

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY MEDICINE NEWSLETTER



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to this latest edition of the newsletter from the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences Department of Family & Community Medicine. I want to start with a congratulations and thank you to all of you who help us meet the mission of our UND SMHS through the generosity of your teaching time, mentoring, and sharing with our students and residents. The recognition of the Department of Family and Community Medicine as the 2022 recipient of the university-wide Founders Day Award for Excellence in Service is a testimony to your efforts and success. I appreciate the staff and faculty efforts in each and every community. Congratulations again on this outstanding accomplishment. I would also like to take a moment to welcome both Dr. Jennifer Shaw and Dr. Nicole Gullickson to the department as new co-directors for the Family Medicine Clerkship. We are continuing our progress with the Health Professions Education in Rural Communities (HPERC) project here in North Dakota. More will follow, as a

presentation of our statewide results will be given at the upcoming Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health in June 2022 and via Project ECHO. The goal of the HPERC project is to strengthen our rural teaching communities and the partnerships we have for training our next generation of physicians and other healthcare professionals. Again, thank you for all you do and congratulations on your successes!



David Schmitz, M.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Family & Community Medicine



ROME HIGHLIGHTS

In May 2020, Dr. Richard R. Horecka, clinical assistant professor of Family and Community Medicine, Swift County-Benson Health Services in Benson, Minn., was given a Dean's Special Recognition Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Faculty by UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences Dean Dr. Joshua Wynne. Benson is one of many Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME) sites for the School. Pictured are Dr. Horecka (left) with Dr. Josie Syverson and ROME student Jessica Carruth.



DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

“A Case Report: Acute Respiratory Distress in a Patient with Anemia”

Drs. Kotnala, Wadhawan, and Parmar, from the UND Family Medicine Residency Program in Fargo, N.D., recently published an article in the Journal of Family Medicine entitled: “A Case Report: Acute Respiratory Distress in a Patient with Anemia.” As the abstract for the article summarizes the paper: “Acute respiratory distress can be life threatening if proper management is delayed. The cause of respiratory distress needs to be diagnosed quickly in order to administer appropriate and timely treatment. However, it is sometimes difficult to tease out various conditions that can present as acute respiratory distress. We present such a unique case of acute respiratory distress in a patient with anemia. We show how the ability to differentiate between cardiogenic and non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema can help in diagnosis and appropriate timely management of acute respiratory distress.”

The article (DOI:10.26420/jfammed.2021.1262) can be read at the Journal of Family Medicine: <https://austinpublishinggroup.com/family-medicine/>.

Residency Training and Rural Healthcare

The Journal of Family Medicine recently published a series of commentaries on the future of graduate medical education for training family physicians. You can read Dr. Schmitz’s commentary, entitled “The Role of Rural Graduate Medical Education in Improving Rural Health and Healthcare,” at: <https://journals.stfm.org/familymedicine/2021/july-august/schmitz-2021-0235/>.

BP Measurement Essentials: Student Edition

Drs. Jon Allen and Eric Johnson, from the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, and Dr. Darlene Hanson, from UND’s College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines, were involved recently with the development and publication of a student blood pressure learning module produced through the American Medical Association. Entitled

“BP Measurement Essentials: Student Edition,” the online module claims ten learning objectives, including helping students explain the importance of accurate BP measurement and review the current epidemiology, define the basic concepts of BP measurement, identify the different equipment used to measure BP and their key features, and demonstrate how to properly prepare and position a patient for BP measurements. The module also gives students access to resources that will help them better understand BP technique, interpretation, and equipment. It is available at <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/interactive/18594970> and resulted in both a poster and presentation at the AMA national meeting on Sept. 27, 2021.

Making Diabetes Technology Work

Dr. Johnson also helped develop a free, self-paced module for the American Diabetes Association entitled “Making Diabetes Technology Work.” According to the ADA, “The goal is of the program is for health care professionals to incorporate cutting-edge diabetes technologies into their practice by enhancing their knowledge of available diabetes technologies and matching patients to the right technology so that they can reach their targets.” See the module online at: <https://professional.diabetes.org/content-page/making-diabetes-technology-work>.



