

**For Immediate Release: Tuesday May 21, 2013**

## **TRENT HILLS RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE HOSTS 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MED WEEK**

### **NEWS:**

The Trent Hills Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee will be hosting their 11<sup>th</sup> annual '**Rural Medicine Week**', June 2-7, 2013, giving med students the opportunity to "*Discover the Rural Heartbeat.*" Once again, the community will host 6 students, who will have completed their first year of medical school at Queen's University, Kingston, upon arrival in Trent Hills. These students will be guests of the Committee as they explore how primary health care is practiced in a rural Ontario community. The experience is meant to open minds and dispel myths that rural medical practice can be 'backwoods' and that living in a rural community is unrewarding.

Medical students participating in Rural Medicine Week include:

- **Olga Ace**, who completed her undergrad in Biochemistry at University of Toronto. She is looking forward to discovering the urban/rural challenges and rewards related to practicing medicine where a broader skill set must be applied.
- **Branden Deschambault**, who is serving in the Canadian Forces, training to be a Medical Officer. His goal for the week is to experience rural Family and Emergency Medicine, while learning how to weave his way into the fabric of the community.
- **Kristen Handkamer**, who has her Master's of Science in Cardiovascular Science, who is eager to experience the unique challenges of rural physicians.
- **Katherine McLean**, who has a degree in Health Sciences from the University of Ottawa and a graduate Certificate in Population Health. Katherine is branching out from her current urban focus as she considers a broader range of options when it comes time to complete her residency.
- **Ioulia Pronina**, who completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto in Human Biology and Psychology. She is exploring rural placement opportunities after supporting clinical studies at Sunnybrook Hospital later this summer.
- **Rebecca Wang**, who completed her undergraduate degree in Health Sciences at McMaster University. Currently, her interest areas in medicine include Pediatrics, Internal Medicine and Family Medicine. She is looking forward to gaining a better understanding of lifestyle and community in a rural community.

The itinerary for the week includes a 'Kickoff Party' on Sunday evening, doubling as a retention event for the physicians currently working hard in the community. The party sets the tone for the week ahead allowing the students to meet some of the physicians and allied health preceptors with whom they'll be working at the Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) and the Trent Hills Family Health Team (THFHT). New this year is a more in-depth focus on intubation skills with a workshop scheduled at the end of the week with CMH GP/Anaesthetists Dr. Glenn Gibson and Dr. Ali Witt. Based on feedback from previous years, getting more hands-on training in this area was a top request. The students will be living on a working farm during their stay, not only to highlight the contribution of the agricultural sector to the local economy but to understand that that sector can also represent a unique patient population to the rural physician, presenting with unique needs. The remainder of the week will have the students participate in a horseback riding lesson and a mid-week Garden Party. Free time built into the week will allow for exploring the community, shopping, etc.

### **QUOTES:**

"I am so excited to continue this annual tradition. I am even more excited that Dr. Ashley Colter will be our guest speaker at our kickoff event. Dr. Colter has a long history with Trent Hills, as a representative first with the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP), then as a Med Week participant herself in 2009 and now here on elective as a physician, which was perfect timing for this year's group. Our Committee will receive partial funding for the Week from ROMP, but we continue to rely on our community donors to make these events possible and we're very grateful for that. It's gratifying to see that we are making a difference and that some of the students are returning to us as they continue on in their medical education. The week is a huge marketing opportunity, combined with the fact that these future

physicians will truly benefit from their hands-on learning experiences here in Trent Hills. And, they will know that our door is open for them at all stages of their education and when they are ready to practice independently.” **Laurie Smith, Physician Recruitment Co-ordinator, who works closely with the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP) to plan and implement the week**

“It’s a pleasure to be able to share the unique culture that defines Campbellford Memorial Hospital with our visiting medical students. We hope they’ll discover that our hospital offers a level of warmth and friendliness that you don’t find in most hospitals with a spirit of innovation allowing us to deliver excellent care. Because of our unique culture and commitment to innovation, we hope to see this accomplished group come back to us once they finish their medical studies.” **Brad Hilker, President and CEO, Campbellford Memorial Hospital**

“On behalf of the Recruitment & Retention Committee it is my great pleasure to welcome the Queen’s medical students to Trent Hills for what we anticipate will be an exciting week of new experiences – both professional and personal. The practice of medicine in a rural setting presents unique challenges and opportunities. Our goal is to help the students see how rewarding rural medicine can be and how fulfilling life can be living in a rural community. We are excited that they chose to come to Trent Hills for this elective and hope, that as a result of their experiences this week, they will consider returning at a later point in their medical careers.” **Judy Pearce, Chair, Recruitment & Retention Committee**

**QUICK FACTS:**

- Dr. Bryan Fong, a participant from Med Week 2008, will be returning as a resident physician in 2014
- Past Med Week participants continue to refer colleagues to learn in our community
- Trent Hills is one of 19 communities hosting a Med Week in Ontario this year

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