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Thank you for subscribing to "PPOVA Updates," a service that provides updates about opportunities posted on Virginia's FREE healthcare recruitment website, [Primary Practice Opportunities of Virginia](#).

Current Opportunities

For a list of current opportunities in Virginia, please [visit our site on 3RNet](#).

Upcoming Events

February 13

[Hepatitis and HIV Webinar](#)

February 18

[Building Rural Youth-Adult Partnerships Webinar](#)

[View more events on our calendar](#)

Recruitment and Retention Collaborative Team Updates

2009 Rural Health Summit

The Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy invites you to attend the [2nd Annual Rural Health Summit](#), scheduled for March 10-13, 2009 in Abingdon, Virginia.

This meeting will continue the work of the State Rural Health Plan, which is a 3-5 year strategic plan designed to strengthen the health care infrastructure in rural areas. This plan cannot move forward or progress without collaboration with prominent stakeholders and partners like yourselves.

As you look at the agenda, March 12 is the actual Rural Health Summit, which will include a progress report of four councils that were established (Access, Data and Rural Definitions, Workforce and Quality). We encourage your attendance and participation with any of the councils of your interest.

2009 Loan Repayment Programs - **Applications Now Accepted!**

Uniting Communities with Caring Health Professionals

The Virginia Loan Repayment Programs are incentives to recruit primary care health providers to practice in underserved areas. The Virginia Department of Health administers several incentive programs that can help you **pay back your loans** while you provide valuable care to a vulnerable population. If you are a primary care health professional and have an interest in working in a medically underserved area, then you may be eligible for a loan repayment program. [New detailed information and an online application is now available!](#)

2009 Student/Resident Workshop and Recruitment Fair

Mark Your Calendars and Register - The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians, the Virginia Community Healthcare Association and the Virginia Recruitment & Retention Collaborative Team are sponsoring a ["Choose Virginia!" workshop and recruitment fair](#), scheduled for March 14, 2009 in Richmond, Virginia. This event will focus on encouraging graduating professional students and residents to "Choose Virginia" for their practice.

Clinician Day - Recognition of Excellence in Teaching and

Humanism

At VCOM's 2008 Student Clinician Ceremony, the Class of 2009 made awards to six residents who demonstrated commitment to teaching and the compassionate treatment of patients, families, students, and colleagues. The awardees were provided with a gold lapel pin, certificate, and \$250 check - all donated by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

The "Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards" allow VCOM students completing their third year clinical rotations to recognize residents who have exemplified excellence in teaching and who served as strong role models in the areas of humanism and patient care. For past three years, through the generosity of the Gold Foundation, VCOM students have made these awards to six residents per year at the Annual Student Clinician Ceremony.

William King, Assistant Vice-President for Student Services at VCOM, noted "VCOM is very fortunate to have the continued support of the Arnold Gold Foundation. The Foundation funded the first White Coat Ceremony at VCOM and continues to supply "Humanism in Medicine Medals" annually for that ceremony. They provide us with other gifts for students, such as textbooks, and their continued support of the resident awards for our Student Clinician Ceremony is tremendous. We thank the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for their commitment to encouraging compassionate care of patients and for allowing us to recognize humanistic role models in medicine."

Recipients of the Excellence in 2008 Resident Awards for Humanism and Excellence Teaching Awards are:

Patrick Tyson Blatchford, MD - Roanoke/Salem Region
Roger Depra, MD - Spartanburg Region
Debra Kay Doherty, MD - New River Valley Region
Neveen Malik, DO - UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine
Donna Sanders, DO - Norton Region
Michael Sanders, DO - Norton Region

Dr. Donna Sanders and Dr. Michael Sanders have been recipients of the VCOM Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards for the past three years.

VCOM's Research Day 2008

The 5th Annual Via Research Recognition Day was held Friday, October 3, 2008 at Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). The topics of discussion and lectures for this year's forum were focused on gene therapy and genetic disease research. The Keynote Speaker, 2007 Nobel Laureate Dr. Oliver Smithies, Excellence Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill School of Medicine, traced the logical progression from gels to gene targeting, and conveyed the excitement of his work through displaying and discussing content in his scientific notebooks. Dr. Smithies' efforts currently include the construction of animal models of complex human genetic diseases to facilitate better studies of their genetics and the resultant pathology, with the goal of developing new modes of treatment, including gene therapy.

Participants had the opportunity to share their biomedical and primary care research through poster presentations. The conference was open to all physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, public health professionals, nurses, therapists, medical residents and students, and others interested in primary care issues and research. Participants had the opportunity to earn CME credits up to 8 (Category A1 for both D.O.s and MDs) for attending this educational activity.

Registration for this all day event, which included continental breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks and reception, was free for

breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks and reception, was free for participants. Brochures for this event were sent to all Osteopathic Medical Colleges, the three Virginia allopathic medical colleges, Virginia Tech faculty, and VCOM students and residents. All information for this conference was available on the website <http://www.vcom.vt.edu/general/news>.

Rocovich Gold Medal: The Rocovich Gold medal is sponsored by VCOM in honor of Mr. John G. Rocovich, Jr., J.D., Founder and Chair of the Board of Directors for the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. During his tenure as Rector and member of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Tech, Mr. Rocovich was instrumental in taking the university to new levels of accomplishment and recognition in education, research and intercollegiate athletics.

The Rocovich Gold Medal award is made to a distinguished scientist who has made a major impact on science and public policy toward the understanding of human disease.

The award consists of a gold medal, an engraved plaque, and expenses to present a keynote lecture at the Via Annual Research Recognition Day on the VCOM campus.



VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment
**Office of Minority Health
& Public Health Policy**
Advancing Health Equity For All Virginians