UW Family Medicine Clerkship Faculty Development Meeting Highlights Newsletter
March, 2026

Save the Dates Next Meeting:
October 9, 2026

March 2026 FDM: Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Spring 2026 two-day UW Family Medicine Clerkship Faculty Development Meeting. We were excited to return to an in-person format and appreciated the strong engagement and collaboration throughout the two-day event. Much of the meeting was focused on the School of Medicine's transition to a Pass/Fail grading system and the way the FM Clerkship is shifting our evaluation process to align with the change. Below is a summary of key updates and presentations.

Attendees gather at the UW Waterfront Activities Center on a beautiful sunny day.

Clerkship Updates

The Clerkship has several important updates so please read the following carefully:

- Beginning with the Spring A rotation starting March 30, 2026, the FM Clerkship has revamped the evaluation process to allow for a **pass/fail grading system**. This includes the mandatory completion of Workplace Based Assessments (WBAs) for all students. The new evaluation process will be outlined further on in this newsletter.
- The FM Clerkship Student Professional Award nominations for the clinical year 2025-2026 (which ended 3/27/26) **will be closing on May 8, 2026.**
- Due to scheduling conflicts we did not have a CLIME presentation at this meeting that counts toward the CLIME Teaching Certificate as we have in the past 3 meetings. These presentations will continue at the next meeting as long as scheduling allows.
- Clerkship Director Dr. Misbah Keen reviewed the **2025-2026 mid-year annual clerkship data**, which shows the FM Clerkship continuing to be one of the highest rated clerkships available to students.
- The FM Clerkship team is always thinking about how the Faculty Development Meetings can be most valuable to attendees. In this spirit, we collected feedback on whether our Autumn meetings should be virtual or in-person, and whether our Spring meetings should be Thursday afternoons/Friday full day or Friday full day/Saturday mornings. After careful consideration, we have determined that our **Autumn meeting will proceed remotely, and the Spring meeting will remain in-person occurring on a Friday full day/Saturday morning**. Either of these are subject to change in the future if we determine that is the best option for the

majority of attendees. **Our next meeting will be held remotely** on **October 9, 2026**.

2026-2027 Clerkship Grading Updates

We had three presentation blocks dedicated to the grading changes at the UWSOM level and what this will look like specifically for the FM Clerkship. Hyperlinks to the presentation slides are embedded in the recaps below.

Dr. McPhillips kicks off our day-one meeting with an overarching vision for the future of UWSOM curriculum.

Dr. Heather McPhillips first outlined the transition to Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) in the UWSOM, which is a framework designed to support longitudinal assessment, equity, and learner development. She also outlined her vision for the future as the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, which includes redefining health professions education through innovation and data-informed design incorporating emerging technologies such as AI, virtual reality, and simulation; ensuring equity and excellence for every learner, across all sites and programs; and graduating physicians and other health professionals with skills to be outstanding clinicians as well as leaders in improving the health of our communities utilizing the Master Adaptive Framework.

Next, the Director of Academic and Learning Technologies at UWSOM, Michael Campion, joined us to demonstrate the COMPASS system and WBA workflow using the WBA dashboard, which will soon be available to site directors. He emphasized the importance of narrative comments in evaluations.

Finally, FM Clerkship Associate Director Toby Keys gave an overview of everything that is now required for a student evaluation in the FM Clerkship. Students are required to submit an average of 3 WBAs per week covering 8 required activities that are verified by the educator. Additionally, students will still be receiving an evaluation much like the evaluations they have been receiving already, with the main difference being that we will no longer be giving tiered grades (such as Honors and High Pass) and students need to simply meet the Passing threshold (a 2 or higher on every grading item). With these changes, the MSPE (or "Dean's Letter") comments will be even more important for distinguishing students.

Presentations

We hosted some excellent talks at our virtual meeting. Hyperlinks to the presentation slides are included in the presentation titles below, if you'd like to revisit them.

Pharmacotherapeutic Update

Dr. Alvin Goo reviewed newly approved medications, first-in-class therapies, and key updates in clinical pharmacology, with emphasis on practical prescribing considerations.

Dr. Patel-Mehta breaks down the barriers and opportunities that running a Clerkship in the Chicago area presents.

Same Struggles, Different Zip Codes

We were thrilled to welcome the Discipline Chair and Education Director of Family and Preventive Medicine from Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University Dr. Arpita Patel-Mehta to describe her School's Family Medicine Clerkship and the challenges that she is faced with as the director. She shared challenges in distributed clerkships and emphasized relationship-building as the foundation of faculty engagement.

Enhancing Medical Student Wellness: Applying Self-Determination Theory (SDT) to Improve the Family Medicine Clerkship Experience

Drs. Tomoko Sairenji and Rachel Ellenbogen described the fundamentals of Self-Determination Theory, focusing on autonomy, competence, and relatedness to improve student engagement and well-being. They used these fundamentals to identify supporting vs hindering practice that impact medical students and applied the SDT lens to clerkship teaching and structures.

Student Panel

By far the highest rated session during our Faculty Development Meeting was the student panel, where we invited eight UWSOM students who have completed their FM Clerkship to join us and share stories about their experiences. Students answered questions from moderators and audience members regarding highlights, best practices preceptors can keep in mind when engaging students, giving feedback, and site orientation.

UWSOM students provide insightful responses to audience questions.

Best Practices Small Group Sessions

Another session that is always highly rated is our annual Best Practices small group talks, and this one did not disappoint. Our expert facilitators led discussion on Teaching Techniques for Struggling Students (Dr. Robin Christian), Learning Environment (Toby Keys and Melinda Frank), Formative and Summative Feedback and Comments in a Pass/Fail Environment (Dr. Misbah Keen), and Site Orientations (Dr. Pam Pentin).

Awards

Award winners join in-person and remotely to accept their awards.

Congratulations to the recipients of our 2024-2025 Outstanding Faculty Awards! This award is given to the top 1% of our over 600 teaching faculty based on student evaluations averaged over the course of the year. The winners of the award were: **Drs. Mary Barinaga (Boise, ID), Matthew Jaffy (Seattle, WA), Jonathan James (Missoula, MT), Kate Landy (Tacoma, WA), Peter Lundblad (Bremerton, WA), Travis Nielsen (Pocatello, ID), and Amy Solomon (Billings, MT).**

We also presented the first ever Family Medicine Clerkship Enduring Excellence Award, given to site directors demonstrating sustained exceptional service to the Clerkship. Congratulations to **Dr. Pam Pentin**, who received this award!

Finally, we honored our retiring UW Family Medicine Chair **Paul James, MD**, and retiring Vice Dean for Academic, Rural, and Regional Affairs **Suzanne Allen, MD**, by presenting them with photos of a bridge connecting two places, representing the bridges they have built throughout their careers.

Future FDM Dates

Our next Faculty Development Meeting will be remote and will take place on:

- **October 9, 2026**