

# UNDERSERVED PATHWAY

YEAR END REPORT 2020

## WELCOME

The Underserved Pathway (UP) is pleased to share our 2020 Year End Report. This year, despite the many challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, the Pathway team delivered content and experiences that kept Pathway scholars connected to their mission of service. Through our online curriculum and interactive virtual events, we keep students engaged in conversation and community as they progress in medical school. We look forward to continued participation and support from medical students, mentors, and other team members in the WWAMI region. Together, we will make health care more equitable and accessible for all.

## OVERVIEW

The Underserved pathway (UP) launched in 2006 at the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) with three aims:

1. Address physician shortages in underserved areas
2. Support students who have an interest in careers working with underserved populations
3. Provide curricula in relation to underserved care that is not formally taught in the general medical school curriculum.

The UP helps to train medical students to work with underserved and vulnerable populations locally, nationally, and globally; this is a key goal in the mission of the UWSOM. The UP has several component and is a longitudinal experience which spans all four years of medical school. Students can enroll up until their second summer but are encouraged to enroll as soon as they can to fully take advantage of the UP mentorship portion.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

- **TEAM CHANGES**
- **COPING WITH COVID**
- **GRADUATION 2020**
- **SPECIAL EVENTS**

# DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to Dr. Sharon Dobie who founded the Underserved Pathway (UP) in 2006 and retired from the Pathway Team in June 2020. Sharon's leadership and vision were instrumental to the excellent form of the current UP. She has developed and curated experiences designed to help nurture medical student interest in learning about, caring for, and working with underserved populations.

Our huge pool of mentors that connect with students and share the joys and challenges of working with underserved and vulnerable communities is largely attributed to Sharon's efforts at recruitment. She has guided students through projects, facilitated timely and thought provoking events, and cheered students on as they have transitioned to new chapters of residency and jobs. As new team members joined the UP, Sharon mentored her UP colleagues to ensure the program's continued success.

Educational initiatives and programs like the Underserved Pathway are especially important as we confront the disproportionate impact of racism and COVID-19 on communities, students, and patients of color. Dr. Dobie has long led by example; her commitment to equity and justice remains an inspiration to those of us who have had the privilege of working with her.

We wish her all the best as she transitions to the next chapter, and are grateful for her stewardship of the Pathway.



*“Dr. Sharon Dobie has been a mentor and friend to many during her tenure at the UWSOM. I have had the privilege to have this wise, strong, and compassionate trailblazing doctor be an integral part of my medical education journey. As someone who has found medical school to be one of the most challenging jobs to undertake, I cannot think of a more fiercely dedicated supporter to guide me through the process. Whether Dr. Dobie is talking me through impostor syndrome or listening to my experiences of microaggressions and racism in the wards to celebrating small successes, she makes reaching the finish-line feel possible. I can say with certainty that what she has done for me, she has done for many classmates before me. We are all so lucky to be part of Dr. Dobie's medical student family.”*

*Emma Zavala-Suarez, Class of 2021*

## TEAM CHANGES

With the retirement of Dr. Dobie, we are excited to welcome Dr. Amanda Kost back to the Pathway Team! With her expertise in statistical methods, educational program evaluation, and primary care in underserved settings, Dr. Kost brings new skills and energy to the team.

After serving as Pathway Manager for three years, Genya Shimkin has been promoted to Associate Director of the Pathway.

## COPING WITH COVID

Our Pathway Scholars have demonstrated tremendous resilience, compassion, and commitment to service throughout the year. They logged hundreds of volunteer hours in their communities delivering groceries to elders, offering childcare for essential workers, donating blood, and packing and distributing hygiene kits to neighbors experiencing homelessness. In addition, many of our scholars participated in organizing, advocacy, and demonstrations calling for racial justice.

## SPECIAL EVENTS: COVID ROUNDTABLE AND PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY PANEL

In March 2020, all medical students were pulled from clinical rotations and classes moved online in the midst of the COVID pandemic. The Pathway Team quickly noticed an uptick in the number of students completing online modules. To maximize student engagement and connection, the Pathway Team planned and hosted a virtual roundtable on the intersections of COVID and care of underserved communities. Over 60 scholars joined the call and discussed COVID and prisons, intimate partner violence, homelessness, substance use, immigration, racism, and rural healthcare delivery.

