardiac cytochrome c and cardiolipin depletion during anthracycline-induced chronic depression of mitochondrial function”, and in *Toxicology* with “An appeal for the integrity of science and public policy”.
- **Joseph Prohaska** published “Reflections of a cupromaniac” as an editorial in *The Royal Society of Chemistry*.

To support faculty and student efforts please consider a gift to the [University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus](#).

Science on Tap



University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus participated at UMD's Science on Tap held at Bent Paddle Brewery. Associate Professor Janet Fitzakerley along with students Anthony Hacker, Elaina Hintsala, Jamie Morrissette and Shrikar Rajagopal shared information about the physical impairments that result when drinking alcohol.



Scholarship Profile Castrenze Fricano



Eva Victoria Olson, R.N.,
Memorial Scholarship
and the Richard G.
Rowe, M.D., Endowed
Memorial Scholarship

**Anticipated Graduation
Date:**

May 2019

Hometown: Duluth, MN
Undergraduate school:
University of Wisconsin
Major: B.S. Kinesiology

Q: If I had two extra hours in the day, I would:

A: I tend to burn the candle at both ends. One thing I do regret is not being able to spend more time with my classmates. If I had more time I would spend it socializing with some of the most amazing individuals I have ever met.

Q: What was your first job and how did it help shape you into the person you are today?

A: My first job was in the fire service. Serving as a firefighter and paramedic has taught me the values of hard work, kinship and community.

Q: What are your interests outside of the classroom?

A: Prior to attending medical school I volunteered and worked in public safety for various police, ambulance and fire departments. When I started medical school I knew my free time would become a limited premium commodity. I decided I would use my free time to continue using the skills I have taken years to acquire. I would give back to the community in the best way I knew how. I currently work for the Cloquet Area Fire District as a firefighter and paramedic. The Cloquet Area Fire District provides fire protection services and advanced life support ambulances for the city of Cloquet, MN and surrounding communities. I work 36 hours a week out of Station 1. I view my time riding in the firetruck and ambulance as a supplement to my medical education. I get to treat and manage all manners of disease both medical and trauma. More importantly I get a view into a world usually unseen by most physicians. I am often going to the point of injury or beginning of illness. Often I am consoling patients and family members, helping them navigate through some of their worst days. It's a humbling experience. I also enjoy teaching and participate in medical education during fire department EMS training. In addition to working on the fire department I also volunteer with the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, a division of the St. Louis county Sheriff's office. The St. Louis County Rescue Squad functions to assist the Sheriff by performing search and rescue services to citizens and visitors in St. Louis County. Beyond that I am currently working on a community CPR program and research for Cloquet, MN.