

Hello rural colleagues,

We are emailing to ask your help...

There is a concerning reality on the horizon regarding medical students' exposure to rural healthcare.

Since 1974, all third year medical students at UBC have done a mandatory 4-week rural elective in their third year. This has been hugely successful in opening the students' eyes, minds and hearts to the challenges and marvels of rural medicine. It is also one of the most popular courses in medical school.

For a number of reasons, this coming year, UBC lacks a significant number of rural locations to place these students. As a result, UBC is contemplating the alternative that some students will be placed *with a suburban or urban hospitalist* instead of in a rural community.

Worse, it is possible, that into the future, *all* third year students will be placed with a hospital-based program for their third year experience, as there needs to be equity (equivalence) to all students' experiences.

We are asking for your help to place more of these third year students in the coming year.

We know that many of you already take students and residents.... but not everyone does. We are reaching out to ask for anyone who is willing and able to take a (or another) student to support the ongoing rural strategy.

Sometimes, having a student can feel onerous, but it is also reviving, enlightening and engaging. Involving the team of providers you work with (nurses, home care, community pharmacists, emergency, ambulance etc.) to help teach/expose the student to all aspects of rural healthcare is also a great way to share the experience.

Please, *please* if you are able, connect with Kathryn Hill at UBC: [ugsec@familymed.ubc.ca](mailto:ugsec@familymed.ubc.ca), Tel: 604.827.4194 Fax: 604.822.6950 for placements for 2017. Please forward this email to any colleagues who you think might be able to help. We have attached a rotation schedule that can be faxed to Kathryn directly.

Thanks, in advance, for your time and your consideration. This is about supporting our future colleagues to get a real taste of what a career in rural health care can offer.

Cheers,

Dr. Rebecca Lindley, Chair of Rural & Remote Division

Dr. Karin Blouw, Physician Lead, Pacific Northwest Division

Dr. Ray Markham, Board member, Northern Interior Rural Division and Executive Director RCCbc