Illinois RMED
20th Anniversary

June 22, 2013
Allerton Park & Retreat Center
Monticello, Illinois
The Rural Medical Education (RMED) Program of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford seeks to admit and prepare medical students from the state of Illinois who will, upon completion of residency training, locate and practice in rural Illinois as primary care physicians.

The RMED Program is the medical component of the National Center for Rural Health Professions, which promotes the health of rural communities through partnerships in education, service, research and policy.
Class of 1997

Row 1: (left to right) Christine Bett-Belleau, Gregory Dammann
Row 2: Tricia Gifford, Kurt Crowe
Class of 1998

Row 1: (left to right) Mark Grier, Jeffrey Gremmels, Rebecca Klepzig, Mark Korte, Sanjog Pangarkar, Samantha Sattler, Travis Crawford
Row 2: Jason Popp, Michael Wells, Benjamin Brooks, Mary Simmons, Bharati Chittineni, Bob Oliai, Robert Krudlow, Richard Bivin, John Malcott
Not pictured: Rebecca Bame

Class of 1999

Row 1: (left to right) Kara Oprian, Amy Ludwikowski, Eric Ruebke, Dawn Lemmert, Tammy Homman
Row 2: John Eamhart, Jacqueline Janka, Cristy Elving-Dial, Timothy Ramsden, Jane Peterson, Don Brust, Kirk Wong
Row 3: Steven Norris, Stephen Nitz, Dan Kattenbraker, Rick Bushnell, Deepak Khuntia, Matthew Brandon
The distribution of RMED graduates practicing in Illinois: 125 in 58 different counties and 80 different communities.
Class of 2003

Row 1: (left to right) Nick Cantrell, Kristi Leland, Denise Pine Mattas, Jennifer Sharp, Jason Guthrie, Jennifer Moyer Guffey
Row 2: Jaime Twanow, Teresa Morelli, John McCarthy, Amy Obendorf, Paul Angleton, Elizabeth Cox, Justin Whitt
Row 3: Ryan Reich, Ralph Latta, Judd Pulley, Luke Leonard, Ryan Schmidgall

Class of 2004

Row 1: (left to right) Emily Boyd, Sarah Hayes, Daren Rauch, Alison Bilyeu, Amanda Popp Friedrichs
Row 2: Adam Vargo, Jarrod Almaroad, Denice Smith, Charles Running, Jilaine Boles, Jeffrey Ripperda, Adam Reyburn
I am pleased to welcome you to the 20th anniversary celebration of the University of Illinois College of Medicine’s Rural Medical Education Program (RMED). This day is the culmination of two decades of academic-community partnership that identifies, educates, and returns students to rural Illinois practice. The RMED program began as an attempt to overcome shortages of rural primary care physicians across the state. In the early 1990’s, the existing shortages were magnified by declining deployment of young physicians to rural communities. The Rockford campus of the University of Illinois designed and implemented the RMED program to address this problem. Several of the RMED founders join us here at today’s gathering. Their vision, willingness to innovate, and careful planning is realized in the RMED graduates who practice across the state in rural communities.

The humble beginnings of the RMED program have grown into an interdisciplinary center encompassing youth programs, the Illinois Area Health Education Center, rural minority mentoring programs, collegiate summer programs, the Master’s in public health program and, more recently, the Rural Pharmacy Program (RPHARM). The National Center for Rural Health Professions has become a national and international partner in enhancing rural health based on the lessons learned by working with communities across Illinois. We remain committed to that rural mission and the important role it plays in training future health professionals.

The success of the RMED program has been dependent on our volunteer faculty, our partner hospitals, the members of the recruitment and retention committee, our students, graduates, rural communities, and our staff. Without each of you, we as a program would not be standing here celebrating today.

Many of you have provided not only the educational and institutional support for RMED, but the community warmth, kind words and support that have helped many of our students reach their career goals. Some who join us here today have quietly provided direct financial support to students from difficult financial circumstances. They have done so without recognition and we honor their request to remain anonymous, but I want them to know, their generosity has changed lives. We could not have achieved this day by vision, audacity, and hard work alone. Each of you has played a role in the success of RMED. We owe a debt of gratitude that it is difficult to encompass in words. “Thank you” does not measure up to the commitments of time and energy, and support you have contributed. Today we recognize you as our champions.

