



The RTT Collaborative

Growing our own...together

Who We Are: The RTT Collaborative is a board-directed and community supported cooperative of rural training programs and educators. As a learning community of allopathic and osteopathic undergraduate and graduate rural medical education programs, our goal is to cultivate and sustain these programs and develop new ones through mutual encouragement, peer learning, practice improvement, and the delivery of technical expertise in support of a quality rural workforce. We offer assistance and guidance in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of rurally located and rurally focused training programs. Our goal is to address the lack of access to healthcare in rural and underserved areas.

Our Values: We are an organization built on the power and importance of communities and relationships.

- We believe that personal relationships are what inspires and sustains medical education programs and physicians in rural practice.
- We believe that collaboration is key, and that we can better accomplish our mission by working together rather than independently.
- We believe context is as important to the preparation, recruitment, and retention of healthcare providers in rural communities as is the educational content of any program or curriculum.
- We believe that the U.S. medical education provides the strongest infrastructure upon which to build training programs for other healthcare professionals.

Why Become a Participating Program?

Joining this collaborative as a participant or sponsor through an annual or multi-year participation fee provides the following benefits:

- Technical assistance by phone, and technical assistance in person at no additional charge, except for travel and per diem expenses of the staff or a peer consultant.
- Periodic preventative maintenance visits by Collaborative staff and/or Board members, with the consent of participating programs, for those programs who do not have or have not had the occasion to request targeted assistance.
- Reduced annual conference (The RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting) fees for two individual program faculty, administrators, or staff, and discounted fees for services above and beyond the basic benefits package.
- Promotion of participating programs on our website and in other public venues and conferences, for the purpose of recruiting students and faculty and disseminating the collective and individual expertise represented in our distributed peer network.
- Membership in a rural medical education research network, administered in such a way that participating faculty and residents can use their participation in the research network as evidence of scholarly activity for the purposes of program accreditation.

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- Faculty development through annual meeting participation and the development of online learning communities, videoconference rural grand rounds, faculty fellowship opportunities, and peer consultation.
- Preference in nominating individuals from participating programs for consideration as Directors on the Board.
- Staff or other peer assistance with the accreditation appeal of an adverse action by a participating program's accrediting body.

Other Direct Services

The RTT Collaborative also provides fee-based services to individuals and organizations who are not participating programs.

The RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting: We provide an annual rural training program meeting called the RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting. This meeting includes allopathic and osteopathic medical educators who are interested and/or committed to the education of medical students and residents in rural communities. An annual meeting increases communication among professionals, while also creating a platform for networking. Lastly, it creates a collaborative forum for problem solving and innovation for the education of medical professionals.

Formal and Informal Consultation: As a network of programs and individuals with experience in professional education and health practices in rural areas, one of our most important assets is the distributed knowledge and technical expertise represented by our members. Such knowledge is integral to the sustainability and improvement of education for health professionals in rural places, and the RTT Collaborative is committed to making that knowledge easily accessible. This knowledge is shared in multiple ways, including peer consultation, the creation of learning communities online, periodic publications, and a masterfile of program characteristics and best practices. A formal consultation may aid in accreditation, curriculum design, and/or sustainability planning, and can be conducted through telephone, videoconferencing, and on-site visits. This service is important for programs that are looking to apply to become a residency, need help with strategic planning, are trying to develop community initiatives, are having difficulty with sustainability or conflict, or are simply looking to improve their performance.

Communication: In order to be a truly collaborative organization, we publish a quarterly newsletter, maintain a private LinkedIn networking group, and use a Google Group for email notifications via a Google listserv. These channels allow us to become much more collaborative, and give both participating and nonparticipating programs an easier and more effective means to communicate, innovate, and problem solve.

Want to Get Involved?

Ask for a consultation, become a participating program, or visit our website:

www.rttcollaborative.net

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Ohio University, Irvine Hall #126, Athens, OH 45701
(740)593-2253