

Upcoming Events

- [Interprofessional Collaborations: Advancing Wisconsin's Healthcare and Education, Nov. 10-11](#)
- [Wisconsin GME Summit: Celebrating Successes and Exploring Opportunities, Nov. 15](#)

Welcome!

Greetings, and welcome to the new WCMEW newsletter! As most of you are aware, the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce (WCMEW) has been around for over 10 years. However, this is the first time we are publishing a newsletter.

Our purpose is to inform stakeholders in Wisconsin's health care workforce about events in areas such as workforce supply, changes in health care delivery, forces that are impacting health professions, and current WCMEW activities.

We hope you find our newsletter informative and useful. Thanks for reading!

Registration Open for Wisconsin GME Summit, November 15 in Madison

On November 15, the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce (WCMEW) and the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME (WCRGME) will offer the one-day event, "Wisconsin GME Summit: Celebrating Successes and Exploring Opportunities" at the Best Western Plus – Inn on the Park in Madison. To register, visit: <https://events.SignUp4.net/16WCMEW-GME-1115>.

This one-day Summit will highlight the challenges and opportunities in expanding graduate medical education (GME) programs in Wisconsin. The agenda will include an examination of the current state of Wisconsin's GME efforts, as well as two panel discussions focused on Wisconsin's state-funded GME grant programs, one including grantees who have started new programs and the other with those who have expanded existing programs. Using small group discussion format, the afternoon will focus on the topics of garnering broad community support for a GME program, effectively using technology to deliver GME training and support, and developing GME partnerships for efficiency.

For more information, including the day's agenda and online registration, visit <https://events.SignUp4.net/16WCMEW-GME-1115>. Content questions can be directed to George Quinn, WMCEW executive director, at gquinn@wcmew.org or at 608-516-5189. Registration questions can be directed to Kayla Chatterton at kchatterton@wha.org or at 608-274-1820.

This event is jointly presented by the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce (WCMEW) and the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME (WCRGME). WCMEW is a multi-stakeholder organization whose purpose is to facilitate strategies to assure an adequate supply of health care providers to meet the needs of Wisconsin citizens today and into the future. WCRGME was established to address the shortage of rural primary care physicians through the expansion of GME. It is a network of organizations developing and maintaining rural residency rotations, rural training track residency programs and rural fellowships.



UW Launches Nation's First Rural Residency Program in Ob-Gyn

With a nationwide shortage of obstetricians and gynecologists, especially in rural areas, the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health has started the nation's first rural-residency program to train and provide care to women in rural Wisconsin.

Residency is medical training where newly-graduated doctors practice medicine under the supervision of an attending physician. The Ob-Gyn residency program lasts four years.

"Residents who train in certain settings are more likely to locate their practices in similar settings. We want to give them experience in these underserved areas," said Dr. Ellen Hartenbach, residency program director and professor of Ob-Gyn at UW. "Since we started the program we've already heard from other medical schools in the country interested in starting a similar program. We see a need that has to be addressed."

Hartenbach adds, "Some women need to drive more than an hour to see an Ob-Gyn. This program plans to train doctors to practice in the rural areas."

According to the American College of Nurse-Midwives, nearly half the counties in the U.S. do not have an obstetrician/gynecologist. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists estimates there will be between 6,000 and 8,800 fewer Ob-Gyns than needed in the United States by the year 2020 and a shortage of possibly 22,000 by the year 2050.

The recruitment for the first rural-track resident is underway. A new rural-track resident will join the program each year.

"We are specifically looking for doctors who want to practice in these rural communities. We train them and hopefully they will stay in Wisconsin," said John Street, educational program manager for the rural residency program. "This is the perfect example of the Wisconsin idea: work being done at the University going beyond Dane County."

A [report](#) on the physician workforce released last month by the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce (WCMEW) emphasized the importance of in-state residencies. WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding said his Association has focused its efforts on ensuring that as physicians graduate from medical school there is an opportunity for them to complete a medical residency in a Wisconsin community, and then establish practice there.

"This new Ob-Gyn residency program is another very positive step forward in addressing specific shortages in rural areas," according to Borgerding. "We know in-state residencies are extremely important

in retaining physicians in our state. If a graduate of a Wisconsin medical school completes a residency here, there is a 70 percent chance that physician will practice in Wisconsin.”

The 2021 Ob-Gyn residency class will have one member, who will be dedicated to hospitals outside of Madison. The training for the resident will begin in July 2017 and the first year will be spent in Madison.

Starting in 2018, the resident will complete rotations in hospitals and clinics in Monroe, Portage, Ripon, Waupun and Watertown. The goal will be to expand to more rural areas in Wisconsin eventually.

The Wisconsin Rural Physician Residency Assistance Program and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health provided funding for this position.

In the News

[Medical residency programs expanding](#)

[Congressional Leaders Exploring Use of Digital Health to Improve Federal Healthcare Programs](#)

[Fastest growing field in medicine is physician assistant](#)

[Telehealth: A Very Useful Tool That Enables and Improves Patient Access](#)

[NMCP's Simulation Center Celebrates 10 Years of Training Excellence](#)