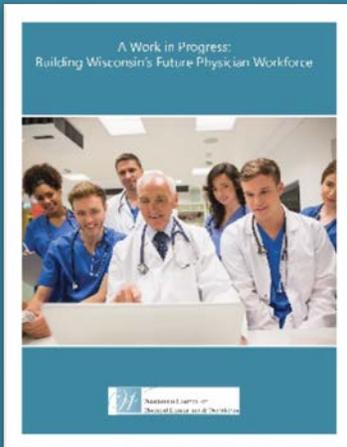


To view archived editions of WCMEW's newsletter, go to: [www.wcmew.org](http://www.wcmew.org)

For questions, contact George Quinn, WCMEW executive director, at 608-516-5189



## WCMEW/WCRGME Summit

On November 16, WCMEW along with the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME (WCRGME), hosted "**Celebrating Successes – Exploring Opportunities: Strategic Thinking about GME Expansion**," where leaders of Wisconsin's graduate medical education (GME) programs met to share experiences in building and running GME programs and charted ideas for moving into the future.

After introductory remarks by Charles Shabino, MD, chair of WCMEW, and Kara Traxler, director of WCRGME, WCMEW Executive Director George Quinn provided an overview of progress to date and laid out expectations for the day. He suggested that as they listened to presenters and dialogued with other attendees, they consider questions such as: What more needs to be done? Are we doing the right things? How do we attain our vision for the future?

In the first session, a panel discussion moderated by Byron Crouse, MD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, explored "Expanding GME: Lessons Learned." Panelists included:

- Jon Lehrmann, MD, chairman, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine, The Medical College of Wisconsin
- Greg Thompson, MD, chief medical officer and director of medical education, Gunderson Medical Foundation
- Allen Last, MD, MPH, director, Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency, Mosaic Family Health
- Art Walaszek, MD, residency training director, Department of Psychiatry, UW School of Medicine & Public Health
- Ellen Hartenbach, MD, director, Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program, UW School of Medicine & Public Health

The panelists highlighted successes, such as:

- Student interest is increasing
- Enhanced procedural training
- Rural partnerships have been enhanced
- Local health systems and physicians are supportive

Challenges and lessons learned included:

- Volumes at training sites and program capacity are limitations
- Programs should be mindful of the impact on the residents' family for "away rotations"
- Long-term funding is an issue
- Local support is needed from health systems and physicians

The next agenda item, "Investing in Success: Garnering Broad Financial Support for GME Expansion," included Dr. Lee Vogel, Fox Valley Family Medicine Program, and Kalynn Pempek, Aspirus Health Foundation, presenting ideas on ways to obtain funding for medical education and GME from the community as opposed to traditional payer sources. In both cases, the speakers stressed the need for a formal process in order to expect long-term funding availability.

Dr. Jacob Bidwell, Aurora Health Care, offered ideas on how to gain organizational support for GME in his presentation "Engaging the Decision Makers." Dr. Bidwell suggested GME needs to be incorporated into a health system's operations and strategic plan in order for it to be successful over time.

The day's activities culminated in a lively and substantive discussion on the questions posed earlier in the day by Mr. Quinn: What more needs to be done? Are we doing the right things? How do we attain our vision for the future?

Tim Size, executive director, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, was the facilitator for the session. Attendees prioritized a number of major issue areas, including: Funding; Partnerships/Collaboration; Rules and 'Barrier Busting' (ACGME, RRC); Data and Policy; and Marketing/Education/Awareness. The group suggested the list of issues be incorporated into WCMEW's strategic planning process.

The agenda and handouts for the Summit can be found at: <http://www.wha.org/wcmew11-15-16.aspx>.

## **Group Taking Steps to Expand GME in Northern and Central Wisconsin**

*Competing health systems, hospitals, medical schools and residencies work together to educate the doctors of tomorrow*

**WAUSAU (12-7-16)** --- The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW)-Central Wisconsin Campus was awarded a grant through the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment to conduct a northern and central Wisconsin regional assessment of graduate medical education (GME) need and capacity. This award is phase one of a possible three-phase project to ultimately develop and sustain GME expansion.

The Wisconsin Northern & Central GME group (WiNC GME) is doing something rival health systems don't typically do—choose to work collaboratively. The group is making strides to better understand the different options for expanding GME such as growing current programs, starting new programs, offering rotations in additional communities, and utilizing the area's veteran's hospitals and clinics. Over the last six weeks, many participated in a series of informational webinars to get a deeper dive into topics like: "Graduate Medical Education in Wisconsin: Options for GME Consortia," "Rural GME: From Rotation to Rural Residency Training Tracks," "GME Funding: Beyond the Basics and Creative Options," and "The VA: A Partner for GME Expansion." The webinars are available to the public here: [WiNC GME Webinars](#)

Lisa Dodson, MD, principal investigator of the grant and MCW-Central Wisconsin Campus dean, explains, “Increasing the availability of residency education in the Central Wisconsin region is an essential component of meeting the physician workforce needs of Wisconsin. Medical students who also complete residency in the region are far more likely to put down roots and remain in the area to practice. Additional opportunities for Wisconsin medical students to stay in the area to complete their medical training will benefit the students, the health systems and ultimately our patients, as we form the basis for a more sustainable workforce.”

One of the biggest surprises of the project has been the early interest from competing health care organizations to investigate a GME consortium model in the Northwoods region. Developing a consortium was originally designated to phase two and three of the grant cycle, but with clear support and the crucial need for additional GME slots in our state, the timeline has been accelerated.

“Education has a way of building bridges. The group’s willingness and enthusiasm to collaborate on GME expansion for the good of our state’s future health care workforce is exciting,” said Kara Traxler, project manager for the grant and director of Rural GME Development of the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME a program of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative.

For more information on the WiNC GME group or to discuss GME expansion in northern and central Wisconsin, contact Kara Traxler at [ktraxler@RWHC.com](mailto:ktraxler@RWHC.com) or 608-643-1060.

## In the News

[AHN announces \\$6M grant to further diabetes care](#)

[Panel: Changes in GME Funding Sorely Needed](#)