Premise: To Know Rural Dermatology is to Love Rural Dermatology
The State of Rural Dermatology Residency Training in the United States

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• Background
  • 1997 AAD Position Statement on Access to Dermatologic Care, (Revised 2017)
  • 1/5 of the US population lives in rural/underserved locations
  • Trend toward urban dermatology practice

• Improving dermatology access in rural America may involve:
  • Targeted recruitment
  • Exposure to telemedicine in residency training
  • Various practice incentives
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- Dermatology Residency Training in the United States (n=147)
  - 11 states with 0 residency programs
    - AK, DE, HI, ID, ME, MT, NE, NV, ND, SD, WY
  - 18 programs in cities of < 50,000

- Rural Component
  - 2 programs have a rural track
  - 52 programs explicitly cite optional clinical elective time
  - 18 programs provide teledermatology
  - 1 program provides teledermoscopy
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• Dermatology Residency Training in the United States
  • Future studies
    • Does website information matter for applicants?
    • What factors may make rural practice appealing for residents?
    • Do optional rural rotations correlate with eventual rural practice?
    • We would love to collaborate!
The University of Mississippi Experience: A Multifaceted Approach
Rural Academic Dermatology Practice: A Byrd, MD

• Location: Louisville, MS: 90 miles from Jackson
• Physician salary, benefits, incentive pay identical to “mother ship”
• Practice Characteristics
  • Profitable
  • Tertiary care referrals
    • Dermatopathology
    • Mohs Surgery
    • Cosmetic Dermatology
    • Complex Medical Dermatology
• Medical Students and Residents rotate
"Volunteer” Dermatology Clinics

- Locations: UMMC Belzoni Urgent Care and Rolling Fork HS in Delta
- Not driven by profit incentive
- Practice Characteristics
  - All 12 Faculty and NPs volunteer to staff RFHS once per month
  - Jasmine Hollinger, MD staffs BUC once per month
- Special Notes
  - Faculty and staff supply holiday gifts for children every year
  - Most patients seen are not able to travel to Jackson
Teledermatology

- Store and Forward
- Primary Care Physician referrals from underserved areas
- Jasmine Hollinger, MD - Lead Physician
- Efficient RVU generator
Rural Residency Slot in the NRMP “Match”

• Two “Regular” Residency Positions
• One Rural Slot
  • 3 months each year of general dermatology in Louisville, MS
  • 3 year commitment to faculty position in rural MS after residency
    • All salary, fringe benefits, and incentive pay of faculty at “mother ship”
    • Applicant chooses where they wish to practice during application process....best if it is their home town!
• 4th slot if funding is available
  • One success: A hospital in Northeast MS funded a 4th resident to return home with a 6 year commitment (choice: hospital based or private practice)
References

• American Academy of Dermatology Position Statement on Access to Specialty Care and Direct Access to Dermatologic Care.


