

The MARKETPLACE

Medical students are placed in rotations with Wellsboro physicians

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For three Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine students, Wellsboro became another step on the way to their becoming physicians.

To fulfill their medical school's requirement to complete a clinical rotation in a rural area, the three students were placed in North-Central Area Health Education Center-affiliated rotations. The Northcentral AHEC provides rural practice opportunities to medical students from participating medical schools as part of its mission to provide training to providers of primary health care.

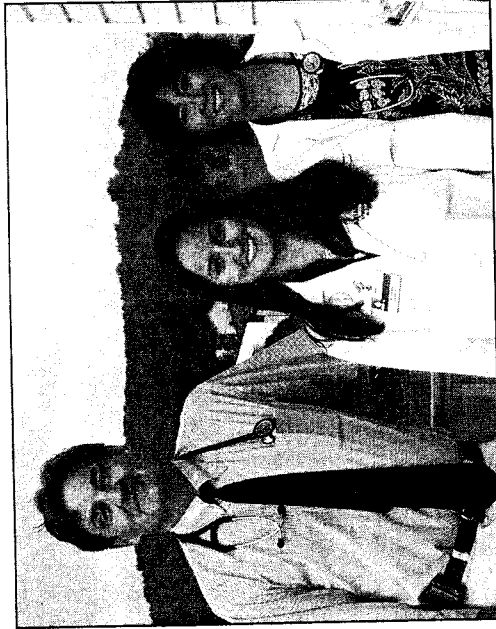
The students arrived in Wellsboro the weekend of July 5 and ended their rotations on Friday, July 31. They were assigned to work with local physicians to learn more about practicing medicine in a rural area.

Returns to Wellsboro

For one, Daria Guelig, this step was a return home. She said, "I chose to come to Wellsboro to do a family medicine rotation with my dad." Her dad is Edmund P. Guelig, an M.D. with Laurel Health System's Wellsboro Laurel Health Center. She also worked with Donald J. Sweetney, D.O., who is in family practice at the Wellsboro Laurel Health Center as well as her mother, Daria Lin-Guelig, a certified physician assistant with the same practice.

Daria said, "I am in the process of applying to both general surgery and plastic surgery residency programs."

She continued, "I have been interested in medicine since I was young. When I was in high school, I would go with my dad



Above left: Daria Guelig (center) with her parents, Edmund Guelig, M.D. and Matt Trzesniowski spent the better of July in clinical rotations. Weber with Dr. Barry Clark and Trzesniowski with Dr. John Terry.



photos provided

stimulating month working with my parents and that's what it was. It was interesting to work with them as a physician/medical student rather than as parent/child. I think we all appreciate each other in a new way now and I look forward to the day when we are colleagues.

"Although I am still planning on going into surgery, I learned a lot during my month of family medicine. I saw continuity of care that is rare to general surgery as the family doctors often care for several generations in a family."

Daria, like the other two students who were in Wellsboro during July, will graduate from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in June, 2010. If she chooses to go into general surgery, she will complete her residency in 2015 and if she opts instead to go into plastic surgery

will finish in 2017. She said, "Moving back to Wellsboro is definitely an option in my future."

The Wellsboro Health Center has been affiliated with the North-Central Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center since 1994 as a student-training site.

Said Ellen Krajewski, executive director of the Northcentral AHEC, "Laurel Health System has always valued the role of student training, which provides students with very positive clinical exposure and experience in a rural setting, and keeps the clinicians connected to the academic setting and role of teaching. Student training is a recruitment tool for clinicians, students and our community, and when a student is well-matched to a training site and a teaching clinician (also known as a preceptor), it is a very positive experience for all. The

for your warmth, hospitality and generosity! My rotation at Wellsboro Pediatrics will remain one of the most impactful experiences as a medical student because of the immediate immersion and interaction I gained with the community from day one. The entire staff welcomed me with open arms, creating an environment of compassion and support that was highly conducive to learning. Everyday my excitement for my future in pediatric medicine continued to escalate. The staff was committed to providing the finest level of care driven by their sheer enjoyment of their career choices. They all embodied the thoughtful, good-hearted type of person I strive to be and Dr. (Barry) Clark is the type of role model that I wish all students had the fortune of working with. Although small in population, you definitely are large in heart."

Why did she choose to go into medicine? She said, "I have a younger sister who is a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Nurse, who has always been an inspiration. But, my decision stemmed from my love of learning, fascination with the human body and desire to give of myself in the most meaningful way I could, as a future physician. In addition, my parents were instrumental in this decision as well, supporting my every move along this path and by demonstrating the joy in life one experiences when working in a career that brings joy and fulfillment."

Asked about her rotation in Wellsboro, which involved working with Dr. Clark and his staff Monday through Friday during business hours, she said, "This rotation far exceeded all of my

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Med Students

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expectations due to the generosity, giving spirit and clinically diverse cases that I was exposed to on a daily basis. It has definitely strengthened my decision to go into pediatrics. I just love the opportunity to be around children."

Tory added, "When you are in a private medical practice, the weight is on your shoulders, so if this is the route you pursue, a key to success is to surround yourself as devoted and caring as a staff as Dr. Clark has, with he is." Asked if there are differences between being a physician in a private city practice and a rural private practice, Tory said, "Absolutely. With Dr. Clark being the sole practicing pediatrician in Wellsboro, I was able to learn and see an extremely larger array of disease symptoms than I have ever encountered."

She added, "I am leaning toward a hospital practice, specifically with the Children's Hospital in San Diego."

Following graduation from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2010, Tory plans to complete her pediatric residency in 2013 and will then pursue a fellowship in a more specialized area within pediatrics.

Family medicine

Matt Trzesniowski of Yardley said, "Wellsboro was a site chosen for me and I am glad because I had a great experience!"

He noted, "I haven't made a firm decision about my area of medicine but am considering family medicine. My father is a family physician and the decision to become one was rather simple since it seems to run in my blood!"

"I worked with Dr. John Terry, internal medicine specialist. "I found the diversity of people he works with interesting. It was unique to experience a different part of American life."

Asked if his Wellsboro rotation had helped him make a career choice, Matt who plans to go

"It was great to have the chance to sharpen some diagnostic skills. Dr. Terry is an intelligent, thorough doctor. He allowed me to participate and learn in a healthy, non-stressful environment. I worked with him Monday through Friday."

Between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, the Northcentral Area Health Education Center, based in Wellsboro, facilitated the training of 319 health professions students and residents with its affiliated preceptors in hospital and ambulatory settings throughout its 10-county region, including 114 students in Tioga County.

Since July 1 of this year, the Northcentral Area Health Education Center has placed 28 students in clinical rotations in the Wellsboro area, including 12 allopathic and osteopathic medical students and 16 Pennsylvania College of Technology North Campus practical nursing students. An additional 21 students have been placed in rotations in other areas of the 10-county region.

The health professions represented in its student training program are: physician – osteopathic medicine (D.O.) and allopathic medicine (M.D.), psychologist, physician assistant, dentist, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, occupational health therapist, physical therapist, social worker, surgical technician, radiology technician, emergency medical technician, music therapist, nutritionist, lab technician, medical assistant, Guthrie Scholars and pre-medicine students.

In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the Northcentral Area Health Education Center maintained nearly 100 AHEC-affiliated preceptor contacts at 52 training sites.

Students are placed in Northcentral AHEC-affiliated rotations through 24 colleges and universities.

For more information about the Northcentral Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, call (570) 724-1945 or visit www.ncahec.org.