

NEWSLETTER



Montana Academy of Family Physicians
2021 11th Avenue, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601-4890

Phone: 406-443-4000
Fax: 406-443-4042
e-mail: linda@mmaoffice.com

Summer 2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS- **2008-2009**

PRESIDENT

Larry Hemmer, MD
Billings

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Rebecca Canner, MD
Bozeman

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Will Snider, DO
Helena

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Roman Hendrickson, MD
Sheridan

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Kirk Crews, MD
Stevensville

DIRECTORS

Paul Johnson, MD
Sidney

Heather McRee, DO
Helena

LeeAnna Muzquiz, MD
Ronan

Larry Severa, MD
Billings

Kathleen Harder-Brouser, MD
Hamilton

Michael Uphues, DO
Wolf Point

DELEGATES

Heidi Duncan, MD
Billings

Jay Erickson, MD
Whitefish

ALTERNATE DELEGATES

LeeAnna Muzquiz, MD
Ronan

Larry Severa, MD,
Billings

Past-PRESIDENT

Jon Miller, MD
Whitefish

From The President...

Greetings from Billings. I have thought long and hard about this message.

Certainly we are all aware of the many issues and messages coming at us from Capitol Hill, Medicare, the insurance companies, to name a few. Most of these messages are negative. So I decided to be more upbeat and celebratory. I would like to take a few minutes and celebrate what we have here in Montana and in the Montana Academy of Family Physicians. First and foremost, we have over 400 dedicated Family Docs who serve and live where you do; not for fame and fortune, but for family and dedication to the medical ideal. We have hospitals and acute care facilities that work hard to provide appropriate, timely and excellent care. We have para-medical staff, dedicated nurses and all types of therapists that strive to keep our state's population healthy.



I also want to celebrate people who work hard for our state academy. Linda Edquest has helped steer and promote our academy for many years with energy and enthusiasm. Jon Miller in Whitefish (and his Dad and Jay Erickson before him) have managed to be full-time docs and put on a first class winter medical meeting. Tom James keeps busy as the Associate Director of the Montana Family Medicine Residency, but has worked to produce a great summer meeting these last few years (and Dennis Salsbury did a great job before that coordinating the Fairmont meetings.) Mike Strekall, in Helena, has dutifully worked in all positions through the Board, sets up our newsletter with Linda's help, and for years has kept an eye on the legislature for us. Kirk Crews, in Hamilton, is working hard to keep our finances clear and in the black. There are dozens of other leaders over the years that have made our academy successful and energetic, for that, I know we all say, "thanks."

So, as we look towards the uncertain future, I think we can all agree that we live in a pretty good place, and work with some pretty good people.

My best to all, Larry Hemmer, MD

Montana Academy of Family Physicians, President

IN WITH THE NEW RESIDENTS FOR 2008

The Montana Family Medicine Residency is excited to introduce our six new interns:

MEGAN EVANS graduated from the University of Colorado, and received her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from MSU Bozeman. She is originally from Wilsall Montana and her husband is from Red Lodge. She has had a preview of our inpatient service and practice and we all look forward to working with her again. She has cared for hospice patients in their homes, and has volunteered as a basketball coach and also as an activities coordinator in a nursing home. Megan has a longstanding interest in rural health care and was active in medical school as co-president of the rural health network and in organizing speakers and activities. She ran the Portland marathon in 2002 with her sister, raising money for the leukemia/lymphoma society. She also enjoys reading, biking, telemark skiing, camping, and gardening –she is coming back to the right place for all of this. Her interests include: Geriatrics, Pediatrics, Sports medicine, wilderness medicine, and rural health.



JENNY BAADSGAARD graduated from the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and received her undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences from MSU Bozeman. Both Jenny and her fiancé are from Glasgow Montana, and currently in Billings. During medical school she participated in volunteer health screenings for underserved inner-city children and as a teaching assistant for first year students. She enjoys the outdoors including snowmobiling and skiing, boating and swimming, and riding horses and motorcycles. We also know Jenny from her time in clinic and the hospital with the residency during her family medicine rotation and are happy to see her staying in Montana.



