

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FACULTY OF MEDICINE LAUNCHES RURAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM FOR KOOTENAY BOUNDARY REGION**

**Kootenay Boundary, BC** – The University of British Columbia announced today that the Kootenay Boundary region will be the site of the next Faculty of Medicine’s distributed medical education Rural Family Medicine Residency Program in British Columbia. Kootenay Boundary joins the program as the 18th UBC Family Medicine residency training site and is one of eight rural sites that sees approximately three-hundred physicians-in-training serving patients across the province.

Dr. Willa Henry, Director for the Family Medicine Postgraduate Program at UBC said, “The Kootenay Boundary is already a recognized medical academic teaching centre with a well-established Clinical Clerkship Program that currently trains four medical students completely for their third year. For many years, the area’s physicians have shown a dedication and enthusiasm for training future physicians with strong support from Interior Health. So, it was an easy decision to choose the Kootenay Boundary as a site for our Rural Family Medicine Residency Program.”

The UBC Family Medicine Residency Training Program is a two-year program which is fully accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada. The Kootenay Boundary program will expose students completing their medical training to local family physicians, specialists, clinics, hospitals and patients across several communities. Students will gain valuable, “in practice” experience and develop all the core competencies required to successfully complete their certification exams.

“The medical and health care staff from all over our region, together with IH are extremely pleased to welcome this program here,” said UBC Site Director Dr. Cheryl Hume. “It represents a significant development for the Kootenay Boundary. This program will ultimately enhance access to physician services and will thereby improve patient care in our region. This program will have a major impact on helping to support future physician recruitment, and retention to our area. It will be effective as it will provide medical residents the opportunity to experience how gratifying it is to practice medicine in a rural area and will encourage them to consider a future career in rural family practice.”

The Kootenay Boundary Family Medicine Training Program’s projected starting date is 1 July 2015.

**PRESS CONTACT**

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