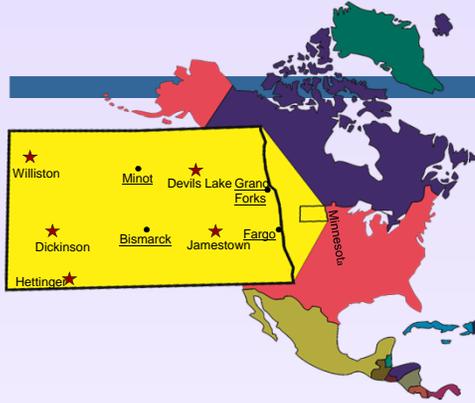


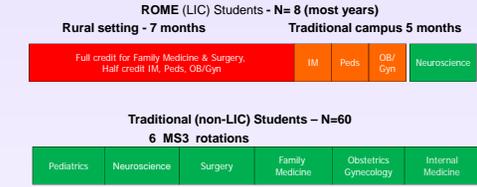
Integrated Longitudinal Clerkships - Outcomes that Matter

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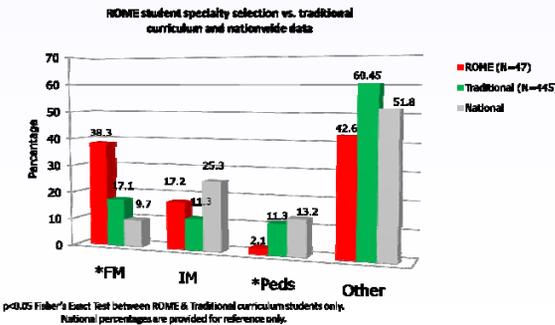
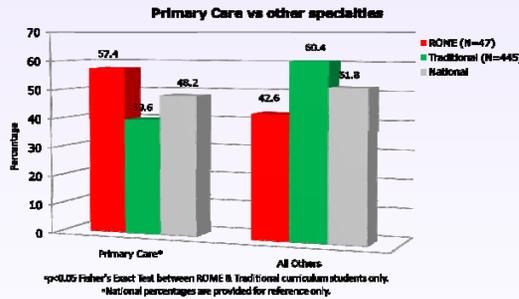
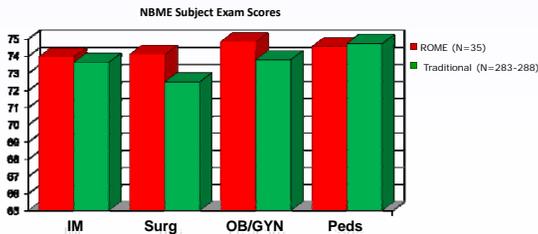
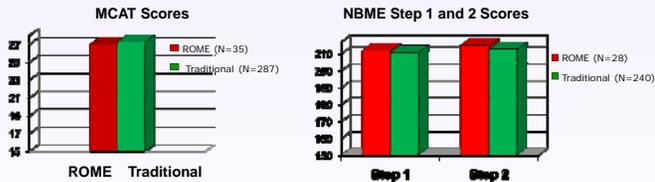


Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME)
ROME is a 28-week interdisciplinary, continuity experience in a rural primary care setting, available to MS3 students enrolled and in good standing at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UNDSMHS). ROME was developed to provide an opportunity for students to experience and learn about rural health care and rural living. Five months of year 03 are spent in traditional clinical clerkships on one of two third-year campuses. Goals are to provide the student with a comprehensive, broad-based primary care medical education while providing an opportunity to experience the lifestyle of rural health care providers. Students learn patient assessment, patient management, resources, and barriers to care commonly encountered in primary care.



