

## The Alaska Track

All of the third year of medical school can be completed in Anchorage through this track using the listed core clerkships with the exception of surgery, which is done in Fairbanks. Because there are students throughout the year, special seminars and other training opportunities are available for these students. Clerkship students are called upon to provide guidance to our first year students, and are encouraged to participate in activities in the Anchorage Family Medicine Residency. The clinical coordinator is Dr. Tom Nighswander.

## 4th YEAR CORE CLERKSHIPS

Of the three required 4th year clerkships, Chronic Care, Emergency Medicine and Neurology, only Neurology is available in Alaska at this time. Chronic Care and Emergency Medicine are in development.

## Neurology

**Anchorage**—There are two 4th year required neurology clerkships located in Anchorage. Dr. Brian Trimble is the coordinator at the Alaska Native Medical Center. This is the referral center for all the bush hospitals as well as the large urban Alaska Native population in Anchorage. This has been a very popular rotation for students because of the cross cultural issues and the variety of pathology. Dr. Frank Ellenson is the coordinator at the Alaska Neurology Center.

## 4th Year Electives

Alaska WWAMI offers a wide variety of 4th year electives including: Allergy, Anesthesiology, Cardiology, Dermatology, ENT, Family Medicine, Geriatrics, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pathology, Pulmonology, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, Radiation Oncology, Radiology, Rehabilitation, Surgery and Urology.

A number of fourth year sub specialty pediatric elective rotations are being developed in: allergy /immunology, cardiology, gastroenterology, pulmonology, surgery and NICU.



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**WWAMI**

*Alaska's Medical School*

## Alaska Clinical Rotations and Site Descriptions



## Alaska WWAMI Clinical Sites and Programs

Alaska's remoteness from the "lower forty eight" necessitates a more comprehensive health infrastructure and capacity than is usually found in rural areas. Alaska's rugged beauty, arctic and sub arctic climates and vast distances create challenges in delivery of health services providing challenging opportunities for medical care. Telemedicine and village field visits are a vital part of providing services to our remote locations. Alaska uses more mid level practitioners per capita than any other state. Our state motto is "North to the Future".

### 3rd YEAR CORE CLERKSHIPS

#### Family Medicine

**Anchorage** –This core clerkship is a combination rotation between the Anchorage Family Medicine Residency and the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Clinic. Dr. Tom Hunt is the coordinator for the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Clinic and Dr. Julie Sicilia is the coordinator at the Anchorage Family Medicine Residency.

**Nome** –This Family Medicine clerkship was added in 2008 with students arriving in the summer of 2009. Dr. David Head is the coordinator for this clerkship in one of the most historic sites in Alaska. In 1898 "Three Lucky Swedes" discovered gold on Anvil Creek. By 1899 the population of Nome was 10,000. This summer marks the start of construction on a new hospital in Nome.



**Petersburg** –This isolated southeastern fishing community of 3200, with strong Norwegian and Tlingit influences, is serviced by four family medicine physicians and a small local hospital and nursing home. The clinic offers a full array of Family Medicine services with regional support through Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka and tertiary referrals primarily to Seattle. The island community is only accessible by air or boat. The site coordinator is Dr. John Bergren.

#### Internal Medicine

**Anchorage**—Dr. Norm Wilder coordinates this core clerkship experience using a combination of the Air Force Hospital, Alaska Regional Hospital, Providence Alaska Medical Center and the Alaska Native Medical Center. The mix of patients and their illnesses in each of these different settings provides for a rich student experience. Weekly student seminars are held.

**Soldotna** – Voted the #1 Fishing Hotspot in North America by Field & Stream Magazine in 2004, Soldotna is also the site of our newest Clerkship. The site is under the coordination of Dr Jonathan McDouagh. This clinic practices extensive full spectrum internal medicine without the availability of medical sub specialists. Dr. McDouagh has recently completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Washington School of Medicine.



#### Ob/Gyn

**Anchorage** –The Ob/Gyn clerkship is at Providence Alaska Medical Center, the largest hospital in Alaska which also has a very active Ob/Gyn Service. Multiple subspecialties in women's and children's health are available for teaching and back up support. The patients for the rotations come from private practice and provide opportunities to learn routine pre-natal care, obstetrical deliveries and post delivery care. During this rotation a student will typically have an above average number of labor and delivery experiences. The site coordinator is Dr. Karen McCreary, an Alaska WWAMI graduate.

**Fairbanks** – Four hundred miles northeast of Anchorage is the second largest city in Alaska. There are 40,000 residents in the boundaries of the city, but Fairbanks Memorial Hospital services an area the size of several lower 48 states put together- including the great interior of Alaska all the way to the Arctic Coast at Barrow. On this OB- GYN rotation, the medical student is the only trainee on the service. There are no residents or other students. The site coordinator is Dr. Richard Hess.



#### Pediatrics

**Anchorage** – The Pediatric core clerkship occurs in very active pediatric practices in Anchorage with hospitalizations done at The Children's Hospital at Providence Alaska Medical Center. The site coordinator is Dr. Erin McArthur.



#### Psychiatry

**Anchorage** – The Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) is one of two psychiatric hospitals in Anchorage and is fully staffed by psychiatrists and a variety of support personnel. Both the inpatient and ambulatory experiences take place in this setting. The site coordinator is Dr. Jenny Love.

#### Surgery

**Fairbanks** –Alaska's very popular high volume surgery rotation without other trainees is located in Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. They manage cases that would be handled by surgical subspecialty physicians in larger cities. Housing is provided by the hospital. The site director is Dr. Tim Teslow.

#### WRITE

The WWAMI rural integrated training experience is a 5 month experience that provides core clerkship credit for family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine and psychiatry. It is a continuity experience that is based in one community with the opportunity to follow patients and families over a period of time. Many students do more deliveries in this rotation than in the standard Ob/Gyn Clerkship.

Site housing is provided and there is enough flexibility in the program for students to have experiences in the operating room and emergency room. Alaska's two sites are Palmer/Wasilla and Juneau.

**Juneau** – Located in Southeast Alaska and only visited by air or water transport, our capital is host to an excellent group of physicians. Our newest clinical site is at the Valley Medical Center with their 6 family medicine physicians. Drs. Bob Urata and Richard Welling are the site coordinators. Because of the lack of specialists in Juneau, this group has a more extensive clinical practice than is seen in the typical Family Medicine Clinic.



**Wasilla** –This site is under the direction of Dr. Barb Doty and features a very busy practice that also addresses larger community health issues. In addition, the practice offers experiences in complementary medicine.

