



2022 Legislative Day



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Wyoming WWAMI Spring 2022 Newsletter

This year's medical school graduation for our Wyoming WWAMI students will be May 28th, and for the first time since 2019 the ceremony will be in person in Seattle. The most popular specialty for this year's Wyoming students is internal medicine (6 students), followed by family medicine (3 students), pediatrics (2 students) psychiatry (1 categorical and 1 combined psych/IM), anesthesiology (2 students), emergency medicine (2 students) and general surgery (2 students), and one student each going into Urology and ENT. Our students do very well in the match and many of our Wyoming students will be doing their residencies in this part of the country including at the University of Washington, University of Colorado, University of Utah, Oregon Health Sciences, Boise Family Medicine, UCLA, UC Davis, Phoenix Children's Hospital, and University of New Mexico, with other students going all over the country for residency, including this year at places like Northwestern, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Yale, University of Iowa, etc. Hopefully in a few years most of these amazing young doctors will be back in our state practicing medicine.

I'd also like to mention, if you haven't already heard, that this fall we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Wyoming WWAMI during the Wyoming Medical Society Annual Meeting in Laramie the weekend of October 28th-30th. There will be lots of fun events including Wyoming WWAMI class reunions, medical student poster presentations, and a gala dinner as well as lots of CME. Check the WMS website for registration information and we hope to see you there!

Thanks for all you do for medical education in our great state!

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Introducing **John Willford, Ph.D.**

WWAMI Medical Education,
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John Willford, Ph.D. is a microbiologist who has been employed by the University of Wyoming since 2009 with the department of Molecular Biology, the Life Sciences program, and the WWAMI Medical Education program. His research has focused on foodborne pathogens, diagnostic methods, antibiotic resistance, bacteriophages, environmental bioremediation, and improving classroom instruction in the life sciences. At UW, most would know John as a dedicated, student-centered instructor. Having taught *General Biology*, microbiology labs, and a variety of other classes has allowed him to directly teach over 3,000 students for UW. In 2017, he began teaching for the WWAMI Medical Education program as the block lead for *Invaders & Defenders* which focuses on microbiology and immunology. In 2021, Dr. Willford accepted a role with the University of Washington School of Medicine to co-direct *Invaders & Defenders* for the five-state WWAMI region. As of January 2022, all of his efforts at UW have shifted to WWAMI Medical Education as the Assistant Director of the program.

WWAMI Day at the Capitol



WWAMI Day at the Capitol

Each year, the Legislature looks forward to WWAMI day at the Capitol. Students of the current first-year class convene in Cheyenne for a legislative lunch, introductions in the House and Senate, and private meeting with the Governor. This year's group was fortunate enough to be invited onto the Senate floor by Former Senate President Drew Perkins (R-Casper) and were later cheered and praised in the House of Representatives after a warm introduction from Minority Floor Leader Cathy Connolly (D-Laramie).

2022
Clinical
Transition
Ceremony
Laramie, WY



The Wyoming WWAMI Medical Education Program - Wyoming's Medical School, on the University of Wyoming (UW) campus held its White Coat and Clinical Transition Ceremony Friday, March 11, in the UW Conference Center in Laramie.

The event, which recognizes the completion of the first two-year "Foundations" phase of the medical students' curriculum on the UW campus, and celebrates these twenty E-2020 second-year students entry into the clinical phase of their medical education. The clinical phase includes the start of interacting directly with actual patients, shadowing physicians in practice, clinical rotations in medical facilities throughout the five state WWAMI region (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) and deciding on what path of medical specialty these students would like to pursue in their residencies.

Following introductory remarks from WWAMI Program Director, Brant Schumaker and Dr. Suzanne Allen, vice dean for academic, rural and regional affairs with the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM), WWAMI alumnus Dr. Jasper Chen (class of E-2003), spoke about the experiences that await these medical students on their clinical journeys.

Special recognition was given to three student award recipients. The Pheneger Community Health Award was presented to Dane Patey, of Casper and Taylor Kennedy, of Cody. The Howard Willson, MD Excellence in Primary Care Award was presented to Audrey Lucas, of Wheatland.

Two WWAMI faculty members were also honored as Outstanding WWAMI faculty by the E-2020 class of medical students in a tie vote - Sreejayan Nair, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice, with the UW School of Pharmacy and Dr. Tracey Haas, WWAMI clinical assistant professor/academic support.