CHRIS CANCRO graduated from SUNY Buffalo and moved out west to Montana. He is originally from Tarrytown NY. His undergraduate degree is from Harvard where he studied Government and was on the varsity track & field and football teams. Before deciding to attend medical school, he worked for a company on the Chicago Board of Options Exchange as an assistant trader; then worked as a rehabilitation assistant in Massachusetts while preparing for medical school. He was selected for the Gold Humanism Honor Society, and worked as a student manager and a volunteer for the Lighthouse Free Medical Clinic at school. He enjoys weightlifting, basketball, cooking and spending time with his wife Kristy, who is from Powell, Wyoming.



JAMIE FAUGHT is coming to Montana after graduating with honors from the University of Sydney in Australia. Her studies at the University of Sydney included elective rotations in rural “Outback” Australia and with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Jamie has co-authored two published articles: *Habit Cough* and *Stress in Mothers of Young Children with Eczema*. She has also produced a book and video to help children with autism overcome fears about going to the doctor. Prior to joining MFMR, Jamie spent a year away from studies to have her daughter, Kate. During that time, however, she also kept busy working for a Colorado college as an anatomy and physiology teaching assistant, as a clinician at Planned Parenthood, and as a medical consultant for Colorado’s Alternative Defense Counsel. Jamie’s undergraduate degree is in Cognitive Science from the University of Virginia where she also trained as an Autism Therapist. She enjoys soccer, hiking, running, golf, yoga and spending time with her family.



LAURA GOODELL graduated from the University of Washington, and received her undergraduate degree from MSU Bozeman in Biomechanics, Health and Human Development. She took one year off after medical school to have her son. She is originally from Kalispell, then moved to Washington as a child. She has many family members in Montana. She completed the UW WRITE track in Hailey Idaho and did a RU/OP project in Eureka, MT. She has volunteered with meal-and-health outreach programs for the homeless in Bozeman, as a youth camp mountain guide in Canada and worked with swimming and skiing groups for special needs children through Eagle Mount. Her hobbies include building cedar strip canoes, Nordic skate-skiing, playing the mandolin and baking. We are happy to welcome Laura and her family back home to Montana!



ERIK VILEN graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine and received his undergraduate degree in Biology from Luther College. He is originally from Zumbro Falls MN, and has family in the far reaches of eastern Montana and friends in Billings. Erik is interested in cycling, has coached and participated in triathlons, been a sea kayak guide in Alaska, worked as a fitness instructor, trekked across Argentina, and competed in adventure racing and won the 2007 Minnesota Border to Border Triathlon (530 miles, four days). Erik taught college students for a summer in the Native American Summer program. He served in the Army reserves for 8 years including a 15 month deployment to Iraq. He is interested in the culture of medicine, enjoys outdoor sports and is looking forward to exploring more of Montana.



Help Montanans live healthier lives with a rewarding career



as the Medical Director in our Helena office.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana has an exciting opportunity for an innovative healthcare professional. As the Medical Director you will provide oversight to our Utilization Management, Case Management, Disease Management and Wellness Program staff. You will work with Provider Compensation and Informatics to analyze medical trends and provide direction in Medical Policy development. You will work collaboratively with physicians around the state to ensure delivery of cost effective healthcare to BCBSMT members.

Our Ideal candidate will possess:

- Current Montana Medical License
- Ten years' clinical experience
- Working knowledge of Microsoft products, i.e., Word, Excel, etc.

In return you will receive an excellent starting salary, an exceptional benefits package including medical, dental, vision, and prescription coverage, 401k with company match, retirement plan, vacation and personal time, tuition reimbursement, wellness program, and paid time off for community service activities.

