There is a severe, disproportionate, and persistent shortage of physicians in rural America and rural Michigan.\(^1,2\)

Predictors of eventual rural practice include:
- Rural background\(^2,3,4\)
- Early career plan for family medicine\(^1\)
- Exposure to Rural Medicine during training\(^5,6\)

The combination of selective admissions and rural/generalist curricula has been proposed as the best way to impact the rural physician shortage\(^7\)

Carnegie Foundation 2010\(^8\) issued a call to:
- Encourage investment in the community and allow for community throughout preclinical and clinical years to encourage investment in the community and allow for opportunities for clinical training at rural sites in Michigan.
- Develop a comprehensive, rurally focused medical education program at Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine with the primary goal of increasing Michigan’s rural primary care and generalist physicians.

- Develop educational communities in Michigan Rural Health Professional Shortage Areas in order to provide longitudinal generalist training opportunities for rural-interested students.

- Recruit rural-interested students to the Rural Community Health Program (R-CHP). R-CHP students would have the opportunity for an enhanced preclinical curriculum and opportunities for clinical training at rural sites in Michigan.

- Assign R-CHP students to a specific rural educational community throughout preclinical and clinical years to encourage investment in the community and allow for continuity.

- Provide residency opportunities and scholarship assistance for students interested in rural medicine in Michigan.

**Rationale**

**Description of Curriculum**

**Admissions**
- Selective medical school admissions policy
- Targeted post-admission recruitment
- Initial goal of 8-12 students per academic year

**Pre-Clinical**
- Enhanced pre-clinical rural curriculum
- Mentoring opportunities with rural physicians
- Rural community exposure during pre-clinical years

**Post-Graduate and Career Planning**
- Opportunities for rural residency placement through MSU-CHM’s Integrated Medical School and Family Medicine Residency Program (TIP)
- Assistance with scholarship and loan-repayment through National Health Service Corps, Michigan State Loan Repayment Program, or individual community recruitment opportunities

**Clinical**
- Longitudinal 6-9 month rotation within a rural educational community. Defined clinical rotations could include family medicine, emergency medicine, general surgery, OB/Gyn, psychiatry, internal medicine, and/or pediatrics depending on community and hospital resources.

- Longitudinal rotation to include experiences with Michigan’s Rural Access Safety Net partners (Public Health Dept, Community Mental Health, Critical Access Hospitals, FQHC’s, and Rural Health Clinics) to enhance the longitudinal community experience and illustrate how partnered care is provided in rural underserved areas.

- Longitudinal rural curriculum will be taught via small group faculty facilitated instruction or via distance learning technology and will include topics such as common health issues in rural populations, access to care, mental health issues, procedural skills training, professional challenges, and economics of rural health care.

**Curriculum Objectives**

- Develop a comprehensive, rurally focused medical education program at Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine with the primary goal of increasing Michigan’s rural primary care and generalist physicians.

- Develop educational communities in Michigan Rural Health Professional Shortage Areas in order to provide longitudinal generalist training opportunities for rural-interested students.

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- Provide residency opportunities and scholarship assistance for students interested in rural medicine in Michigan.

**Resources and Potential Sites for Rural Educational Communities**

- Existing clinical campuses with Rural residency sites
- Possible Rural Educational Communities with 3 components:
  - Critical Access or Rural Hospital
  - Public Health Dept including Community Mental Health
  - Rural Health Clinics, FQHC, or Rural practice sites

**Traverse City Clinical Campus**
- Dickinson Rural Educational Community
- Gaylord Rural Educational Community
- Manistee Rural Educational Community

**Marquette Clinical Campus**
- Escanaba Rural Educational Community
- Houghton Rural Educational Community

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