

# The OSU Family Physician

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Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

September 1999

...a newsletter published by the Department of Family Medicine for clinicians, teachers, and researchers in family medicine

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### Rural Medical Education and Rural Health Care

#### New Director of Division of Rural Health Appointed

The education and training of family physicians to work in the many rural and underserved areas of Oklahoma is one of the driving missions of Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. To further advance that mission, the College recently hired one of the state's most experienced and expert family physicians, **Ray Stowers, D. O.**, to join the Department of Family Medicine faculty and head its new Division of Rural Health. In this position, **Dr. Stowers** will coordinate the educational process in all of the College's rural teaching sites through work with various departments and the Telemedicine Center. Throughout his career, **Dr. Stowers** has been involved in several aspects of rural medicine. He established the first rural health clinic in the state of Oklahoma. For the past 25 years he was in rural practice in Medford, Oklahoma, as the medical director of the nursing home and ambulance service. In addition, **Dr. Stowers** has worked as state medical examiner, aviation medical examiner, and has served on the boards of AHEC and the County Health Department.



Ray Stowers, D.O.

**Dr. Stowers** is also actively involved in ensuring that even the most rural Oklahomans have access to health care. He has served on several Governors' Task Forces regarding physician manpower and rural health, and currently chairs the Physician Manpower Training Commission (PMTTC).

**Dr. Stowers** is very active in educating medical students and looks forward to joining the faculty. One of his goals is to "further enhance the excellent efforts of the medical college regarding improvement in rural medical education and health education. With our resources, this school has potential to become the premier model for rural medical education in the entire nation."

*Ray Stowers, D. O., will join the Department of Family Medicine in September. For further information, please contact Leigh Ann Osborn at (918) 561-8400*

### Durant Family Medicine Residency Program Going Strong

By Terry Lee, D. O.,  
Director, Family Medicine  
Residency Program,  
Durant, OK

The new **Family Medicine Residency Program** in **Durant, Oklahoma** has had a number of successes since its inception in 1998. This newly formed program is serving the rural community in a variety of different ways, and the residents feel they are gaining tremendous insight into the practice of medicine in a rural setting. Resident doctors manned the first aid station during the recent Magnolia Festival. Although the emergencies were not of the greatest magnitude, much was learned about small town care, and the residents achieved an elevated community profile.

As of August 1, residents in the program began providing student health services at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Residents man the health clinic on a weekly basis, providing health care and preventive health care to approximately 4500 students and faculty. The student health care facility will be connected to the newly remodeled **Durant Family Medicine Clinic** via the Internet.

The new clinic opened in April of 1999, complete with new offices for each resident. The clinic is rapidly gaining its own patient population, and patients are now seen three days a week. The facility is located near the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma and University Medical Group.

The Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, owned by Health Management Associates (HMA) of Naples, Florida, is extremely supportive of this training program. Involvement with our residency program is the first for HMA, and thus far, the relationship has been quite beneficial for all.

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## Message from the Chairman



*Charles Henley, D.O., M.P.H.*

As we face the new millennium and the next hundred years of our College's future, it may be a good time to ask, what role should we play? Is it enough to provide the Oklahoma taxpayer a quality medical education at a very efficient cost? Or shall we truly define ourselves by showing how osteopathic medicine can benefit the people of Oklahoma?

Because the Department of Family Medicine publishes this newsletter, let's personalize the question. As a department, for what do we want to be known? What will be our contribution to the future of our profession? Both the College and the Department share the goal of preparing physicians for careers in primary care, and both are quite concerned about issues of quality, access, and our relationship with our community. Because the vast majority of our state is rural, it is not unreasonable to envision our department and our College as the predominant leaders in rural education and health care. We hope that when legislators need information about medical care; or when hospital administrators want help with planning or expanding primary care resources, they will naturally turn to us for guidance.

I believe that we are already positioned extremely well to provide this leadership. We are significantly active in the rural communities, as our students devote such a large percentage of their time to rural clerkships. The success of the R.A.C.E. grant has allowed us to utilize state-of-the-art telecommunications in the form of TEAM stations for interactive video and Internet access so that our "hubsites" can participate in real-time activities at the College. We have recently submitted another grant which, if funded, will provide hardware and software to another 20 sites around the state.

The ultimate goal in having this level of connectivity is to provide a standard, high-quality academic experience for all students in their clerkships, regardless of their location in the state. Through the Department of Family Medicine web page students already get information on courses, schedules, research, faculty, as well as information on residency programs, medical care, and research databases through Ovid and Grateful Med. We also continue to work with the Oklahoma AHEC to promote programs that provide services for rural communities.

By the time you get this newsletter, Dr. Ray Stowers will have joined our faculty as the Director of the new Division of Rural Health. Dr. Stowers brings 25 years of experience, insight and credibility with him when it comes to rural health care. As we continue to serve the health care needs of rural Oklahoma, Dr. Stowers' Division will spearhead the linkage of rural communities with the College. Our hope is to fulfill the promise of our land-grant university and community-based medical school, and create a true partnership between our community and our College.

*(continued from page 1)*

## Durant Family Medicine Residency Program Going Strong

*For further information, contact  
Terry Lee, D. O., Program Director  
of Durant FMRP, at (580) 924-3400,  
or email him at [tlee@umg.com](mailto:tlee@umg.com).*

The first three residents now advancing to PGY III status include: **Bret Hubbard, D.O.**, **Lynn Elethorp, D.O.**, and **Pete Chambers, D.O.** Dr. Hubbard served as chief resident for the first year and Dr. Chambers has been elected to the office for the coming year. Two new residents joined the Durant program in August, making a total of five. The new residents are:

- **Wendolyn Ingram, D. O.**, from Dallas, Texas. She attended the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where she also interned.
- **James T. Luu, D.O.**, grew up in Viet Nam and attended the University of California at Irvine. He earned his medical degree at the Osteopathic School in Kirksville, Missouri and completed his internship at Fresno-Central San Joaquin Valley Medical Center.
- A third PGYII slot remains open at this time. Persons interested in applying may contact **Terry M. Lee, D.O.**, at (580) 924-3400 or email [tlee@umg.com](mailto:tlee@umg.com).

