

June 12, 2018

Dear Colleague:

The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (ESFCOM) at Washington State University is seeking volunteer mentors for our medical students. This is an opportunity to shape and engage our medical students to be agile, resourceful, generous and inventive physicians to help prepare them to care for patients who are in underserved or rural areas of Washington and help bring solutions to challenging health care environments. We will create an “ala cart” sign up system to maximize flexibility in your schedule so you can engage medical students in events/activities you are most interested in when you are available (i.e., no time commitment is necessary unless you sign up for events/activities). While there is some opportunity for one-on-one mentoring, the focus of this program is on group activities and discussions with medical students. If you are interested in being a volunteer mentor to a medical student, please read below.

All individuals from various professional backgrounds (not just physicians or health care providers) can be mentors and we welcome diverse perspectives to enrich the education of medical students. I, as an example, am not a physician or from a health care background. However, I do know what it is like to be a patient and I have many life lessons as a professional that benefit students’ professional identity formation. Here are two examples:

- Early in my career, I struggled understanding the overlap between my private and work life and the impact work responsibilities had on my personal life. That is, having ‘dean’ in my title, I didn’t realize that I wear that hat no matter where I go and there is a responsibility of how I carry myself in my private life. If I make a poor decision in my private life, it can affect my work life. Students would benefit from your own professional journeys and your identity as those professionals, how they intertwine with your private life, and what that means for you.
- My father passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2012. I can share my family’s journey through that experience: What frustrated us with the health care system, what we learned about us as a family, and what we really appreciated from the health care team.

I am sure you have many amazing stories about your professional and personal journeys to share with our students. Our goal is to develop Community of Mentors who bring diverse life experiences to enrich and deepen the students’ education in the following ways:

- Demonstrate ways in which various professionals have maintained a better work/life balance
- Engage students in seeing curricular topics from a range of different points of view to deepen and expand their perspectives on these topics
- Provide insight into professional identity development including time management with competing demands, impact on personal life and goals, being receptive to constructive feedback, and staying flexible within “Type A” personalities
- Offer fun and engaging social activities for medical students

All you have to do to become a mentor is to complete [this form](#).

As a mentor, you can influence and educate a new generation of physicians who will benefit our Washington communities, especially underserved and rural communities, for years to come. You will help students gain a better understanding of meaning behind this famous quote by William Osler, “The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.”

We are interested in people with valuable life experiences in and outside of health care to enrich our medical students. If you have any questions or need further information, please don’t hesitate to email me at daniel.teraguchi@wsu.edu or call 509-368-6574.

Warm regards,

Danny Teraguchi, EdD

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Clinical Assistant Professor

o: 509-368-6574 | daniel.teraguchi@wsu.edu



Elson S. Floyd
College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY