

# RPAP and MetroPAP News



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Sending the newest class off for their 9 month LIC

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## Greetings from Interim Director of RPAP and MetroPAP

### A warm holiday greeting to our many RPAP and MetroPAP alumni and friends,

Dr. Kathleen Brooks is currently on a 2-month leave of absence that has allowed her to spend several weeks in New York City with her daughter and husband as they joyfully welcomed their second child. Needless to say, all are happy and well. I am serving as Interim Program Director until Kathy returns to work mid December.



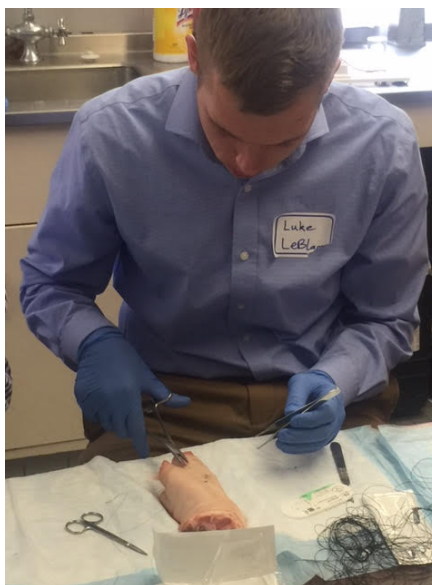
This October we were pleased to send our 2015-16 Class of 31 RPAPers and 4 MetroPAPers to their various training sites across the state. They are a talented and enthusiastic group of learners, eager to commence work with their capable and committed preceptors.

The Rural Physician Associate Program celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary with this class of students. The program proudly boasts of having **1,199 total graduates in practice**. Of these, 905 (75%) practice primary care and 526 (44%) currently practice in a rural setting. We are also pleased that 73% of our 2013-14 RPAP class (2015 UMN graduates) matched into Family Medicine residency programs.

Utilizing the highly successful RPAP curricular framework, we launched the Metropolitan Physician Associate Program in 2010. Its mission is to prepare future physicians to effectively address the needs of urban underserved patients, including understanding the impact of poverty and advocacy on individual and population health. Current MetroPAP sites include Neighborhood Health Source, Broadway Family Medicine Clinic and Creekside Family Medicine Clinic. Seven of our 13 MetroPAP alumni are now enrolled in Family Medicine residency programs; the remaining six are 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students.

Thank you for your support over the years as we continue to advance and innovate medical education!

Sincerely, Nancy Baker, Interim Director



## Orientation 2015

On October 5-7, the Class of 2015-16 participated in Orientation activities to prepare them for spending 9 months in rural and underserved communities.



The incoming class of 35 students was immersed in skills stations to train them on patient interactions, surgery basics, emergency room tactics, obstetrics, and research skills. Thirteen external professionals from the Departments of Family Medicine and Community Health, Emergency Medicine, Nursing, and the Office of Medical Education, including several RPAP alumni and preceptors, taught during the three days. Students also participated in BioMedical Library resource training to prepare them for their Evidence-Based Medicine project, SNAPPS, and case presentations.

We wish the class of 2015-16 all the best in their experiences throughout the year.

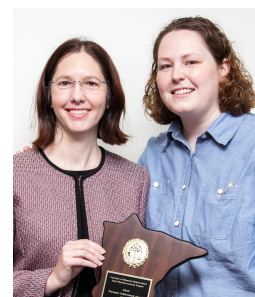
### Orientation concluded with an Awards Luncheon to honor the Student and Preceptor Achievement Award winners from the Class of 2014-15 (pictured from top left):

RPAP Student Achievement Award – Jesse Susa – Moose Lake

RPAP Preceptor Achievement Award – Dr. Rahshana Price-Isuk – MetroPAP Preceptor – Minneapolis

RPAP Preceptor Achievement Award – Dr. Christine Albrecht – Primary Preceptor – Staples

RPAP Preceptor Achievement Award – Dr. John Carlson – Specialty Preceptor - Hastings