We at the **Durant Family Medicine Residency Program** fully intend to raise the standard of training in rural hospitals to a level equivalent to or exceeding that of programs in metropolitan areas. Telemedicine applications are being introduced and distance learning techniques are being developed with OSU's medical school.

### What's Happening With . . .

#### The Rural Ambulatory Care Experience (R.A.C.E.) Project

By W. Stephen Eddy, D.O.,  
Department of Family  
Medicine



W. Stephen Eddy, D.O.

Oklahoma is faced with critical problems of access to medical care for its poor, underserved, and rural people. These issues demonstrate the need for an increased curricular emphasis on family medicine, rural practice, community partnerships and training programs based on community need.

The Department of Family Medicine began the **Rural Ambulatory Care Experience (R.A.C.E.) Project** in July of 1997 when the College was awarded a grant from the **Department of Health and Human Services**. The purpose of the grant is to develop and implement a rural ambulatory family medicine curriculum for third-year medical students.

The new curriculum entails three major components consisting of: a four-week office-based rotation in a rural family practice, a weekly afternoon session of structured group didactic activities, and a patient-centered community service project.

To implement the project, six rural communities in different regions of the state were chosen to serve as "hubsite" communities. In each of the communities, **Miami, Poteau, Idabel, Enid, Woodward, and Elk City**, an osteopathic family physician serves as a hub-site Rural Training Coordinator. These physicians coordinate didactic sessions once per week for students rotating in their respective regions.

"Satellite" training communities exist within a 30-mile radius of each hubsite. Osteopathic family physicians in these communities serve as preceptors for the students' ambulatory clinical training. All physicians associated with the program attended faculty development workshops to orient them to the new curriculum.

The most exciting aspect of the **RACE** curriculum is the use of technology to reduce the isolation of time and distance in the rural areas. Each of the six hubsites has computer stations capable of videoconferencing. Didactic sessions are conducted from these sites and students and preceptors participate in conferences with colleagues and College faculty via the Internet. The advanced telecommunications technology also allows communication with rural faculty for faculty development. For example, rural faculty can now guide student use of computers for educational purposes.

The Department of Family Medicine web page is used to provide self-directed learning modules for students. Students may take course examinations and submit site evaluations via the web page.

The **RACE** project represents the vision and hard work of many individuals and organizations, such as the Oklahoma Area Health Education Centers (AHECs). Most importantly, however, our program is not possible without the support and efforts of our osteopathic physicians in rural Oklahoma. As we continue to evaluate and revise the **RACE** curriculum, it is our goal for it to stand for rural ambulatory care excellence in medical education.

For further information about the RACE project, please contact W. Stephen Eddy, D. O., in the Department of Family Medicine, at (918) 561-8287.

### WHAT'S NEW Preliminary Results of the Preceptor Survey

A recent survey of our Family Medicine preceptors' experiences and attitudes regarding the College curriculum revealed some interesting data. According to many small community hospital/rural preceptors, our students' biggest strengths include medical knowledge and good interpersonal skills. From the preceptors' perspective, the most important competencies for students to learn during time spent in preceptors' practices are as follows:

- History and Physical Exam (H&P) skills: **78.9%**
- Diagnosis and Treatment Plan: **31.6%**
- Patient Rapport/Communication: **59.6%**
- Osteopathic Approach: **28.1%**

The 5 most common procedures performed in these preceptors' offices include the following:

- Laceration repair/suturing: **61.4%**
- Pap smears/pelvic exams: **33.3%**
- Injections: **50.9%**
- OMT: **29.8%**
- Skin lesion removal: **49.1%**

Finally, **78.9%** of the preceptors expressed interest in workshops on clinical teaching and related topics. The Department of Family Medicine collected these data over the 1998-99 academic year. They are being utilized to help the department achieve its curricular objectives.

For further information regarding the preceptor survey, please contact Dr. Shannon Turner in the Department of Family Medicine, at (918) 561-8289.

The OSU Family Physician newsletter is published by the Department of Family Medicine at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. We welcome your ideas for articles and features.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS...

October 22-28th, 1999

"A Resolution for the New Millennium: Closing the Gaps"  
110th AAMC Annual Meeting, Hilton Washington & Towers and Omni Shoreham, Washington, DC

April 29th-May 2nd, 2000

"From Community-Campus Partnerships to Capitol Hill: A Policy Agenda for Health in the 21st Century"  
The 4th Annual Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Conference (for further information, see the website at [futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph.html](http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph.html))



## Check out these ON-LINE RESOURCES...

[www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/rhsr/default.asp](http://www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/rhsr/default.asp)

National Rural Health Services Research Database

[www.hal.usda.gov/tric/trichs](http://www.hal.usda.gov/tric/trichs)

Rural Information Center Health Service Website

[www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)

Rural information for health professionals and patients

[www.usda.gov/rus/dlt/dlml.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/dlt/dlml.htm)

Distance Learning and Telemedicine

[www.bitc.gatech.edu/bitcprojects/ehc/index.html](http://www.bitc.gatech.edu/bitcprojects/ehc/index.html)

The Electronic House-Call Project

[www.NHRArural.org](http://www.NHRArural.org)

National Rural Health Association



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