



*All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual.*  
–Albert Einstein

### **The Internship Program – Our goals are...**

- ::: To foster an interest in medicine as a career;**
- ::: To improve students' understanding of the real-world practice of medicine, particularly in a rural setting;**
- ::: To increase the opportunities for local students of achieving admittance into medical school, physician's assistant school, or other clinically related graduate programs.**

### ***Program overview***

Students interested in pursuing a career in medicine are curious about the real-world setting and have a desire to see first-hand the doctor-patient relationship, the dynamics between physicians and staff, the inner workings of a private practice, and to contribute to clinical research projects. The RMEC internship program gives students interested in medicine these experiences and furthers their ambitions for careers in medicine. Hearing interns recount their experiences with passion and intrigue reveals the value and need for a program to support medical internships.

The primary goals of RMEC's internship program are to foster an interest in medicine as a career, improve the student's understanding of the practice of medicine in a rural setting, and to increase the opportunities for local students of achieving admittance to medical school. The internship program was inherited in 2008 from Spine Colorado, where interns were hosted by Dr. Jim Youssef and his colleagues at Durango Orthopedics beginning as early as 2003. Over the past 8 years, more than 22 interns have gone through our doors. Of those students we have been able to track, 5 have gone on to medical school, 4 have attended Physicians' Assistant school, and one has completed a Ph.D. program in chemistry, one completed an MBA program, one is in clinical research, one is a physical therapist, and seven are in the process of application to medical and PA schools.

The success of our internship program is attributable to the quality of our applicants and the generosity of our mentors. A practitioners time represents extraordinary value; the gift they give in sharing expertise with a student at the sacrifice of other endeavors is immeasurable and speaks volumes of their priorities. We select our interns based on their capability and their passion, and their respect for the contribution and the opportunity afforded them.

### **RMEC facilitates internships by...**

- ::: Advertising physician/practitioner opportunities through our partners;**
- ::: Supporting physician sponsorship of interns;**
- ::: Interviewing applicants and screening for placement;**
- ::: Establishing the expectations for the students to ensure a beneficial experience;**
- ::: Providing mediums for interns to network with each other and with practitioners/healthcare professionals;**
- ::: Following up with intern alumni to provide a measure of success towards our goals.**

**How it works:**

- ::: Students apply for internship openings;
- ::: Selected applicants are paired with physicians/practitioners based on their interests and goals;
- ::: Internships range from a single semester to multiyear commitments;
- ::: Physicians/practitioners are encouraged to write letters of recommendation for their intern;
- ::: Students provide a presentation/summary of their overall experience, upon completion.
- ::: We keep in touch with students throughout their career path.

*Jeunesse Grenoble, current resident in OB/GYN, 2006 Intern:*

"I am currently a fourth year medical student, soon to graduate and start my residency in OBGYN. However, five years ago, I was unsure where my career path would lead. I had applied to medical school, but was denied admission, despite strong grades and test scores. I felt what I lacked was clinical and research experience. I decided to spend a year with the Spine Colorado research department. I helped manage two FDA clinical trials for cervical disc replacements, conducted research on the physiology of backback design, and participated in several international spine conferences. It was great to be involved in patient care, to understand the inner-workings of the FDA research process, and to see the real world side of medicine. When I applied the following year for medical school, I was easily accepted, having added Spine Colorado to my resume. My experience at Spine Colorado has been useful in medical school, and I'm sure will continue to be useful in my career."

*Jessica Branson, current Fort Lewis College senior, 2011 Intern:*

"For the past few months, I have enjoyed working as an intern with Dr. Cooke, a local allergist, and shadowing doctors and PAs at Durango Orthopedic and Spine Colorado. These hours in clinic, research, and surgery have been incredibly influential in preparing me for a future in medicine. I have learned what the day to day routine looks like for the roles of everyone from the receptionist to nurse, PA, radiologist, and doctor. Most importantly I have observed the type of patient care each position provides. I have also learned which fields I could develop a passion for and which interest me less. I have discovered that while the surgical side of medicine is interesting, I am a best fit for the medical side of medicine with my intense fascination with immunology and neurology and can't wait to absorb more information in similar fields."

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	HOW TO APPLY
<p>Objectives vary with the intern placement, but typically include some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To observe how medical professionals interact with patients</li> <li>• To learn the organization of a clinical practice</li> <li>• To gain knowledge in medical terminology and current topics in medicine</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, placements may provide opportunities for qualified students to observe surgeries contribute to medical research and contribute to scientific manuscripts.</p> <p>For more details on specific opportunities, contact Mary Nicholson at 970.375.3647 or <a href="mailto:Mary@resourcesmec.org">Mary@resourcesmec.org</a>.</p>	<p>Students with a strong career interest in medicine are encouraged to apply. Students are expected to commit at least one-semester to the program.</p> <p>Application forms are available online at <a href="http://www.resourcesmec.org">www.resourcesmec.org</a>. Submit forms and letters of recommendation to Mary Nicholson at <a href="mailto:Mary@resourcesmec.org">Mary@resourcesmec.org</a> or faxed to 970.375.3648.</p> <p>Following your application, you will be contacted to set up an interview with RMEC. Additional interviews may be required depending on the placement site.</p>