## State Legislature Supports RPAP and MetroPAP

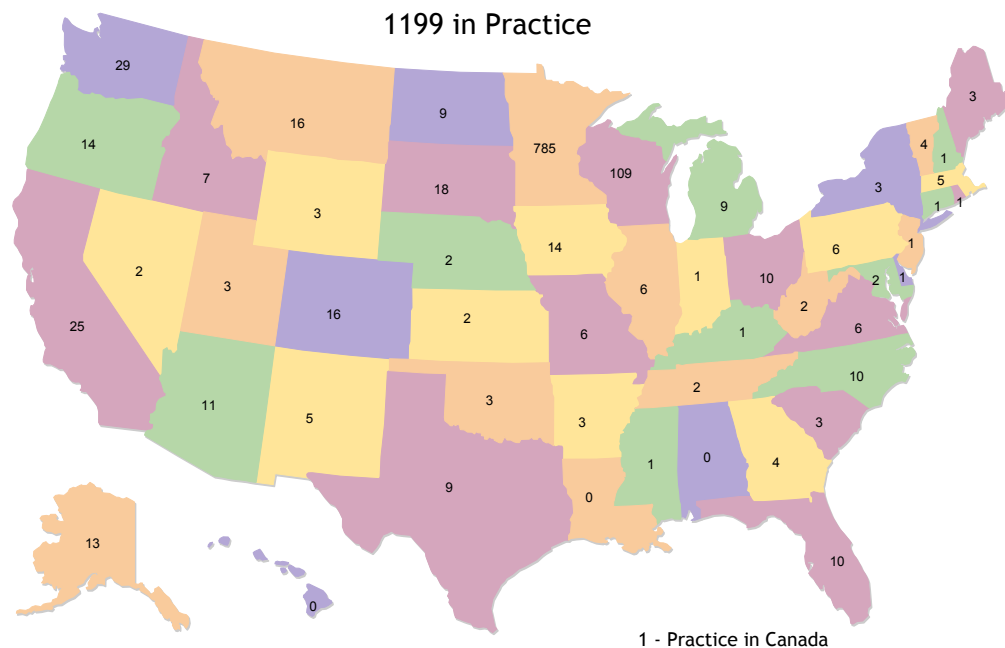


In 2014 Dr. Brooks was honored to co-chair Governor Dayton's Blue-Ribbon Committee on the University of Minnesota Medical School. Their report, calling for a significant financial investment from the state legislature, resulted in Governor Dayton's proposal to invest \$30 million in the Medical School. In order to restore the



Medical School to national prominence, the funding will help create 50 new research faculty positions over 8 years, expand research, and improve the NIH ranking. To meet the healthcare needs of a changing Minnesota and the anticipated physician shortfall, funding is secured to support and expand the Rural Physician Associate Program, the Metropolitan Physician Associate Program, and the Duluth campus' Rural Scholars Program. With over 70% of Minnesota's physicians coming from the UMN Medical School, and over 750 of them RPAP alumni, we are considered "a major asset to the continued improvement of Minnesota's health care system."\* These funds will be used to increase the scholarship provided to students who participate in RPAP/MetroPAP, as well as facilitate program expansion to additional training sites across the state. RPAP's impressive history promoting primary care and rural practice will continue to affect all of Minnesota. \* January 21, 2015 press release from the Office of Governor Dayton

## RPAP Alumni in Practice - US - 2015



Where  
Are  
They  
Now?



Robert Jones, MD, Class of 1972-73

I completed a Pediatrics residency at Stanford in 1977, then went on to be an ER doctor in Burlingame, CA. I retired two years ago. My RPAP experience in Buffalo, MN was fantastic, and I am still in contact with one of my mentors from there.

Dwenda Gjerdingen, MD, Class of 1974-75

I am a faculty member at the St. Joseph's Family Medicine Residency Program in St. Paul, where I teach, see patients, and conduct clinical research. I have been here for over 34 years, and plan to retire in January 2016. The initially unexpected but fun aspects of my career have been teaching and research. What stands out in my memory of RPAP were some particularly kind and supportive physicians who served as my preceptors in Willmar. Seeing the importance of this type of training environment, I tried to follow their example when I later had the opportunity to train residents and medical students.



Boris Beckert, MD, Class of 1989-90

After RPAP I completed a healthcare MBA at the University of St. Thomas. I currently work as a Chief Medical Officer at QuestCare Medical Clinic in Texas and do very little direct patient care. The RPAP experience in New York Mills was one of the most significant in my med school years and I still fondly recall my time in rural Minnesota.

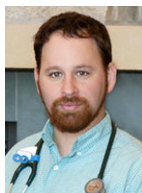
## Alumni Recognitions

- **Emily Wolff** (Lake City 2013, pictured at right) and **Leah Anderson** (Princeton 2014), were **2015 Fisch Art of Medicine Student Award** winners.
- **Angie Volkert** (Grand Rapids 2014) was the Student Winner of Minnesota Medicine's **2015 writing contest** with her poem "Nursery Trio".
- **Macaran Baird, MD** (Wabasha 1973) received the 2015 award for **Career Contributions to Family Medicine**, the highest honor presented by the American Academy of Family Physicians.
- In 2015, seven RPAP/MetroPAP students were named to the **Alpha Omega Alpha** Honor Medical Society and 13 were inducted into the **Gold Humanism** Honor Society.





## Meet our Newest Faculty and Staff



### Javad Keyhani, MD, Faculty

Dr. Keyhani joins the Medical School from the Chippewa County Montevideo Hospital where he was a family physician specializing in ER care. His medical interests are chronic health conditions, holistic medicine, and behavioral change.

