**Applicability of the *Mores of Rural Family Medicine* Session**

**How Could Family Medicine Educators Use This Session?**

This report of the *Mores of Rural Family Medicine* session provides a script for a Debrief Session intended to follow a clinical experience (e.g., a clerkship or preceptorship). The session includes both large and small group discussions. We believe that this framework could be useful for medical school faculty wishing to provide a collective post-clinical debrief experience for medical students in a supportive and professional setting.

A collective debrief experience develops student self-reflection and communication skills. It also serves to expand student knowledge about rural healthcare delivery because students learn about clinical sites other than their own. Though our discussion focused on the experiences of early medical students following a rural family medicine preceptorship, the session’s questions and format could be adapted easily to other clinical experiences (e.g., global health experiences, urban underserved, etc.).

The origin of this *Mores* discussion exercise began when our rural course faculty considered how to identify then elevate and share the diverse experiences of each medical school student during his/her own rural preceptorships. The reflection on a “significant event” was modified from an existing exercise already in use within the separate University of Minnesota Medical School’s Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP). The words of family physician and rural course faculty member, Dr. Ray Christensen, capture the *Mores* faculty considerations nicely:

*“I have always seen rural areas as ‘mosaics’ each exhibiting a local culture, spiritual base, Indigenous and European and other roots, geography, and life work microcultures. When we place students around MN these thoughts again present themselves to me.  In two hours, we do not grasp a lifetime view, but we engage a thought process that will be helpful in the students future practice setting.”*

**When:**

*Mores of Rural Family Medicine* was a 2-hour session for first year medical students that functioned as a structured Debrief following their rural medical experiences. It was delivered in June during the last week of Year 1. Prior to the session, each medical student had spent a total of 15 days at his/her/their rural clinical site assigned to a family physician. Student site visits occurred in three weeklong increments (Mon-Fri; January, March and June). This rural family medicine experience was a required part of the University of Minnesota Duluth curriculum; every student participated.

**Where:**

The session was held in person in an active learning classroom that allowed for both large group discussions of 65 students as well as small group breakout discussions of 10-15 students each.  Out of necessity, the session was successfully delivered in a virtual live setting using Zoom during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic (2020 & 2021).

**Why:**

The session encouraged students to reflect on the rural experience, as well as compare and to contrast the rural experiences within the class. Students practice reflection skills while expanding their knowledge about the rural practice landscape in our region. The goal is for students to realize the diversity and breadth of healthcare delivery styles and cultures, even within a relatively small geographic region of the U.S. such as the state of Minnesota. The late James Boulger PhD said it best, “Once you’ve seen one small town, you’ve seen one small town.”

**Participants:**

First year medical students (our institution had approximately 60-65); faculty facilitators (one faculty for each 8-10 students for small group discussion)