If you would like to be a part of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana and its commitment to Montana, please complete your application at www.bcbmt.com or contact your local job service for immediate consideration.

This position will remain open until filled.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

IMMUNIZATIONS IN MONTANA

I am a nurse consultant in the Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)/Immunization program. Having been hired into this new position January 2008, I am trying to make contact with health care providers serving adolescents. I'd like to let you and your membership know that the DPHHS Immunization program has information for providers of care for adolescents, and parent and adolescents, related to adolescent immunization.

Now it is possible to access the Immunization program website by the address **immunization.mt.gov**. This is an easier access than going to the official Montana website and following related links, but the Immunization program website can be accessed in that way as well. There is a section on the Immunization website where information related to adolescent immunization has been posted. One of the items is a fact sheet from Centers for Disease Control to be used with parents of adolescents to alert the parents of the need for adolescents to have vaccines such as Tdap, human papillomavirus, and meningococcal. Adolescence is also a time for parents to evaluate whether or not the child is in need of "catch-up" vaccines for avoidance of hepatitis A & B, poliovirus, measles-mumps-rubella, and chicken pox. Other vaccines might be needed based on health conditions or occupational exposures. ACIP is now recommending that Influenza vaccine be routinely given annually to those 6 months to 18 years of age.

The Immunization program also has available, a brochure explaining the need for adolescent immunization. It is geared towards the adolescents and could be placed in waiting rooms. I have found parents of adolescents have appreciated the information in the brochure.

Another resource I'd like to let you know about is a document prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in April 2007. It is entitled Human Papillomavirus: HPV Information for Clinicians. It can be downloaded from the CDC website but our program could provide it via compact diskette if a practitioner were wishing to have the information in that format. Do know of a way your membership could best be alerted to the availability of this document?

Judith Gedrose, RN, MN, Nurse Consultant,

Montana DPPHES, Cogswell Building, C-211, Helena, MT 59620-2951 PH # 406-444-4560

Opportunities for leadership: AAFP Commissions

By Rebecca Canner, MD

Many members are unaware of the process by which the AAFP establishes and implements its policies. The process actually has two major parts: The Congress of Delegates and the Commissions. Policies are debated and voted upon by representatives of the membership (2 from each state) at the Congress of Delegates which meets annually in the fall. These policies then get referred to the Board of Directors which disperses the work to the various commissions for implementation. These commissions are each made up of several members who are appointed by the board based on experience and expertise in the scope of work for that commission. (See Fig 1).

The structure of commissions which do the work directed by the congress and board allows for greater participation in the work of the academy by each of its members. Members of state chapters who have an interest in the work done by a particular commission or who have a desire to share their unique experience and expertise are encouraged to apply for membership on one of the commissions. These applications must be supported by your state board and are then reviewed by the AAFP board. Appointees are selected each fall for a 4 year term beginning the following January. Each commission meets twice a year in Kansas City, and sometimes there is work to be done via email or conference call in between meetings.

The MAFP board of directors would like to encourage any members who wish to become more involved to apply for membership on the commission. It always helps if we know who you are, so members who are interested in this type of work are also encouraged to run for a seat on the MAFP board of directors as well. The more members we can have on these commissions, the greater our voice in the AAFP at the national level.

Montana has had a good deal of representation on national commissions in recent years. Dennis Salisbury, MD (Butte), has recently completed a term on the Commission on Continuing Professional Development and also served as chair of the Subcommittee on Scientific Programming. Prior to a full-scale restructuring of the Commission structure in 2006, Jeffrey Zavala, MD (Red Lodge) was a member of the Committee on Rural Health. Currently, I serve on the Commission of Membership and Member Services and chair the Special Constituencies Subcommittee.

For further information regarding the AAFP commissions please visit <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/aboutus/governance.html> or contact Linda Edquest, MAFP chapter executive or one of the board members/officers.