As the November 2020 Election approached, we also hosted a panel on Physician Advocacy featuring Congresswoman Dr. Kim Schrier and a group of UW faculty. Speakers inspired students with both stories of their path to activism and concrete action steps that students can take to get more engaged in advocacy work in their communities.



Panel participants (clockwise from top left): Tony Butruille, MD- Cascade Medical Leavenworth, Genya Shimkin- moderator, Genevieve Pagaliauan, MD- UW Internal Medicine, Congresswoman Kim Schrier, MD- WA 8th Congressional District, Jeanne Cause-Lucas, MD- UW Family Medicine, Patricia Egwuatu, DO- Kaiser Permanente Family Medicine

## 2020 GRADUATES AND ENROLLMENT

In May 2020, at the School of Medicine's virtual graduation ceremony, 51 scholars graduated with certificates from the Underserved Pathway. We imagine that this drop from last year is primarily the result of COVID-related disruptions in student curriculum and difficulty in completing requirements.

Since our first graduating class in 2009, 486 scholars have graduated from the Underserved Pathway!

During the 2019-2020 school year, we had 295 scholars enrolled in the Underserved Pathway, across all four years of the curriculum, and across all five WWAMI states.

## MODULES

Between July 2019-December 2020, the most popular online modules included:

- Human Sex Trafficking
- Patients with HIV
- Ethics of Medical Volunteerism
- Advocacy
- Oral Health

Based on student evaluations, the modules that students are most likely to incorporate into their future practice included:

- Human Sex Trafficking
- Oral Health
- Refugee and Immigrant Health
- Who are the Underserved?
- Advocacy

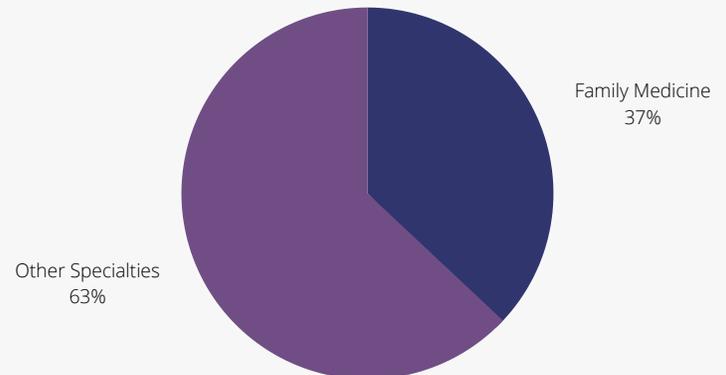
Kim Kardonsky, MD  
Pathway Director

Genya Shimkin, MPH  
Pathway Associate Director

Lynn Oliver, MD  
Pathway Faculty

Amanda Kost, MD  
Pathway Faculty

## OUT OF 51 PATHWAY GRADUATES IN 2020, 19 MATCHED IN A FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY!



## 51% OF OUR SCHOOL OF MEDICINE GRADUATES WHO MATCHED IN FAMILY MEDICINE COMPLETED THE UNDERSERVED PATHWAY!

## MENTORSHIP

The Underserved Pathway team is particularly grateful to our Pathway Mentors this year. While many were working on the frontlines of COVID in communities large and small across WWAMI, they continued to make time to connect with their mentees and offer support.

In an effort to maximize Pathway mentorship to best support our scholars, this year we launched a new Pathway Mentoring Roadmap which provides suggested conversation topics for each meeting and offers insights for mentors about what their mentees are working on in school and clinical rotations.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND GET IN TOUCH WITH ANY QUESTIONS**  
**[HTTPS://FAMILYMEDICINE.UW.EDU/EDUCATION/PROGRAMS/UPATH/UPATH@UW.EDU](https://familymedicine.uw.edu/education/programs/upath/upath@uw.edu)**