ROME was initiated with two students in 1998, with the intent to expand to a maximum of eight students per year. The application process requires the applicant to address several questions about their learning style and commitment to, and expectations of, the longitudinal learning experience. Applications are reviewed by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, the Director of the Office of Medical Education, the ROME director, various clerkship directors, and ROME site coordinators. Site selection is student driven and student negotiated, to include two students at each site. All standard clerkship requirements and exams apply to ROME students. Specialty interest is not addressed. The ROME director (also director of the Family Medicine clerkship), visits students and clinical faculty at each site twice in the 28 weeks. Each clerkship director visits each community once during the 28 weeks. Additionally, there are multiple interactive video discussions and presentations during the 28 weeks. Central to this model is the collaboration of the medical team in each ROME community. There has been no turn-over in site coordinators in the 10 years, except for the addition of two ROME graduates who now collaborate and assist the ROME site coordinator in their communities. To date 47 students have completed ROME.

Examination outcomes – reported in “Performance of Medical Students in a Non-Traditional Rural Clinical Program, 1998-99 through 2003-04”. Roger W. Schauer, MD and Dean Schieve, PhD; Academic Medicine, Vol 81, No 7. July 2006.
T-test analysis shows no statistically significant difference in MCAT scores, NBME Step I scores, clinical shelf exam scores, or Step II scores for ROME students vs. traditional curriculum students.



Graduates from classes of 2000-2005 who established practice in North Dakota – ROME vs Traditional curriculum

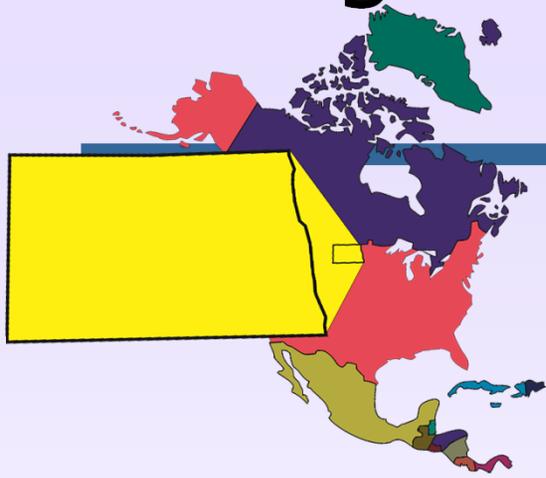


Conclusions

- 1) Students who take part in our extended rural immersion (ROME) clinical training program perform as well in examinations as those students in a traditional third year clerkship program. Students appear to thrive and mature using the adult learning model, which in this setting is patient-centered and student driven.
- 2) Self-selection for primary care might be a factor in pursuing ROME, as there are no requirements for ROME applicants to be pursuing primary care. Yet there is a statistically significant greater likelihood that ROME graduates will pursue primary care.
- 3) ROME graduates return to North Dakota for practice at a rate similar to or greater than traditional students (currently four of our ROME graduates have established a rural practice in one of the four ROME communities, although not in the community in which they completed ROME).
- 4) Sample student comments, obtained during residency of ROME graduates, include “the benefits of the ROME experience extend beyond exams, beyond year 03, into residency, and possibly into practice”, and “...I would repeat the experience in a heartbeat with great enthusiasm”. This support and enthusiasm for the ROME experience has been repeated and echoed by almost (47 -1) every student who has completed ROME.
- 5) ROME experiences contribute to one or more of the principles of the UNDSMHS mission statement, which states “...educate and prepare North Dakota residents as physicians, medical scientists and other health professionals for service to the people of North Dakota and the nation, and to advance medical and biomedical knowledge through research.”

Rural Opportunities in Medical Education was developed, established, and funded with the assistance of grants from HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions, Academic Administrative Units Grant Program

Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships: What Is Different?



- **Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME)**
ROME is a 28 longitudinal interdisciplinary, continuity experience in a rural primary care setting, available to MS3 students at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UNDSMHS). ROME was developed to provide an opportunity for students to experience and learn about rural health care and rural living. Twenty weeks of year 03 are spent in traditional clinical clerkships on one of two third-year campuses. Goals are to provide the student with a comprehensive, broad-based primary care medical education while providing an opportunity to experience the lifestyle of rural health care providers. Students learn patient assessment, patient management, resources, and barriers to care commonly encountered in primary care. ROME participants are encouraged to become involved in the life of the community.