MT WWAMI PreMed Conference
April 12, 2008, MSU Bozeman
By Jay Erickson, MD

Approximately 95 people attended the April 12th PreMed Conference in Bozeman, with mostly students along with undergraduate advisors from area colleges and universities. Presenters from UWSOM, MSU, the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the MT WWAMI Clinical Education Office were on hand to offer details about the application and financing process, MCAT preparation, WWAMI/WICHE certification process in MT, and med school interview preparation. Also, mock interviews were offered with audience volunteers.

Dr. Robert Schoene, the newly appointed Associate Director of the WWAMI program, was the luncheon guest speaker. His personal and impassioned talk was well received by everyone. We extend a heartfelt thanks to our guestpresenters, Laurie Tobol with OCHE, Jane Cary for her MCAT session, Diane Noecker, a Financial Aid Officer, Pat Fero, an Admissions Officer and Felicity Abeyta, Program Coordinator of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, all with the UWSOM, and Dr. Robert Schoene. A very special thanks to our sponsors--without whom it would not have been possible to bring together this piece of the medical school process.

For more information about the event or to access the PreMed manual, which covers everything students need to know about applying to the MT WWAMI program, go to <http://uwmedicine.washington.edu/Education/WWAMI/RegionalOffices/Montana.htm> and click on the link to the manual. The next conference is planned for spring 2010.

New for Missoula '08 Family Medicine Third-year Clerkship

Missoula~Dr. Judy Visscher and Dr. Janice Gomersall

The Family Practice Clerkship in Missoula has a unique opportunity to participate with many family practice doctors in a wide range of settings, including a multi-specialty clinic practice (Western Montana Clinic), a community health center (Partnership Health center), a hospital based single specialty practice (Community Medical Center), and an HMO (Curry Student Health Center at UofM). Family Practice physicians in each location have different styles--some focused on OB and family care, others on a more defined patient population, like the homeless or the university community. There is also diversity among our family practice physicians as to on-call duties, with some physicians using hospitalists and others continuing to take night call for admissions and OB patients as well as ER visits. This clerkship is a part of the third year Missoula TRACK, which allows third year WWAMI students to spend their third year in Missoula.



Political Action Committee Gives Family Physicians More Powerful Voice

You can learn more about FamMedPAC at

www.fammedpac.org, or call Mark Cribben at 1-800-494-3240

Montana Family Physician of the Year, 2008

Dr Ron Miller, Whitefish



During 36 years behind a stethoscope in the same small town, a family doctor has a pretty good chance of witnessing the parade of generations. Dr. Ron Miller has been in the front lines for many Whitefish families—and counts that participation as a great joy. “Relationships,” he said without missing a beat, when asked to consider the favorite part of his practice. “I’ve had patients that I delivered their children, and now I’ve delivered that child’s baby.”

His sphere of influence, however, stretches far beyond the local. He received the award in June at the academy’s Annual Primary Care Conference at Chico Hot Springs. Words didn’t come quite so easily in his response to that honor. “I don’t really know what to say—I’m humbled,” Miller said. “I’m honored to get it.”

When the award was announced, Miller was at the end of a full day seeing patients at Glacier Peak Medical, the Baker Avenue building where he and his colleagues in Glacier Medical Associates—one part-time and seven full-time family physicians, two internists and a family-medicine nurse practitioner—are based. His patients may have been gone for the day, but the evening’s paperwork was just beginning for the silver-haired physician who has practiced his entire career in Whitefish. At one point Miller did it all, serving as the go-to doctor for all of a family’s planned and unplanned medi-

cal needs. But he gave up emergency-room medicine two years ago. Four years back, he quit doing obstetrical work. “I tried to cut back my practice, but I’m still just as busy,” he said. Miller and the other physicians rotate weekend duties to staff their urgent-care clinic, then he maintains a schedule of working four days a week with one day off.