Dr. Jon Allen



Dr. Eric Johnson

MINOT CENTER FOR FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Peter Sandroni, Program Director for the Minot Center for Family Medicine (CFM), was awarded a scholarship from the RTT Collaborative to attend the National Institute for Program Director Development, which is a fellowship program to promote further growth and excellence in delivering graduate medical education as a program director. Sandroni has been the Program Director of the Minot CFM for the past two years. Congratulations, Dr. Sandroni!



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE WINS UND FOUNDERS DAY AWARD FOR DEPARTMENTAL EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE



UND's Department of Family and Community Medicine fared well at the University of North Dakota's 139th Founders Day banquet, held on Thursday, Feb. 17. Not only was the department given the UND Award for Departmental Excellence in Service, but Professor Eric Johnson, M.D., was part of a group given the Award for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Research and Creative Activity.

Founders Day marks the anniversary of the signing of the 1883 Dakota Territory legislation establishing the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, and is the official birthday of UND. The first celebration of Founders Day was held in 1904. Each year, the University hands out a series of award to exceptional individuals and departments for their work in Grand Forks and across the state of North Dakota.

In addition to its Targeted Rural Health Education (TRHE) and Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME) programs, which get medical students both writing about wellness for a rural community and serving such communities in the clinical setting, the department engaged in several community initiatives over the past two years include: providing mass COVID testing and vaccination clinics, offering physical exams to Bismarck City police and firefighters, running a Children's Asthma clinic, and providing direct patient care at the Burleigh County Jail. In Minot, the department's residents and faculty reached out to provide services to the Men's Winter Refuge for homeless men, provided home visits for "high priority infants" in collaboration with 1st District Health when services were disrupted by the pandemic, and partnered with UND's Department of Population Health on radon awareness in North Dakota.

"The successes of the department are grounded in our people," said department Chair Dr. David Schmitz. "It starts with service from our volunteer physician teachers and community members across our medical school's distributed campus and extends to our residents and students. Many of the communities partnering with our department are historically underserved. Through this lens, education and scholarly activity are viewed as opportunities to improve our service to patients and communities into the future."

As Schmitz suggests, specific "service projects" aside, the department's residents worked with faculty on research projects examining how the pandemic has affected those with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, and how technology might help close gaps in healthcare. A different research project focused on rural access for colon cancer screening, acknowledging that especially with limited access during the pandemic, many individuals at risk may be delaying screening, in particular when living remotely from a clinic or hospital with colonoscopy services.

"The Department of Family and Community Medicine has demonstrated both dedication and excellence in its service," wrote SMHS Dean Joshua Wynne and Senior Associate Dean for Medicine and Research Marc Basson in their letter of support for the Department's nomination. "This is evident through its direct care of patients and our communities while never losing vision of its commitment to the future through scholarship, teaching, and innovation."

Renae Moch agreed.

"As the Public Health Director for Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health, I have experienced first-hand the positive impacts this department has on our community," Moch said. "Our public health team has been faced with unprecedented challenges as we respond to the global pandemic. The faculty and staff at the UND Center for Family Medicine in Bismarck have been a collaborative partner in our COVID-19 response efforts. They have assisted our public health team with COVID-19 testing, vaccination clinics and community health services to meet the needs of those we serve in Bismarck and Burleigh County. This includes services to the most vulnerable populations in our community."

For his part, Dr. Johnson, M.D., was part of a group given the Award for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Research and Creative Activity. The group's award-winning project, "Remotely Operated Biomedical Telepresence Systems" (ROBOTS) is an interdisciplinary, intra-college collaboration focused on telehealth and involving more than 500 students from five disciplines within UND's School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) and College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines (CNPD). The project was established in 2017. Through ROBOTS, telehealth is delivered via four Double Robotics Double 2s (DRD2s) during Simulation 1 and by video conferencing in Simulations 2 and 3. Students participate yearly in three simulations designed and implemented by faculty, staff, and administration from Social Work, Nursing, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. DRD2s are Segway-like wheeled stands with a vertically oriented tablet (including camera and microphone) at the top which displays the remote operator's face. Facilitators for Simulation 1 played the role of consulting cardiologist and operated the DRD2s.



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PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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