



September 29, 2023

Dear College of Medicine Awards Selection Committee,

This letter is to nominate the team leaders that administer and deliver the South East training site in Family Medicine for the College of Medicine Rural Partnership Award. The leadership team is comprised of Dr. Kristin Foy, Dr. Mahmood Beheshti, Dr. Aileen Hamilton and Ms. Bobbie McLaughlin. I am the Program Director for Family Medicine and the South East site is our newest of eight training sites in Saskatchewan. It welcomed its first four residents in July 2022 who are now in their second year of Family Medicine (FMR-2s). The site was fully matched in the first iteration of CaRMS this year as four FMR-1s started in July 2023.

The site has three locations, Moosomin, Weyburn and Humboldt. Dr. Foy is the Site Director, the site curriculum lead, site assessment lead, a faculty advisor and works in Moosomin. Dr. Beheshti is the site faculty development lead, the site scholarship lead, a faculty advisor and works in Weyburn. Dr. Hamilton is a faculty advisor and leads the Humboldt location. Ms. Bobbie McLaughlin is the Site Program Administrator and resides in Moosomin.

This is a truly a rural partnership across three main geographic locations in the South East. Dr. Foy leads a residency program committee with Dr. Beheshti, Dr. Hamilton and Ms. McLaughlin as members. They recognize the challenges of a geographically distributed site and have made strides mitigating those challenges. For example, Dr. Foy developed (and the RPC adopted) a fair and transparent process to decide how matched residents are distributed to each of its three sites. Another challenge that the leaders have overcome is human health resource challenges in the health care system leading to lesser than expected volume of educational experiences such as obstetrical deliveries. The site leaders are constantly monitoring the effectiveness of the program and adjusting to feedback by the residents. Although some adjustments have been made, many speciality experiences are still obtained in the southeast in Yorkton. Ms. McLaughlin runs a tight ship! She keeps the communication lines open between the three geographic locations, organizes and schedules the residents' clinical and academic activities.

Dr. Foy and the site leaders have made a concerted effort to encourage the resident collaboration and cohesion. Several times a year all South East residents rotate travelling to one of the three sites for an academic full day. The day consists of simulation, other hands-on experiences and planned academic activities. I recently travelled to the Moosomin during one of these shared academic days. The residents completed a complex simulation on acetaminophen overdose with a medication error occurring during treatment resulting in a NAC overdose. In the break they were discussing their next resident wellness activities before I delivered a disaster tabletop exercise. It was great to witness the collegiality of the site in person!

The South East site is an amazing success of a what rural partnership can achieve. This academic training site was created in low resource areas of the province. Each of the three locations and leaders on their own would not be able to sustain a full residency training site. However, by using the resources and strengths of the three locations together, they have been able to deliver a successful Family Medicine



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residency program. I am excited to nominate Drs. Foy, Beheshti, Hamilton and Ms. McLaughlin for the Rural Partnership Award!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sheila Smith'.

Sheila Smith, MD CCFP(EM) FCFP