Dr. Miller, a native of Washington’s Tri Cities area, did his undergraduate work at Pacific Lutheran in Tacoma then went through medical school at University of Washington in Seattle. His residency and training, and finally the start to his career, came in Whitefish. “I liked the mountains, I liked the Flathead,” he recalled. “And they needed a physician in their group.” Enamored of the Flathead’s offerings—hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing and more—Miller sunk family roots deep in the valley’s soil and never left. He’s even looking forward to the day when he has the time again to spend on all the Flathead’s outdoor amenities. As he and Jeanie, his wife of 41 years, were raising their three children, they made the time to get all five sets of boots on the trail and down the ski slopes. He coached and helped with their Little Dribblers, Little League and Babe Ruth schedules. Mom and dad got involved with their children’s schools and encouraged them to realize their dreams through higher education. Church life was as much a part of the family as meal time. The strong family life and value they put on education, Miller said, had a lot to do with all three of them becoming high achievers.

Their eldest, Jon, is a partner in Glacier Medical Associates and his wife, Tami, is raising their four children at home. Jon Miller followed his dad’s footsteps to Pacific Lutheran, then earned his medical degree through the University of Colorado, did his residency in Spokane and came home to Whitefish. The family’s two doctors maintain a close give-and-take relationship in and out of the office. “It’s a real treat, kind of an honor to see him want to do what his dad did,” Ron Miller said.

Daughter Lauri, two years younger than Jon, holds a Master of Divinity degree and served in young adult and youth ministries in Atlanta. Four years ago she and her husband, Tom Haugen, moved to Zurich, Switzerland, where Tom is assistant pastor for the English-speaking International Protestant Church of Zurich. They’re also raising their two children on the slopes of the Alps.

Son Bryan is three years younger than his sister. He’s an accomplished cinematographer living with his wife, Kalen, in San Diego. His credits include “Barely Enough,” the documentary on research biologist Kate Kendall’s groundbreaking Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear DNA study, and the Discovery Channel’s Emmy-nominated “Deadliest Catch,” a documentary on king-crab fishing off Alaska’s coast. “They always said one of the things they were most grateful for was being raised in Whitefish,” Ron Miller said. Small-town values sunk deep inside the Miller children and shape the way they live their lives and raise their own families.

Jeanie Miller is a nurse by training, and for the past 28 years has volunteered full time as the teaching leader for Kalispell’s Bible Study Fellowship.

Miller himself stays active in the local Rotary and lends his baritone voice to the praise team at Christ Lutheran Church. For 15 years, he also sang with Glacier Chorale but stepped down nine years ago when he took on more responsibility with a professional advocacy effort on liability insurance.

He's been an active member in the Montana Academy of Family Physicians since the day he started his medical practice 36 years ago. He held all its officer positions; was a delegate to the national academy for 8 years; from 1985 to 1990 represented practicing physicians on the American Board of Family Medicine, charged with certifying physicians; and was board president in his final year.

But his heart lies in educating the next generation of doctors. He served on the Montana academy's education committee, sat for 6 years on the AAFP national commission for continuing medical education and on the AAFP Commission on Education for 6 years.

In 1975, Miller also started the WWAMI Whitefish community clinical teaching unit. All family physicians in Glacier Medical Associates are part of this training faculty. Miller coordinated their program for 27 years until five years ago when he handed over the reins to his son and Dr. Jay Erickson. "One of the things when I was in medical school that propelled me into family medicine was an experience similar to this," Miller said.

Not only does he see this residency teaching program as a chance to re-create his own good fortune, but a chance for him and his fellow physicians to continually refresh their own learning. And he treasures it as an opportunity to shape the professional career and growth of medical students. He said his years working with the academy on continuing education and on the American Board of Family Medicine have been his most professionally satisfying. "Teaching students," he said, has paid the biggest dividends in his own sense of giving back to his field. It's been huge "having an impact on their development," he said —and, through that, a small say in the future of family medicine.

