

Medical School

DULUTH CAMPUS

Update Medical School

Interim Dean has unique ties to the school

Dr. Alan Johns was one of the first students at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus more than 40 years ago, and soon will be its new interim dean.

Dr. Johns was appointed to the position on June 18, 2014, by Dr. Brooks Jackson, dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School. Johns currently is the assistant dean at the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus and a faculty member in the school's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

"I'm certainly excited. I've had connections with this school since I was 20 years old," Johns said. "I'm a northern Minnesota boy, and I have a lot of local knowledge of this community and this medical community." He

will take over July 1 for Dr. Gary Davis, who announced he was stepping down in April.

Johns began studying medicine at the Minnesota Duluth campus in 1972, the first year the University of Minnesota Medical School had a branch in Duluth. He later earned his Master of Education degree from UMD, and recently completed his first year in the university's educational doctoral program.

Since it opened, the Duluth campus has turned out more than 1,700 medical doctors, many in rural and Native American communities — two of the school's stated areas of focus. "You could go to any small town and find two or three physicians who are former UMD students," said Johns, who also is an internist at Essentia Health in Duluth.



Johns said the search for a permanent dean is underway and has attracted a strong field of applicants. A decision is expected in about six months. Until then, Johns said he plans to continue what he called a "very successful" run for the Duluth branch. "I think we've had a huge impact on the medical community in Duluth and the region," Johns said. "I won't change anything that would affect that."

New Wall of Honor complete

After many months of work, a new wall of honor prominently stands in the Atrium of the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth building. Every gift opens the door for innovative learning, teaching and scholarly work. Support from alumni, friends, foundations and corporations provides financial assistance for student scholarships, faculty research, special initiatives and community partnerships. The impact of philanthropic support is not only felt here on campus, but also in the communities where our students practice. Thank you to all our supporters for helping us make a difference.



Dr. James Boulger, Ph.D. named 2014 Rural Health Hero by the Minnesota Department of Health

Honoring outstanding service to rural Minnesota communities, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Rural Health Association presented this year's "Rural Health Hero" and "Rural Health Team" awards at the Minnesota Rural Health Conference in Duluth.

James G. Boulger, a charter faculty member at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Duluth and director of the Center for Rural Mental Health Studies, received the Rural Health Hero award. Project Care Free Clinic, based in Hibbing with additional sites in Ely, Grand Rapids and Virginia, received the Rural Health Team award. "Minnesota has one of the best rural health systems in the country and it is due to the commitment and passion of people like Jim Boulger and the team at Project Care," said Minnesota Health Commissioner Dr. Ed Ehlinger. "These award winners exemplify the many ways people work to strengthen their communities and the health systems that serve them."

Rural Health Hero Award

Boulger, a Duluth resident, received the Rural Health Hero award for more than four decades of educating and mentoring family medicine physicians, and for helping make the Duluth campus a national model for producing primary care doctors who choose to practice in rural areas. Boulger holds a doctorate in psychology and has taught at the medical school in Duluth since 1973. He has been instrumental in building the program to succeed in its mission to train students planning to practice family medicine in rural Minnesota and American Indian communities. The Duluth campus now produces a greater percentage of rural physicians and family medicine physicians than any other medical school in the U.S. Boulger also teaches in the Department of Biobehavioral Health & Population Sciences and directs the Center for Rural Mental Health Studies.

The Minnesota Rural Health Conference presents the Rural Health Hero and Rural Health Team awards each year. This year's conference, "Weaving the Threads of Rural Health," was hosted by the Minnesota Department of Health's Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, the Minnesota Rural Health Association and the National Rural Health Resource Center.

Farewell banquet a hit amidst winter storm



The class of 2016 gathered for one last goodbye before heading to the twin cities campus for their final two years of medical school.

60 students were surrounded by faculty and staff on April 24, 2014, to congratulate them on completing their first two years, and their time, at the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth Campus. The evening was hosted in the Greysolon Ballroom by Dean Gary Davis.

Although snow was falling outside, spirits were warm as the class president and vice president reminisced on the past two years. All students were given certificates acknowledging their accomplishment and over 14 scholarships were awarded from the University of Minnesota Foundation.

Over \$500,000 awarded in scholarships

Scholarships enable talented students from diverse backgrounds to pursue education and training that will prepare and inspire them to become tomorrow's medical leaders. This year the University of Minnesota Foundation awarded over \$500,000 in scholarships to Duluth medical students. Supporters of scholarships and medical education do so to support future generations of medical professionals. Meet one recipient in our Scholarship Profile on the next page!

Aufderheide Memorial Lecture inspires students

The inaugural Aufderheide Memorial Lecture and Student Research Symposium was held Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus. Keynote remarks were made by Dr. Tom Aufderheide, a nationally and internationally recognized researcher in cardiac resuscitation and emergency cardiac care, and a guest speaking appearance was made by Dr. Larry Wittmers, Professor Emeritus, with expertise in respiratory function and specific interest in temperature regulation.

Around thirty people gathered for the morning event which consisted of three presentations, a guest speaker and the keynote speaker. Lunch was provided while attendees had the opportunity to browse poster presentations compiled by Duluth medical students. The posters spanned a variety of research interests that the students have been focusing on.



Dr. Arthur C. Aufderheide, the namesake of the lecture, was a paleopathologist who attended medical school and completed his residency in pathology at the University of Minnesota. He is remembered for an impressive career containing 4 decades of influencing students as a professor at the Duluth Medical School, the publication of four books and hundreds of articles.

Scholarship Profile

Tyler Goettl

Dr. Lillian Repesh Fund for Student Excellence -2014 Scholarship Recipient

Hometown: St. Clair, MN

Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2015

Undergraduate school: University of MN - Twin Cities

Major: Biology



Q: Who or what piqued your interest in science and medicine?

A: College biology is what first grabbed my attention that I might be interested in a scientific career. Being a part of church groups and other volunteer activities, I realized I wanted to utilize my scientific interests and lend a helping hand to those in need. Becoming a doctor was the right fit for me as a high schooler and gaining experience and perspective college cemented my career path toward becoming a physician.

Q: What does it mean to you to receive this scholarship?

A: To receive the scholarship in Dr. Repesh's name is an immense honor. I know that I will always remember her character, strength, and passion for education and the furthering of medical school experience. She was a great mentor and I take with me the qualities that she displayed on a daily basis. I was very humbled to receive this scholarship and will try my very best to uphold all the things she was to the Duluth medical students - a leader, role model, and a friend to the people I meet in the profession.

Q: What major health advance(s) would you like to see accomplished in the next five years?

A: I would like to see patients get better access to primary care to head off some of the chronic issues that plague our country with such emotional and financial burden. With a focus on nutrition and healthier lifestyle choices, I believe we can make a true change in the upcoming generation's health and well-being.

Q: What unique perspective do you bring to your studies?

A: I come from a small town in south-central Minnesota that is primarily an agricultural community. I know what some of the struggles are in that particular type of community and can relate well with them. I have also been fortunate to study abroad and do research internationally to gain a cultural perspective that enriches the experiences I have in a diverse metropolitan patient population.