

UNDERSERVED PATHWAY

MENTOR MEMO SPRING 2023



Happy Spring!

If you are a new mentor for the Underserved Pathway, *welcome* and thank you! The purpose of these memos is to give you information on what your mentee is doing in medical school along with updates about the Pathway. Thank you to all of our UP mentors for their commitment!

As you meet with your mentee quarterly until they graduate, we hope you've found the [Mentoring Roadmap](#) to be useful. It has topics related to each quarter of your mentee's schooling to help guide your check-ins; use it as much or as little as you'd like. Please contact us if you have questions, need support, or have feedback about the roadmap document. The UP Team's contact information is at the bottom of this memo.

Mentorship is powerful. From our 2023 UP graduate exit survey: *"The mentorship combined with the learning through web modules and clinical experience helped me confirm I wanted to work as a family physician with an interest in public/population/underserved care. In particular, the mentorship from Dr. James Wallace was terrific in helping me understand my passion for rural underserved care. I was able to meet him in person and deliver a baby together in north central WA. These hands-on experiences would not have happened without the Underserved Pathway."*

Where is your mentee in the medical school curriculum?

MS4s: Match Day was March 18. Next month, graduating students will have their two weeks of Transition to Residency before the Hooding Ceremony and Physician's Oath, and then they're off to their residencies in June! Where is your mentee headed for residency?

MS3s: They are very busy with their required clinical rotations. Many students struggle to keep in touch with their mentors during this time -- don't be afraid to reach out to them!

MS2s: These students have now taken their USMLE Step 1 exams and have started their required clerkships. Where is your mentee's first rotation? How are they feeling about it?

MS1s: These students are (quickly) building their base of knowledge and getting some clinical time with their Primary Care Practicum (PCP). Encourage these students to look through the UP web modules and complete a few of them before the summer. Many UP students will be doing RUOP (Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program) or GHIP (Global Health Immersion Program) over the summer, and many of the web modules will be beneficial in preparing for these experiences.

[Learn more about the curricular phases at UW School of Medicine here.](#)

Trans Docs on Trans Care event a roaring success!

On February 28, the UP hosted its first WWAMI-wide webinar of 2023, "Trans Docs on Trans Care." Genya Shimkin, Associate Director of the Pathway, led a panel discussion featuring five trans physicians from around the state. We had two Family Medicine residents, a pediatrician with over 20 years of experience, a private practice family physician, and one mid-career physician scientist. We heard about their vastly differing experiences of growing up, coming out, and living as trans people in their communities and among their colleagues. They also had an array of training and clinical experiences in both urban and rural settings.

We had a great turnout of 54 event attendees. Student feedback showed they appreciated the panelists' different experiences and perspectives. 97% (n=29) of our evaluation respondents said that the event contributed a good or great deal to their knowledge about working with gender-diverse patients and colleagues. In addition, 64% of respondents said they were very likely to engage in advocacy to protect transgender people and gender-affirming care as a result of the panel. We are so grateful to our panelists who were willing to share their personal stories and clinical expertise.

BREAKING NEWS

The UP Team has overhauled and relaunched two of our foundational curriculum web modules: [Ethics of Medical Volunteerism](#) and [Medicare 101](#). Most of the content is publically available; we welcome your feedback.



Dr. Rashi Sharma, MD, MHS at UW Seattle is board-certified in both Internal Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She is also the Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the UW Medicine Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence. Her research focuses on communication about end-of-life care, including inequities with patients with limited-English proficiency. Dr. Sharma is currently mentoring two UP students. Thank you, Dr. Sharma!

The Underserved Pathway Team:

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Is your mentee graduating?

You're invited to the All-Pathways Graduation Celebration in Seattle on May 23rd, 3:30 - 5pm.

[RSVP here by May 3!](#)

We are so proud of our 2023 Underserved Pathway graduates!

UP mentors, if you'll be in Seattle on May 23rd, we hope you'll join us at the All Pathways Graduation Celebration!

When: May 23rd, 3:30-5pm
Where: Vista Café and Terrace at Foege Hall on the UW Seattle campus
Who: UP graduates and their partners, family, friends, and mentors

>> Please RSVP by May 3rd: <https://forms.office.com/r/j3Tfxe4czE>

If you will not be in Seattle this week, but you're interested in being connected with Pathways graduates and mentors in your area, fill out the RSVP and let us know where you'll be!



2022 All Pathways Graduation Celebration



UP graduates 2023 match data

We are excited for all the students who are headed off to residency in just a couple of months! Some preliminary numbers as of April 11th:

- 48 students have graduated with the Underserved Pathway! 47 of them entered the match.
- 26% matched into Family Medicine
- 59% matched into primary care specialties (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Medicine - Pediatrics, and Pediatrics)
- 62% will stay within WWAMI for residency

UP mentor highlights



Dr. Anne Millard, MD, MPH is a full-spectrum family physician at Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital in Glasgow, MT, near the Canadian border. Among her various hats and accolades: she has served as Valley County Health Officer, she was the 2020 recipient of the Dr. Frank Newman Rural Health Award, and she was the lead clinical faculty in Glasgow for the Montana WWAMI Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST). Dr. Millard currently works with three UP mentees. Thank you, Dr. Millard!

Dr. Amanda Oropeza, MD is a Family Medicine doctor who specializes in care for



queer, trans, gender diverse, and LGBTQ+ communities. She also cares for people living with HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and substance use disorders. She provides care from the CHAS Health Southgate Clinic in Spokane, Washington. She currently meets regularly with two UP mentees. We appreciate you, Dr. Oropeza!