



## ATSU-SOMA NWRPCA Campus

*Collaboration for Community Health  
Center based medical education*



A. T. STILL UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE IN ARIZONA

ATSU

*Northwest Regional Primary Care Association is a member organization that strengthens community and migrant health centers in the Northwest by leveraging regional power and resources on their behalf.*

### ***What Can NWPRCA provide student?***

*NWRPCA supports its students and residents in Region X in a variety of ways. We provide financial resources for rotations, regional campus support, access to health center connections and trainings. For our residents, we have specific programs to support continued education and next steps such as job search assistance. As you begin your career, we hope you'll make a CHC in Region X your professional home. Do take advantage of our clinical support efforts, including clinician networks, leadership training, preceptor opportunities and strategic partner connections. [Click to get where you need to be.](#)*

*Questions, comments or additional needs - contact Trish Bustos - [tbustos@nwrpca.org](mailto:tbustos@nwrpca.org)*

## ***In this Issue:***

[\*Where You Need to Be\*](#)

[\*Bruce Gray Responds to students\*](#)

[\*Learning Outside Her Comfort Zone: Spanish Elective Rotation\*](#)

[\*Bush Planes, Boats and Dog Sleds: Rural Alaska Rotation\*](#)

[\*Insight and Perspectives on Student Life\*](#)

[\*Calendar of Events\*](#)

[\*Career Opportunities\*](#)

[\*Resources\*](#)

[\*Achievements and Acknowledgements\*](#)

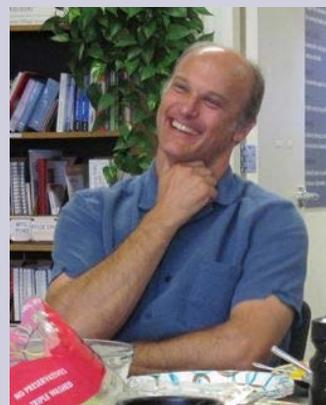
[\*Meet the CEC\*](#)

[\*Submissions\*](#)

## ***Bruce Gray Responds to Student Dialogue at November Didactic***

***Asked what was on his mind, Bruce responded, "Let's address what's on the students' mind." Here is his feedback from his campus visit on November 22, 2013.***

I first want to thank all of you MS2-4 students who were able to join our campus dialogue on November 22, when I visited, and to thank Lisa, Lee and Naveen for inviting me down. I greatly enjoyed the conversation and appreciated the level of honesty involved in providing me - and NWRPCA generally - with feedback. The following are some of the key "take-aways" for me from that day, as well as preliminary steps we've either already taken or are developing to address the feedback.



***Bruce Gray, NWRPCA CEO***

### **Nature, number and quality of in-patient rotation options**

I heard clearly the concern around the nature and adequate number of in-patient rotations available to students, as well as the limited "scope of learning" allowed students-even MS4 ones-in hospital settings during such rotations. On the former, we understand the need for increased access to hospitals across our region for MS3/MS4 rotations, in order for students to have a comprehensive, quality training experience. Inpatient opportunities obviously serve to complement the rotations done at CHCs and private practices, and it's a central campus aim to increase the number and quality of these opportunities. To do so, we're taking a two-pronged approach: first, we're working with the local hospitals, such as the Legacy and Providence systems and Tuality, to increase opportunities locally in certain disciplines, such as Pediatrics, ER, OB/GYN and Psychiatry, and have seen some gains in all these in the current academic year. Secondly, we're conducting significant outreach to identified hospitals outside of the immediate Portland area, including those in the Medford, La Grande,

Pendleton, and Hermiston, OR areas; Anchorage and Sitka, AK areas; along the Boise - Idaho Falls, ID route; and in the Clarkston and Spokane, WA regions. We've had several key successes this year with completed and/or proposed medical rotations and are optimistic we'll be able to further cultivate these relationships and expand inpatient rotations, in terms of both quality and scope, for both the MS3 and MS4 classes.

On the "scope of learning" issue, I'm frankly not sure what to say given the litigious nature of our hospital industry. We'll certainly continue to strive for clearly outlined expectations when arranging the rotations, including providing the goals and objectives as specified by SOMA. We'll also continue to re-assess the quality of experiences per your feedback and logs, to modify rotations if they are not providing an adequate experience, and to replace rotations if they cannot be modified as needed.

