



MEDICAL EDUCATION  
SCHOLARSHIP CENTRE

## Medical Education Scholarship Forum Proceedings

---

### **Memorial University's Learners and Locations Project: a community update**

**James Rourke, Dean of Medicine; Kristin Harris Walsh, Learners and Locations project; Danielle O'Keefe, Discipline of Family Medicine; Mohamed Ravalia, Rural Medical Education Network; Scott Moffatt, Student Affairs; Wanda Parsons, Admissions; Katherine Stringer, Norah Duggan, Discipline of Family Medicine; Janelle Hippe, Learners and Locations project**

**Purpose:** Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine's Learners and Locations database forms the basis of a longitudinal study that aims to develop a better understanding of medical students' backgrounds, educational placement locations and their relationship with eventual practice locations of graduates. Learners and Locations has provided critical data in examining the success of the Faculty of Medicine's undergraduate and postgraduate programs in populating rural areas of the Newfoundland and Labrador with rural/generalist physicians, in accordance with Memorial's social accountability mandate. **Methods:** Admissions, One45, Canadian Medical Directory and Statistics Canada population data from the Learners and Locations database was used for this study. SPSS was used to analyze statistics and ArcGIS was used to produce maps. **Results:** For graduating classes 2011-2018, 35.4% of those students with known backgrounds had predominantly rural backgrounds. For MUN Med graduating classes 2011-2017, 80% of Year 1 Community Health and Humanities placement weeks took place in rural communities or rural towns. For MUN Med graduating classes 2011-2016, 55% of Year 2 Family Medicine Community Placement weeks were spent in rural communities or rural towns. For MUN Med graduating classes 2011-2016, 95% of Year 3 Family Medicine Clerkship weeks were spent in small rural communities or small rural cities. For MUN Med graduating classes 2011-2014, 43% of MUN Med post-graduate Family Medicine Placement weeks were spent in small rural communities or small rural cities. As of January 2015, of all MUN Med Family Medicine graduates practicing in Atlantic Canada, 36% were practicing in rural locations. **Conclusions:** Data produced by the Learners and Locations database indicates that Memorial has been successful at recruiting students from rural backgrounds; providing them with extensive rural placements during their undergraduate MD and postgraduate Family Medicine placements; and that this is resulting in increased physician practice locations in rural areas of the province. This correlates with external markers of success, such as Memorial's Faculty of Medicine receiving numerous SPRC Keith awards as well as AMEE's Aspire award.