This article was printed in the Daily Inter Lake newspaper March 31, 2008 and was written by reporter Nancy Kimball. She can be reached at 758-4483 or by e-mail at nkimball@dailyinterlake.com. Reprinted with permission.



MAFP Request for Nominations 2009

The Montana Academy of Family Physicians is requesting nominations for the **MONTANA FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR**. The purpose is to honor a physician who exemplifies a compassionate commitment to improving the health and well being of people and communities throughout Montana.

The candidate must be a member in good standing of the MAFP and spend at least fiftypercent of his or her time in direct patient care. A nominee should exemplify the ideals of family medicine, which include providing comprehensive, compassionate services on a continuing basis to the community and possessing personal qualities that make him or her a role model to professional colleagues.

Any member of the MAFP may submit a nomination. Eligibility will be verified by the board of the MAFP. Qualified nominees may be nominated more than once; however, a member may receive the award only once. Current members of the MAFP board are not eligible for nomination.

The award presentation will be made during the MAFP Awards Banquet held June, 2009 during the summer MAFP annual meeting. The physician chosen as the 2009 MAFP Family Physician of the Year may be selected as Montana's nominee for the 2010 AAFP Family Physician of the Year award.

Please send the nomination form, a current CV, a head/shoulders photo of your nominee, and up to 8 pages of supporting letters/documentation from colleagues or patients to the MAFP office no later than January 15th, 2009. Find a copy of the nomination form and more information about submission requirement at the Montana AFP web site:

<http://www.montanaafp.org/online/mt/home.html>

PREVIOUS HONOREES

2006 + + + John Patterson, MD, Bozeman

2007 + + + Mark Zilkowski, MD, Wolf Point

2008 + + + Ron Miller, MD, Whitefish

**Whitefish Mountain Medical
Ski Conference at
Whitefish, MT
Feb 3-7, 2009**

**59th Annual Meeting of the Montana
Academy of Family Physicians
Rock Creek Resort, Red Lodge, MT
June 11-13, 2009**

?????.....PRESIDENTIAL QUIZ, ANYONE.....?????

Montana Academy of Family Physicians
2021 11th Avenue, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601-4890
Phone: 406-443-4000
Fax: 406-443-4042
e-mail: linda@mmaoffice.com



CAN YOU NAME EACH OF THESE

We're on the web!
<http://www.montanaafp.org/>



Mission Statement

As the representative of
Family Medicine and Family
Physicians in Montana, the
Montana Academy of Family
Physicians:

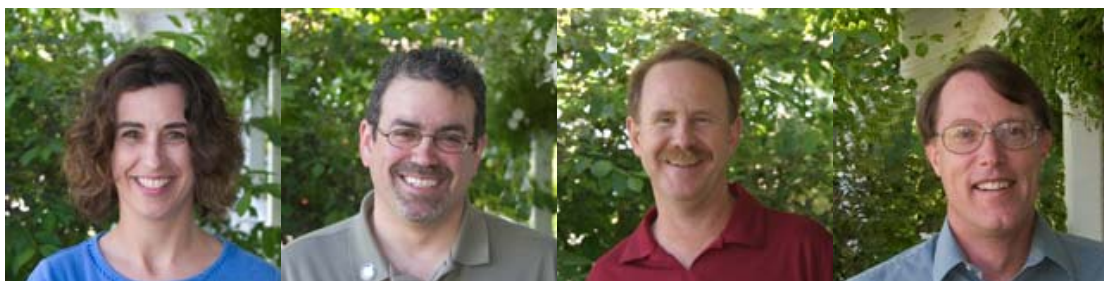
Promotes Family Medicine;

Provides education for Family
Physicians;

Represents the personal and
professional interests of
Family Physicians, and;

Is the guiding force for quality
primary care in Montana

PAST PRESIDENTS WHO ATTENDED THE



2008 MAFP ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING???



E-MAIL ME YOUR ANSWERS FOR A DRAWING AT THE NEXT SUMMER MEETING mstrekal@yahoo.com