

Medical School

DULUTH CAMPUS

Update Medical School

September 2014

University of Minnesota Medical School Dean visits Duluth campus

Dr. Brooks Jackson visited the Duluth campus of the University of Minnesota Medical School on September, 4, 2014. Jackson serves as the Dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School as well as the vice president for health sciences, taking responsibility for both the medical and pharmacy schools. His visit allowed him to tour the Duluth campus of the medical and pharmacy schools.

After a full schedule of meeting with St. Luke's Hospital, School of Pharmacy leadership and Medical School Leadership, Jackson had the opportunity to learn about research projects being conducted by Duluth faculty. In all, 16 research projects were presented in a 3-minute thesis format. Presenters discuss their research for three

minutes and then had seven minutes for questions. Each researcher was allowed two slides during their presentation, one, for their research, and the second, to acknowledge any participating members in this research.

Presenters included faculty from both the medical school and the pharmacy school, as well as one medical student. Research topics ranged from molecular biology to social determinants of health and how to minimize health care disparities.

Jackson's visit concluded with an interview from the Duluth News Tribune, published on September 9, 2014, and dinner at Glensheen Mansion with faculty and researchers.



Jackson's interview with the Duluth News Tribune focused on his experience on the Duluth campus, debt facing recent medical school graduates and rural health care.

Jackson praised the University of Minnesota and its influence in educating seventy percent of the physicians who currently practice in Minnesota. These physicians are combined graduates of both the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses of the University of Minnesota.

Class of 2018 presented with white coats

60 first year medical students, in a rite of passage for students entering medical school, received their white coats on Saturday, August, 23, 2014, at the University of Minnesota Medical School-Duluth Campus. The ceremony signified the responsibilities and obligations of the physicians who wear the white coat and the importance of embracing compassion and character along with knowledge of science and medicine. Families of the students, local-area physicians and alumni attended the event.

Annual welcome week's rural family medicine community visit puts new students immediately into the rural community environment

Once a year, 120 students eagerly board busses and depart for a day long adventure to various rural communities in northern Minnesota, in an effort to identify rural health concerns and potential solutions for those communities. This is a tradition that has continued for the past 13 years at the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus.

In the beginning, three communities partnered with the Medical School Duluth campus including Grand Rapids, Hibbing and Moose Lake. Today all three still participate, as well as Aitkin. Throughout the years, Two Harbors and Cloquet have also been communities in the partnership. The students who attend this day are first year medical and pharmacy students, 60 from each school. This gives the students an opportunity to get to know their peers and spend time in the communities during their first week on campus.

Students, faculty and staff visited the following sites:

Aitkin

Sorenson Root Thompson Funeral Home, AADA Board, Aicota Health Care Center, Rippleside Elementary School, Police Department, Fire Hall, Riverwood Health Clinic and Pharmacy, Hospital, Mary Hill Manor Senior Center, John and Debbie Chute's Farm.

Hibbing

Hibbing High School, Police Department, Fire Hall, Mesaba Animal Hospital, Hibbing Community College, Fairview University Medical Clinic, Essentia Health Hibbing Clinic and Pharmacy, St. Luke's Clinic, Hospital Pharmacy, Senior Center, Cliffs Natural Resources.

After visiting all of the communities the students are expected to give a community presentation. During this presentation the group describes the community they visited and identifies rural health concerns and potential solutions for those community concerns. Thank you to all of the communities and organizations who partner with the University of Minnesota Medical and Pharmacy School's at the Duluth campus who make this trip a success every year.

Grand Rapids

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, YMCA, Lakewood Surgery Center, Sheriff's Office, Globe Drug, Blandin Foundation, Grand Rapids High School, YMCA, Lakewood Surgery Center, Grand Itasca Hospital and Clinic, Grand Itasca Pathology/Lab Services, Manor House, Boswell Energy Center

Moose Lake

Konu Farm, Gateway Clinic, Mercy Hospital Emergency Room, Corrections Facility, Mercy Hospital Surgery Center, MN Sex Offender Program, Moose Lake High School, Police and Response Center, Hillside Manor East, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Dr. Arlen R. Severson receives top honor



Dr. Arlen R. Severson has been inducted into the Academic Health Center Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. This distinction is awarded to those who attain the highest level of recognition by their peers and is a lifelong membership. Members of this academy have demonstrated exceptional scholarly contributions to advance learning in their schools and across academic programs at the University of Minnesota. Dean Brooks Jackson said in a congratulatory letter, "Your contributions and commitment to education are an incredible asset to this institution. I commend you for standing out among your peers as one of the AHC's outstanding educators!" Dr. Severson is a charter faculty member of the Medical School Duluth campus and has won teacher of the year a total of 16 times.

Medical Education through Diversity and Service

Medical Education through Diversity and Service, commonly known as MEDS, has been devoted to increasing Duluth medical students' cultural awareness by promoting involvement in community service and medical relief organizations throughout the world since its creation in 2000. On September 12, 2014, a reception was held at the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus where participants from this past year presented about their experience. 18 students participated in international service learning trips and traveled to Kenya, Spain, Norway, Nicaragua, Peru, Mexico, Rwanda, Switzerland and Laos. Each year roughly 20 students participate and more than 120 students have participated since 2000.



Active learning classroom complete!

August welcomed new students and a new classroom to the Duluth campus. The active learning classroom has eight tables with eight students comfortably stationed around each table. 14 television monitors display the students' computer screens, as well as the instructors, and each table is equipped with three microphones for each tables input. This new innovative space creates an integrated learning environment promoting collaboration and hands on learning.

The building currently used for the Medical School Duluth campus was built in 1978 and has lecture halls which created a passive learning environment. Research has consistently shown that students learn better and remember more when they are actively engaged. This new space is allowing students to learn through an active approach, helping them to think creatively and critically, a mind-set essential for medical practitioners and future researchers. This classroom was made possible by a gift to the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus.

Leah Kay

James Boulger, Ph.D., Endowed Scholarship

Hometown: Dassel, MN

Undergraduate School: Concordia College - Moorhead

Major: Biology

Anticipated graduation date: May 2016

Who or what piqued your interest in science and medicine?

I can't say that I had one person or event that more strongly spurred my interest than others-there were several people on my path that led me to this vocation and each of their efforts were appreciated in different ways. To name a few though, I truly believe I had above average science teachers and professors in my hometown and college that greatly stimulated my curiosity in science and encouraged me to pursue making a difference in the world. I also spent an extensive time shadowing and working several physicians who were incredibly passionate about their career and teaching me about not only the science, but the art of medicine. Lastly, through my work as a CNA, EMT, and months of volunteering abroad I was able to see first-hand the impact of using health care to help others, especially the less fortunate, and it was at that time that I confirmed that it was what I wanted to pursue.

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

One that comes to mind is that I would love to see advances in preventative health care in the area of interprofessionalism especially. I think many problems that are in primary care offices could be better controlled if there was more of a team approach, since currently many patients have multiple morbidities. I also think if that happened there would be more time for motivational interviewing that could be used to help battle major prevalent illnesses that stem from obesity, addiction, and more.

Scholarship Profile



What does it mean to you to receive this scholarship?

It is incredibly exciting to know that people are so passionate about the future of medicine and care enough to support it financially (which is a HUGE blessing considering school is very expensive)!

Why did you choose the University of Minnesota Medical School?

I grew up in Minnesota and love this state and its people! I want to practice medicine and raise a family in Minnesota someday, so what better place to train than here (not to mention the school is top-rated, the atmosphere is collaborative and friendly, and there are many opportunities for me to explore no matter what I pursue!)?