



Rural Program

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



June 2025

Dear Rural Program Friends,

We said farewell to the Class of 2025 Rural Program students last month. They will be starting their residency training soon and in just a few short years will be in clinical practice. We hope they will maintain their interest in rural medicine and eventually locate in rural Colorado. Now in the 20th year of our program, we are proud to boast that 40% of our graduates are practicing in rural communities and just over half are working in Colorado. Many of our graduates in rural Colorado have maintained involvement with our program by precepting students. Highlighted this month are Rural Program grads working in Montrose, CO.

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Class of 2025 Graduation

We celebrated the Class of 2025 at commencement in May. Several of the Rural Program faculty also donned their regalia to hood students. We are very proud of this class and excited for what they will accomplish as they progress in their careers. The recording of the [MD Convocation Ceremony](#) is available online.



First Photo: Rural Program faculty and students at commencement ceremony

Second Photo: Dr. Mandy Swanson hooding Divia Kling

Alumni and Preceptor Spotlight!

We have a number of Rural Program graduates practicing in Montrose, CO who are featured in this [alumni story](#). In addition to serving their patients and the local community, they have been involved in teaching medical students for the Rural Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC). Dr. Tom Claggett, who graduated from CUSOM and the Rural Program in 2017 is quoted.

“Being a part of the Rural Track helped confirm that I was really meant to care for patients in the underserved parts of Colorado. For those like myself who did not grow up in a rural community, the training done in rural Colorado gave me a realistic view of what my life would be like as a professional. It helped me to weigh the rewards and challenges that we all decide regardless of where we work. I chose practicing in Montrose because I had already seen that it would be a friendly and welcoming community for my family and I. We love living in Montrose because of the fun it offers us. As a practicing physician, I have always felt a sense of responsibility to help teach new health professions students. It is a fulfilling way to remind myself of all of those that humbly trained and shaped me. If I can pay this gift forward, I am happy to do so!”



Photo: CUSOM Rural Program graduates practicing in Montrose, CO.

L to R: Drs. Kaitlyn Biernacki, Stephanie Sargent, Thomas Clagett, Haylie Petrick, and Avery Mackenzie

Resources and Reminders

- **Rural LIC Final Evaluations Open July 8:** The academic year is coming to an end for our current Rural LIC students and final evaluations will be going out soon. Thank you for taking the time to teach our students and provide feedback that will be critical for the grading committees to determine clerkship grades. Narrative descriptions with examples are often the most helpful for grading committees. We have [resources and tips](#) for writing your evaluation. Please reach out to Dr. Silva, Dr. Lykke, or Dr. Swanson with any questions or concerns about evaluations.
- **Save-the-date: LIC Preceptor Appreciation Dinner Sept 25:** We cordially invite you to attend the LIC faculty/preceptor appreciation and teaching awards dinner that will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Aurora on September 25, 2025. Additional details can be found in the [RSVP link](#).

Contact us: [The Rural Program Team](#)