## **Learning challenges identified by our students**

### **Level of awareness and understanding of the DO model in general and ATSU training opportunities specifically among NW health centers.**

We obviously need to continue working with our NW health center members on better understanding the DO model itself and its value to the emerging "population health" paradigm, particularly in light of the movement to tie payment and reimbursement to health outcomes vs. encounters; the business model for effectively and productively engaging DO students and residents in rotations; and the specific opportunities to involve ATSU students in such rotations. We have several planned next steps, including: improving our communication about, and education on, the DO model to those health centers already in our rotation network, including when a student rotation is confirmed; improving our communication about the DO model, through materials, networking, and exhibitor presence, to member health centers and partners during our two annual primary care conferences; providing more info on the nature and value of the DO model through our various on-line forums (e.g Quicknotes); and working more aggressively through SOMA to ensure that the National Association of CHCs-a key partner in this medical school model-similarly promotes and educates health centers nationally on the DO model. This naturally ties back to the preceding concern. Our strategy is to best address the objectives and continue actively marketing the campus-NW CHC partnership model.

### **Specific NWRPCA support program, including communications, for MS2-4 students.**

NWRPCA is committed to supporting our DO students and residents with financial support for rotations; regular info-sharing through the NWRPCA Campus website, Alumni Newsletter, and on-site presentations and dialogues; facilitated access to regional health center leaders and partners; subsidized attendance at our conferences and trainings when/as appropriate; and job search assistance. We're also committed to continuing support for those of you who choose to make a CHC in the Northwest your professional home-specifically, through clinician peer-to-peer networks, leadership training, preceptor opportunities and strategic partner connections, including specific NWRPCA connection to ATSU graduates through residency and into employment at NW health centers. (See above.)

### **Nature of viable practice models post-ACA implementation/transformation.**

I also heard clearly the concern around what kinds of viable practice models there will likely still be in the coming years, given what some see as the "withering" of small private practices and of physicians having no choice but to "hire on" with large medical care systems. As you can imagine, we're doing all we can to ensure that health centers provide a strong, appealing "employer" alternative for those students interested in private practice and frustrated by what they're seeing in the marketplace.

## ***Learning Outside Her Comfort Zone***

***by Catherine Smith,***

***NWRPCA OMSIII***

***A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine***



### **Spanish Elective Rotation**

It is difficult to write about my experiences on my rotation in Mexico and keep it short. Simply put, it was a life-changing experience. This rotation had a huge impact on my life, not only as a student, or a healthcare professional, but mostly as a person.

If I could pick one thing as the most important thing that I learned, it would be that it taught me to be bold, step outside of my comfort zone, and trust myself. I participated in a four-week rotation to learn Spanish and work in a clinical setting in Mexico with the PACE/MedSpanish program in beautiful San Miguel de Allende. With the program, I worked a half-day in a clinical setting, and then spent the other half-day doing a one-on-one Spanish lesson. I came to Mexico speaking absolutely no Spanish, so I was starting from zero. Not speaking a word of Spanish made for a very interesting first week. For my clinical experience, I worked at the Red Cross for the first week, riding along with an ambulance for the first time ever. No one I worked with spoke more than a few words in English, so communication was very difficult. [Read More](#)

## ***Bush Planes, Boats and Dog Sleds***

***by Graham Becherer-Bailey,***

***NWRPCA OMSIII***

***A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine***

***(This article is also featured in NWRPCA [Quicknotes](#))***



### **Rural Alaska Rotation**

It is not everyday that you have the opportunity to fly to work over a glacial fjord in a bush plane. However, this past fall that became my reality for several months while studying medicine in Alaska. With the approval of my medical school A.T. Still School of Osteopathic Medicine and generous scholarship support from the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association I spent the fall semester of my third year in medical school studying Family Medicine, Psychiatry and Pediatrics in Alaska. I spent large percentage of my time in remote communities accessible only by bush plane, boat or dog sled. "Rural medicine" has become a catch-phrase and battle cry for medicine in isolated and underserved locals. Alaska takes that concept one step further with what could be defined as "Frontier Medicine." Outside of the few urban centers Alaskan medicine is dominated by rural primary care physicians who out of necessity treat everything and everyone who walks in the door. Being able to participate in childbirths or trauma care while knowing the nearest back-up was a 500 mile flight away could be seen as nerve wracking. [Read More](#)