**Fun Fact:** Dr. Keyhani recently learned how to free dive to a depth of 30 feet.



### Pat Schommer, MA, Administrative Director

Pat Schommer manages the day-to-day operations of the RPAP & MetroPAP office, and is responsible for community outreach and relationships. Her background includes 25+ years in long-term care and older adult services and hospice management. She is a 2014 Governor Dayton appointee to the Minnesota Board on Aging.

**Fun Fact:** Pat “soloed” in an airplane the same week she got her driver's license at the age of 16.



### Brinsley Davis, Executive Assistant

Her job responsibilities are to assist the Director with internal and external communications, office administration, and coordinating program details for students, faculty and clinical sites.

**Fun Fact:** Brinsley once performed in a dance concert on stilts and in a mask.

## RPAP Faculty

### Kathleen Brooks, MD, MBA, MPA, Director

Dr. Brooks is currently on an LOA enjoying the birth of her granddaughter in New York. Her medical interests are governmental health policy, primary care workforce, physician leadership.

**Fun fact:** Dr. Brooks has been spending time with her new granddaughter Adira Kate.

### Nancy J. Baker, MD, Interim Director, Faculty

Her medical interests are medical humanities, end-of-life hospice care, and Community-Oriented Primary Care.

**Fun Fact:** Dr. Baker is a fan of Star Trek: The Next Generation and cherishes the memory of meeting Worf and Jadzia Dax at a Star Trek convention with her son.

### Ray Christensen, MD, Associate Director

His medical vision is access for all rural citizens to high quality healthcare.

**Fun Fact:** Living on the North Shore of Lake Superior gives Dr. Ray Christensen time and space to watch and identify stars and planets.

### Darin Brink, MD, Faculty

His medical interests are care of underserved populations, mental health and rural health.

**Fun Fact:** Dr. Brink lived in Russia with his family for 4 years and is conversant in Russian.

### Keith Stelter, MD, MMM, Faculty (Blue Earth 1986)

His medical interests are chronic disease management, quality improvement, and medical leadership.

**Fun fact:** After years of road biking, Dr. Stelter has been converted to mountain biking; avoiding trees engages you physically and mentally!

### Ruth Westra, DO, MPH, Faculty

Her medical interests are rural health, women's health, public health, health education and prevention promotion.

**Fun Fact:** Growing up as a “Preacher’s Kid”, Dr. Westra lived in Indiana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota.

## RPAP Staff

### Katy Frederickson, Program Associate

Her job responsibilities are to work with RPAP Associate Director and RPAP faculty and staff coordinating and fulfilling program needs.

**Fun Fact:** Katy grew up on a hog farm in southern Minnesota.

### Bill Fricke, Program/Project Specialist

Bill Fricke has worked for the RPAP program for 20 years and is always gratified to see alumni step into teaching roles as preceptors. He is the site and student liason.

**Fun Fact:** Bill was the guitarist for 80's cover band *Scary Numan* for 5 years.





## Honoring Our History, Building Our Future

The **Department of Family Medicine and Community Health** held a celebration of their past, present, and future in October 2015. RPAP was founded by family medicine faculty Jack Verby, MD in 1971.



*Drs. Westra and Baird*

## Fellowship in History of Family Medicine

Interested in Medical History? Apply for a fellowship to travel to the American Academy of Family Physicians. Conduct research for one week at the Center for the History of Family Medicine on any subject relating to the history of family medicine, its practitioners, and their role in health care.

[www.aafpfoundation.org](http://www.aafpfoundation.org)

## Faculty and Preceptor Recognitions

**Dr. Nancy Baker** was named as one of the **Best Doctors in America** 2015.

*The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) Recognition:*

MetroPAP preceptors **Dr. Shailendra Prasad** and **Dr. Michael Wooten** won MAFP **Teacher of the Year** awards in 2014 and 2015.

MAFP **President's Awards** were given to RPAP alumnus **Dr. Macaran Baird** in 2012, former RPAP Director **Dr. Therese Zink** in 2013, and RPAP preceptor **Dr. Darrell Carter** in 2014.



*Drs. Stelter, Baker, Brooks, and Brink*

## Faculty Presentations

*LIC 101 - Planning and Administration* by Dr. Brooks

*Clinical Skills Orientation for Medical Students* by Drs. Baker and Brooks

*How Your Digital Device Can Make You a Smarter Doc* by Dr. Baker

*Community Preceptor Recruitment and Development* by Drs. Brink and Brooks

*Precepting in the Presence of the Patient: A Randomized, Controlled Trial* by Drs. Brink and Power

*Milestone Assessment of Communication Skills* by Dr. Stelter

*Is My Destiny Rural Medicine?* by Dr. Christensen



*Dr. Christensen*

*The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.*

## Request for RPAP/MetroPAP News and Pictures

Any updates to your home, family, residency, or practice status? Any publications that reference your RPAP experience? Any fun photos? Please let us know!

[rpapumn@umn.edu](mailto:rpapumn@umn.edu)

You may also keep in touch through the RPAP Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/rpapumn](https://www.facebook.com/rpapumn)

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