

## For More Information

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Does your community  
have difficulty recruiting  
and retaining surgeons?

Our Rural Surgery Support  
Program  
can help meet your  
community's surgical needs!

**UND** SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
& HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

# Rural Surgery Support Program

## Our Purpose

To enhance and stabilize surgical coverage in rural communities.

## Our Strategy

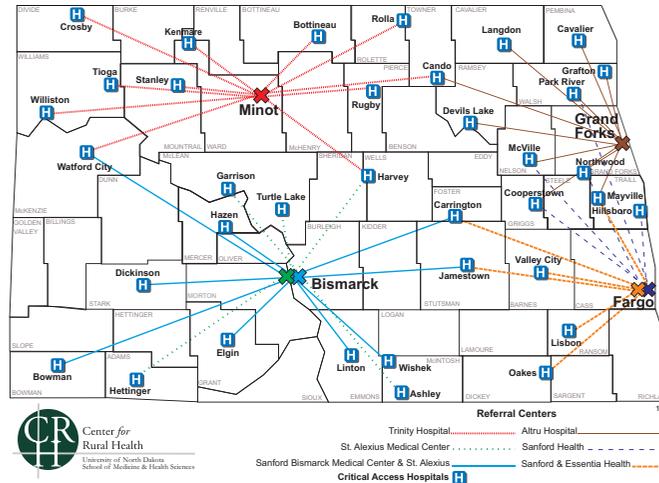
To provide surgical support and coverage for rural hospitals in North Dakota.

## About the Program

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery is a nationally recognized leader in training general surgeons to practice in rural communities. Established in 1982, the UND General Surgery Residency program has placed more than 40% its graduates in rural practices. Research done by the UND Department of Surgery has documented the unique and challenging practice issues that confront the rural surgeon on a daily basis. The Rural Surgery Support Program, a principal component of the Division of Rural Surgery of the UND Surgery Department, was created and designed to aid rural hospitals and surgeons with the rural surgery practice issues in their communities.

Dr. Robert Sticca, Chair of the UND Surgery Department, recognized the need for assistance to the surgeons in the rural North Dakota communities several years ago. The program was established in July 2014 with assistance from the Healthcare Workforce Initiative, a program approved and funded by the North Dakota state legislature to improve healthcare for all residents of the state. Dr. Mary O. Aaland, a general surgeon who grew up on a farm in Northwood, North Dakota, was recruited to lead and develop the program.

## North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals and Referral Centers



The School is committed to serving the state's 36 critical access hospitals (CAHs), and six tertiary hospitals.



## Hospital and Patient Benefits

**Continuity of Care:** Local UND surgeons will provide coverage to participating hospitals and will be available before and after completion of surgical coverage.

**Invested Care:** UND surgeons who participate in the program have an interest in and commitment to the needs of the rural surgeon and community.

**Competitive fees and simplified budgeting:** UND will provide all expenses including medical malpractice and travel. Your hospital will need to provide only the agreed upon fee and housing for the covering surgeon. Fees are generally 30 – 50% lower than commercial locum tenen agencies.

**Recruitment Benefits:** Providing surgical coverage when needed will enhance the recruitment of potential surgeons to your community (contracts can be made for as many weeks as needed).

**Additional Benefits:** Planned activities of the program include assistance in surgical credentialing, quality programs and peer review. Participating hospitals will have the option to participate in national surgical quality programs at reduced costs.

**Continuing Education:** While at your hospital, the covering UND surgeon can provide surgery and trauma educational programs for staff and physicians at your request.

**Our Rural Surgery Support Program can help meet your community's surgical needs!**