## *Insight and Perspective on Student Life*

*by Moina Snyder,  
MS VI*

*A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine*

### **If I would have known about 3rd/4th year...**

When asked to contribute to this section it was difficult to choose the most valuable out of the list, but here you go:

#### **1. Know Yourself**

How can you pick a career for yourself or tell interviewers about yourself if you haven't sat down with yourself and ask with all honesty "who am I?", "What do I believe in?", "What kind of lifestyle do I want?", and importantly "Why I am special and lovable?" If you can answer those out loud while looking at yourself in a mirror without blushing then you got it down and no one will be able to stop you from reaching your goals and accomplish your dreams.

#### **2. Be Organized**

It's incredible the amount of opportunities you will be able to explore if you are on top of your documentation/letters of rec/statements/schedule. If you are reading this as a 2nd or 3rd year you are at the best time for planning and preparing. Once you got your answers from part 1 above, then get online and google the list of programs available in your chosen path or paths remember that you can apply to multiple specialties in both matches so the world is yours! make lists with requirements, deadlines, contact info and why you want to keep programs in mind. Then work with SOMA to sort out electives and your schedule. APPLY EARLY, honestly there isn't such thing as too early. Call if you can, don't email to apply for subs, you might be able to snag a rotation on the spot before they read their other 45 email requests..

[Read More](#)

## ***Calendar of Events***

## **Professional Development Opportunity**

Re-Imagining Healthy Communities:  
Collaborative, Equitable, Sustainable

Western Forum for Migrant and Community Health

**February 26-28, 2014**  
**Seattle Marriott Waterfront**



Presenting keynote speakers Rishi Manchanda, MD, author of *The Upstream Doctors*, and Seth Holmes, MD, PhD, author of *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies*.

Organizations presenting at the Forum include:

- Farmworker Justice
- Health Outreach Partners
- Migrant Legal Action Program
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Providence Hospital
- WA State Department of Health
- CO School of Public Health
- National Center for Farmworker Health
- Pacific Northwest University
- University of Texas
- Hidalgo Center for Health Innovation
- Community Capacitation Center
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- University of Washington School of Public Health

[Register Online](#)

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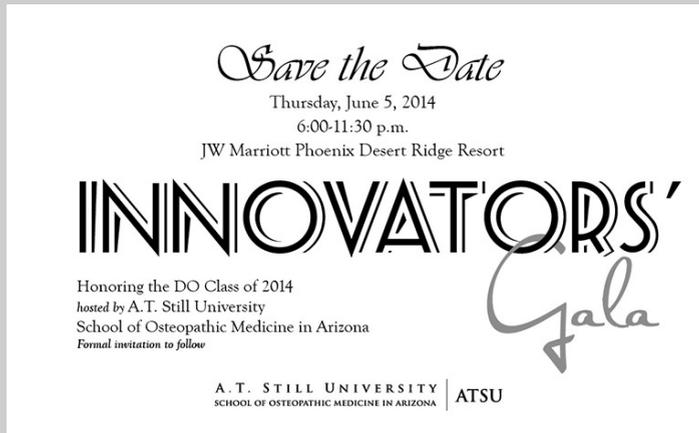
## Upcoming Conference

**NWRPCA 2014 Spring Primary Care Conference**  
**May 17 - 20, 2014, Seattle WA**

Registration will open the first week in March.

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## MSIV Graduation- June 5th, 2014



## ***Career Opportunities***

NWRPCA FREE Region X [Jobs Database](#)

Did you know that 5000+ job seekers view our jobs site each month?!

### **Featured Physician Openings:**

#### **Family Medical Physician, La Pine, Oregon**

Family Practice MD or DO - La Pine Community Health Center seeks a full-time Family Practice MD or DO to work in our clinic located 30 miles south of Bend in beautiful Central Oregon. We seek individuals interested in working in a high quality, patient-centered medical home model. Our clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving a rural and socio-economically diverse population. No hospital call. Great benefits. Patient panels of 1000 to 1200. 1.5 medical assistants per provider. We meet NHSC criteria. X-Ray and Lab on-site. For more information please go to our website at [www.lapinehealth.org](http://www.lapinehealth.org).

