

OAFP CELEBRATES NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH WEEK

National Rural Health Day: November 17, 2022

National Rural Health Day is celebrated on the third Thursday of every November. The OAFP wishes to recognize five outstanding physicians who practice and promote rural health and wellness throughout Oregon. Please celebrate our 2022 rural health physicians:



Gina A. Miller, MD (Lebanon, OR)

Dr. Miller grew up in poverty in Cottage Grove, OR and knew from an early age that doctoring was the life for her. She is grateful to have realized her life's goal by serving rural Lebanon.

Why Rural Health Rocks: "I love the variety of my day as a full spectrum family doc doing obstetrics and the confidence and trust that patients have in me. It truly feels like I'm caring for my family because of the connection and relationship that is created in a rural community."

An Advocate for Suicide Prevention and Rural Mental Health, Dr. Miller recommends this resource for rural health practice:

<https://communitysuicideprevention.org>



Eric M. Wiser, MD, FAFAP (Portland, OR)

Dr. Eric Wiser is the Medical Student Rural Education Director for the Department of Family Medicine at OHSU and for the last three years has been the Interim Director of the Oregon AHEC.

Why Rural Practice: "I no longer practice medicine in a rural location, but I have the privilege of directing the regional AHEC centers around the state. I enjoy the windshield time as I travel around the state. I try to do three things in every new town I visit. Eat locally. I ask, if I were to have one meal (like lunch) in this place where should I eat? I try to recreate, like fish, bike, or hike nearby and I try to learn something

about the local history.

There are so many reasons to work in rural places. The commute is always easier, and it appears from some research that it has lower rates of burnout."



"Robbie" Robert D. Law, MD (Astoria, OR)

Dr. Law is a native Oregonian from Astoria and has been working in family medicine in independent practice on the Oregon Coast for thirty years and is now semi-retired. He has also been on the ORPRN Advisory Board for the past twenty years.

What Rural Health Means: "Rural health is the canary in the goldmine, a microcosm of our country and society that demonstrates how everything is connected and all connections have meaning."



Lily Wittich, MD (Baker City, OR)

Dr. Wittich practices full spectrum family medicine with OB and inpatient care in the community where she grew up, and she loves being outdoors.

Why She Loves Rural Practice: "I love my rural practice because I get a chance to get to know my patients as whole people in the context of their entire lives, including their extended family, their community, their work, and their leisure activities."

A rural health resource that has become valuable to Dr. Wittich in the last few years is -<https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/>



Jacquelyn L. Serrano, MD, MPH, FAFAP (Florence, OR/Nome, AK)

Jacquelyn was born in Fairbanks, AK and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She earned an MPH from the University of Minnesota and practiced as a public health officer in the Air Force before attending medical school at Stanford. She completed her residency at North Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program. As a National Health Service Corps Scholar, she practiced in Hermiston, OR for six years before joining the faculty of the Alaska Family Medicine Residency Program. She worked in Barrow, AK for two years and then relocated to Florence, OR. She currently works half time in Florence doing outpatient family medicine and half time in Nome, AK doing OB/GYN and newborn care.

Why Rural Practice: "What I love about rural medicine is the breadth of practice and the ability to form close relationships with families."