

Re: Rural Medical Education Innovation Award

I am writing this letter to nominate Dr. Daniel Irvine for the Rural Medical Education Innovation Award. I am a second-year family medicine resident in La Ronge.

Dr. Irvine is a family physician working in La Ronge. He was born and raised in La Ronge, and after completing medical school and residency, he moved back to the small, remote town with his wife who is also a family physician. He brings an important perspective to his work and models leadership, innovation, and willingness to serve in his patient care, clinic work, and hospital initiatives. He practices full scope family medicine including primary care, emergency medicine, obstetrics, and addictions care including offering opioid agonist therapy. In addition to heading our hospital emergency department, working as the physician for the survival TV show *Alone*, and taking on multiple medical student and resident learners, over the past year he has initiated and implemented a SIM program for the La Ronge Family Medicine resident's academic half-day.

Dr. Irvine offers monthly SIMs where residents are presented with emergency medicine cases to work through in a simulation-like fashion. This involves the La Ronge family medicine residents, as well as any visiting residents completing their rural rotations with us. We often have nurses, nursing students, and paramedics attend as well. Some scenarios have included wilderness medicine, vascular emergencies, overdoses, and obstetric emergencies.

As a lower resource centre, La Ronge certainly does not have access to fancy SIM labs or equipment. However, Dr. Irvine did not shy away when he saw a need for more hands-on learning in acute care scenarios. He used his knowledge of local resources and contacts and arranged for us to use the Northlands College nursing students training facility. He collaborated with the nursing college instructors to have their nursing and paramedic students attend our SIMS as well. This has improved our ability to communicate with allied healthcare workers in a team-based setting.

Dr. Irvine challenges us in every SIM and does not shy away from the scary topics that are essential to rural medicine. He also carefully frames each SIM in our rural and remote context, often building off of real scenarios that have occurred in our hospital and are good learning cases. He not only chooses scenarios which often occur in our La Ronge hospital, but also selects for situations that pose realistic issues and barriers with our limited resources for investigation and management. Each SIM involves decision making around CT imaging, triaging, transport, and medical therapies specific to what we have stocked in our ED. Not only do the SIMS make us keenly aware of the added challenges of practicing rural medicine, but also highlight our local strengths and resources. They teach us to problem solve, critically analyze a situation, triage, and most importantly rely on our team. As someone who plans to work in the area when I finish my residency, these SIMs have been an important factor in helping me feel more

prepared and confident. My learning around the cases and topics has improved, but more importantly I know when to call for help and who I can call.

I give Dr. Irvine my highest support and recommendation for this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Froehlich".

Dr. Jessica Froehlich
Family Medicine, FMR2
Lac La Ronge Rural and Remote Training Program
University of Saskatchewan