#### **Family Medical Physician, HealthPoint, Bothell, Washington**

Bothell HealthPoint is looking for a FT or PT Family Practice without OB physician. We are an integrated healthcare home that delivers respectful quality health care. We have been practicing full spectrum outpatient family medicine in the suburban areas of Seattle, WA for over 43 years. Our progressive, Mission driven organization is dedicated to primary health care including: medical, dental, complementary and alternative medicine, OB/GYN care and behavioral health. HealthPoint is a non profit, consumer governed,

Community Health Center network serving the needs of the uninsured and medically underserved populations in 9 medical clinics, 6 dental clinics, two school based health centers, two health centers in behavioral health organizations and pharmacy services that employ over 550 staff to deliver care to over 70,000 patients annually. Our supportive programs include behavioral health, nutrition counseling, acupuncture, urgent care, peer support, and case management. We are community leaders in initiating and developing collaborative relationships and home to a new model of education which includes opportunities for teaching medical students and a residency program. [www.healthpointchc.org](http://www.healthpointchc.org)

### **Family Practitioner, Mosaic Medical, Bend, Oregon**

Mosaic Medical in Prineville, Redmond and Bend are seeking a Family Practice Physician for a FT position (32 hours clinical and 8 hours administrative time). This clinic scores a HPSA rating of 17 and qualifies for National Health Scholars and National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Programs. Mosaic Medical Prineville offers an excellent environment for a clinic-minded medical provider who wants to be part of a larger medical community, collaborate with her or his peers, and with local non-profit and government agencies. Prineville, in Central Oregon, offers family-friendly, small-town living minutes from a vibrant urban center. This position includes a full benefits package including, Health, Vision, Dental, 401K, Flex Spending Plan, partial gym membership, holiday and personal time off. There is Life, and Short-term Disability as well as optional Long term and Accidental Insurance available. Other benefits include costs associated with licensure, DEA, UptoDate subscription, one professional membership of your choice, and time and expenses for continuing medical education. [www.mosaicmedical.org](http://www.mosaicmedical.org)

**[Search these jobs and more! Free on our website!](#)**

## ***Resources***

### **[ATSU Portal-](#)**

*Link here to student portal*

### **[CHC Map](#)**

*See Map of Participating Preceptor CHCs in Region X*

## ***Achievements and Acknowledgments***

**Patrick Zimmerman MSIII** - contributing authorship to the recent publication with subsequent recognition by the *faculty of 1000* (F1000) review site:

1. Malhotra R, Paskin-Flerlage S, Zamanian RT, Zimmerman P, Schmidt JW, Deng DY, Southwood M, Spencer R, Lai CS, Parker W, Channick RN, Morrell NW, Elliott CG, Yu PB. *Pulm Circ.* 2013 Apr;3(2):369-80. doi: 10.4103/2045-8932.110445.

a. Reviewed and recommended by Faculty 1000 (F1000); 12 December, 2013. DOI: 10.3410/f.718197932.793487966



## ***Meet The Clinical Education Coordinator***

**Sandra Harris is the Clinical Education Coordinator for A.T. Still University** - School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. Sandra was born and raised in Poland but relocated to Arizona to further her career and continue educational studies. Sandra assists students with schedule changes, evaluations - CPEs & SEPs, Letters of good standing, Visiting Student Application Service (VSAS) and E\*Value related questions. Sandra also closely monitors and maintains all clinical experiences and rotation assignments.

## ***Call for Newsletter Submission***

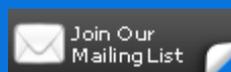
If you'd like to share something with your fellow Alumni or campus classmates, we would love to hear from you. The campus newsletter will be issued twice a year but there is always something going on with the ATSU-NWRPCA campus. If at anytime you would like more information on any of the information provided here contact me at [tvu@nwprca.org](mailto:tvu@nwprca.org).

Thank you to all the contributors for making the first Alumni and Student Newsletter happen.



NWRPCA

[tvu@nwprca.org](mailto:tvu@nwprca.org)  
<http://www.NWRPCA.org>



This is the first issue of the ATSU SOMA NWRPCA Newsletter for Alumni and Students. The Newsletter is intended for Alumni and A.T. Still NWRPCA Students use and connections with campus.