As we celebrate together, I look forward to continued growth and partnership that leads to healthier rural communities across the state as together we build the future.

Matt Hunsaker, MD
Director, Rural Medical Education Program
Class of 2005

Row 1: (left to right) Amanda Pillers, Emily Rogers, Sean Burke, Wendy Mitchell
Row 2: Martin Lipsky, MD, Melissa Keca, Jessica Kappelman, Stephanie Wessel, Kara Willenborg
Row 3: Sam Steffey, Brett Winkelser, Carl Sather, Travis Figanbaum

Class of 2006

Row 1: (left to right) Jayme Sloan, Crystal Snider, Melissa Inpanbut-Martinuk, Matt Guillone, Beth Graham
Row 2: Martin Lipsky, MD, Todd Lanser, Nathan Dolan, Jennifer Wisdom-Behounek, John Richards, Paul Stortz
Row 3: Josh Bowers, Dan O'Brien, Paul Hibbert, Mike Lawler, Ben Shepherd
RMED Successes

- Since 1993, more than 200 students have matriculated through the RMED Program.
- The RMED Program has the highest percentage of its students choosing primary care specialties of any program in the nation.
- RMED received the 1999 Innovative Program Award from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.
- 160 graduates are in practice with 105 (65.6%) in family medicine, 11 (6.8%) in general internal or internal medicine/pediatrics, 6 (3.7%) in general pediatrics and 5 (3.1%) are in obstetrics/gynecology. The majority of graduates (73%) have remained in Illinois.
Class of 2008

Row 1: (left to right) Tom Murphy, Kyle Minor, Adam Young, Chris Dickinson, Doug Lanoue
Row 2: Monica Martens, Betsy McGee, Martin Lipsky, MD, Kate Walker, Carrie Hood
Not pictured: Kurt Davis

Class of 2009

Row 1: (left to right) Mary Stapel, John Rinker, Brett Hurliman, Annevay Conlee, Erin Barkau, Daniel Beissel, John Plescia, Jessica White
Row 2: Jessica Madden, Nicholas Butler, Leah Lewis, Martin Lipsky, MD, Bethany Bitner, Ben Milkworth, Elizabeth Lawler
RMED Results Since 1993

- 73% of RMED graduates practice in Illinois after residency training
- 81% of graduates in Illinois practice primary care medicine

- 226 graduates
- 173 graduates in practice
- 53 graduates in residency training
- 80% of graduates attend primary care residencies (leads the nation)
- 75% of graduates practice in towns of less than 20,000 people
- RMED graduates practicing in 80 different Illinois communities

Class of 2010

Row 1: (left to right) Christopher Hamm, Benjamin Rathert, Bethany Troutwine, Nicole Fyie, Daniel Martin, Jonathon Schonert
Row 2: Nimesh Patel, Jacob Hopping, Katie McCrea, Colleen Anderson, Kris Homb, Martin Lipsky, MD, John-Paul Berauer, Brandy Beard, Gabrielle Geddes, Harish Yalamanchili
Class of 2011

Row 1: (left to right) Matthew Mason, Bruce Ulrich, Ryan Fitzgerald
Row 2: Martin Lipsky, MD, Emilie Bocker, Rita Pareigs, Jason Bill
Row 3: Austin Lamb, Ryan Boente, Addie Robinson, Clay Ford

Class of 2012

Row 1: (left to right) Chad Gridley, Andrew Zidow, Christopher Howse, Nathan Kenyon, Joshua Carpenter, Adam Henson
Row 2: Martin Lipsky, MD, Erica Davis, Erica Ibendahl, Natalie Sgarlata, William Bailey, Jillian Kaskavage, Ashlea Canady, Erin Canopy
Class of 2013

Row 1: (left to right) Kyle Brown, Amy Schutte, Mitchell Hammel, Katie Strack, Jess Spradling, Kurt Bloomstrand
Row 2: Mitchell King, MD, Ashley Kaytor, Molly Mennenga, Maggie Dwiggins, Chris Blanford, Jeanette Hansen
Row 3: Ryan Nagele, Megan Hedland, Kimberly Jerdan, Sarah Stone
Not pictured: Hannah Furo, Rachel Maurer, Lauren Norton