UNDERSERVED PATHWAY

STUDENT MEMO
SPRING 2026

Congratulations, graduates!

We are so proud of the 2026 Undeserved Pathway graduates! 70 scholars met the April 1st deadline and will have their completion of the UP noted in the Hooding Ceremony program in May. We anticipate another 12 scholars will meet the April 25th final deadline to also graduate with the UP! Graduates, you have gone above and beyond in medical school and your persistence -- even through a global pandemic! -- and commitment inspires us.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in person at the All Pathways Graduation Celebration on May 19th on the UW Seattle campus. Graduates, you should have received a link to RSVP and if you haven't already, we'd also love to hear your feedback on the UP so we can continue to improve the program: please complete the exit survey. You can also still nominate your mentor as a 2026 Outstanding UP Mentor (closes May 1st)!

Canceled: virtual event with Dr. Anita Ravi, MD, MPH, MSHP

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the May 5th event has unfortunately been canceled. We hope to be able to offer it next academic year! Thank you for your understanding.

NEW: UP Event Credit Request Form

Are you coordinating a virtual or hybrid learning event on a topic related to the UP mission, such as the rural healthcare workforce, care for LGBTQ+ patients, or topics in AI/AN health? If you think your event should count toward UP module credit, please complete the new UP Event Credit Request Form no later than three weeks before your event. We look forward to helping share your learning opportunity with UP scholars!

Mark your calendars for the UP's 20th birthday party: the evening of Friday, October 2nd in Seattle. Details forthcoming!

Stay on track with the UP

Foundations

- Update your UP Tracker when you identify your UP mentor. If you'd like help finding someone, please email upath@uw.edu with your preferences about your ideal mentor (location, patient populations, etc.). Remember that the deadline for you to confirm your UP mentor is December 31st of your second year (end of Foundations phase) so you can start checking in (in-person, phone, or online) quarterly. Be sure to check out the Mentorship Guide for Mentees and Mentors of the UP and the optional Mentoring Roadmap, too!

- If you will not be completing your III through RUOP, GHIP, or MedStAR this summer, do you know how you'll fulfill the UP's underserved-focused Scholarly Project requirement? Have you submitted your proposal? Read more here -- we very strongly recommend completing this requirement before starting clerkships!

- Be sure to get started on the web modules. The only required module and the prerequisite to other modules is Who are the Underserved? Many students say they wish they'd started on the modules sooner because of how applicable they were during their clinical experiences. Be sure to log into Canvas with your UW NetID to access all components of modules.

- Have you taken your 2 credits of non-clinical electives on topics related to the care of marginalized patients? Check the UP list here to see what qualifies for the requirement.

- Do you know about our WWAMI health-related service learning and community opportunities list? It can help you find ways to engage and serve your communities to improve health. Please add to the list if you find great opportunities in your state!

Rising MS3s and MS4s:

- Remember to keep in touch with your mentor every quarter until you graduate! Please reach out to upath@uw.edu if you are having difficulties connecting with your mentor or if your interests have changed since establishing your mentorship. We are flexible and want you to get the most out of this requirement!

- Complete another few web modules in the upcoming months. There's a wide range of topics, so choose something that is applicable to your upcoming rotations. Remember to log into Canvas using your UW NetID to access all module components. You'll need to complete 10 modules to graduate with the UP!

- If you want to include the UP in your MSPE, you need to complete about 70% of the UP requirements by June 30th* of the year you're applying to residency. We submit a list of approved students to the Dean's office in early July. See details here. Please email upath@uw.edu with any questions!

- Check out our document for how to incorporate your work in the UP to make your residency application stand above the rest!

*Note that the UP Scholarly Project is due by May 1st of the year you prepare your MSPE.

Family Medicine resources

If you're interested in family medicine, we highly recommend you attend the AAFP FUTURE (national) conference this July to participate in workshops and learn all about different residencies! See the Family Medicine Advising: Awards & Scholarships page for funding opportunities.

Feel free to reach out to the career advising team if you have any questions about this or anything else related to family medicine.

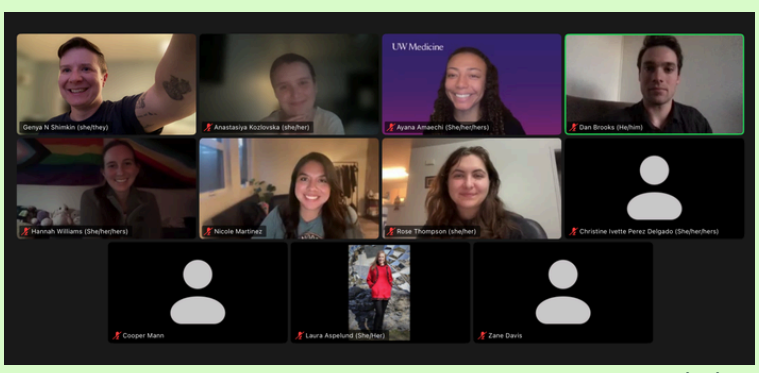
Help us celebrate your work in the annual report!

We want to highlight your achievements in our annual report that comes out at the end of summer. If you published a paper or presented at a conference this past academic year, please let us know through this form.

UP events in review

On January 21st, we hosted a hybrid workshop from Seattle, "Navigating Conflict Within and Between Us" led by family physician Dr. Sophia Malik, MD, MPH. In response to the question "How likely or unlikely are you to use information from today's workshop in your future practice?" 90% of students responded "Somewhat likely" or "Very likely." Many scholars found the Wheel of Consent concept and discussion to be helpful and appreciated the opportunities to reflect on learning from conflicts that arise in medical school and life more broadly.

On April 6th, UP scholars across WWAMI discussed cases related to disability and medicine. UP Co-Director Genya Shimkin, MPH, and UP scholar MS4 Ayana Amaechi (Idaho) facilitated the discussions. In their evaluations, 6 of 7 students said the session was "Extremely" valuable. Students noted that the most impactful aspects of the session included the free-form discussion of the cases as a group, learning about disability benefits in this country, and reflecting on the role of physicians as gatekeepers of benefits and advocates for patients. One student wrote, "I liked thinking and discussing about vaccines and autism with the lens of talking with the parents about autism and ableism rather than just focusing on the misinformation that vaccines cause autism."



Screenshot from virtual UP peer discussion on 4/6/26

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