



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Medicine

Southern Medical Program

UBC Faculty of Medicine Southern Medical Program 2024/2025 Rural Family Practice Clerkship



Help train the doctors of tomorrow in your community today.



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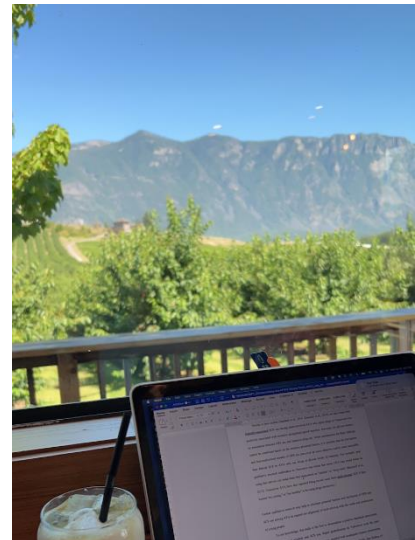
Rural Family Practice Experience – Kiera Lee-Pii, Year 3 Student

This past summer, I was fortunate enough to have been able to experience the beauty of the Kootenays and the extraordinary charm of Creston. If not for my rural family rotation here, I am not sure if I would have made my way out to the Valley. For that, I will be forever grateful!

Creston is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, with panoramic views of the mountain ranges and variety of hiking trails. There was also an abundance of fresh produce in the summer, which we celebrated at the vibrant farmers' markets throughout town. However, what I loved most about Creston was the strong sense of community and genuine warmth of its people. I was lucky to have been connected with the local pickleball league, whose members were exceptionally kind to me and patient with my novice skills. There were also multiple patients of the clinic who were eager to invite me to their orchards and farms.

Here, the healthcare practitioners are integral parts of the community fabric, fostering trust and allowing meaningful connections between providers and their patients. I had the incredible opportunity to work with and learn from Dr. Johnny Chang, to whom I cannot say thank you enough. He embraces a full-scope rural family practice, delivering care at his clinic, in the inpatient setting, in the emergency department, as well as in long-term care. From the beginning, he encouraged his learners to make our learning experiences our own, graciously connecting us with other providers in the OR, anesthesia, maternity care and diabetes education to further enrich our rotation. In addition to the core teachings of rural family medicine, Dr. Chang shared valuable insight and practical wisdom that I will take with me for the remainder of my training and into my future practice. He is evidently well-admired among his patients and colleagues, with a commitment to patient education and patient-centered care. I feel lucky to have been able to work with an incredibly knowledgeable and compassionate group of providers during my time here.

My rural family rotation has since sparked a desire to experience rural medicine in other locations, and I hope to do an elective next year. Rural medicine offers a unique diversity in its caseload and opportunity to witness the tangible effects of improved overall health and well-being in a community. Thank you to Dr. Chang, my other preceptors, allied health, and staff, from whom I learned so much and who made this rotation so rewarding.



Rural Family Practice Clerkship Experience – Dr. Johnny Chang

I love my work! There are not that many people whose job is fun, fulfilling, and exciting.

I am very proud to be a rural family physician and be privileged to teach medical students. I have been lucky enough to be teaching students during my family practice residency and I continue to be involved in both undergraduate and postgraduate education. I love showing our learners that there are so many opportunities in family medicine to find any area of passion. As a rural family doctor, I can round on my inpatients early morning, work a few hours of clinic, go see my long term care patients during lunch and work the emergency department in the afternoon. I build relationships with the whole family of my patients, truly practicing cradle to grave care.

Creston is a wonderful community in the East Kootenays. It has a temperate microclimate - not too hot in the summer, not too cold in the winter. In fact, anything that can be grown in Canada can be grown in Creston; hence, this Valley is bountiful in agricultural produce. We are surrounded by mountains and have lots of opportunities for outdoor sports and then relax with nearby hot springs (some unmarked and hidden in the mountains - only uncovered by local knowledge). The family doctors here are all super supportive of learners, in fact, the majority of the doctors working here were all students or residents who have rotated through this community.

I hope my learners can come and enjoy the recreational opportunities in Creston and the East Kootenays, “choose their own adventure” with what they want to learn within our medical community, and build relationships with the people of Creston.