The Warren and Rosalee Heffron Faculty & Graduate Fellowship for International Health

Supporting Graduate Medical Education and Cultural Exchange

"After completing my fellowship at UNM, I came back to my medical institute with new ideas to improve our residents' training."

- Anara Simmons, MD
Associate Professor,
State Medical Institute of Kyrgyzstan

Impacting World Health

Teaching physicians to teach is an important way to impact world health. This does not seek to impose the American medical education system on others. Rather, it exposes junior faculty from other countries to new methods, allowing them to decide what is appropriate to incorporate into their own teaching. Physicians who have gone through the fellowship program return to their home institutions inspired to try new training methods with their own residents.

Creating Better Physicians

Altruism drives many resident physicians' decisions to undertake a foreign rotation as a way to make an impact on the world. It is also a way to improve their clinical skills. Even those physicians who never work abroad again take the benefits of their experiences into their local practices in the United States.

Practice experiences in developing countries teach young physicians to rely on the basics of their education and training, rather than technology. When MRI scans and other tests are unavailable, they depend on patient history, understanding the societal context of the patient's life and disease process, and their own knowledge of the body's systems to make a diagnosis.

There is also a benefit in seeing how medical practice and medical education take place in other societies. Dr. Heffron said, "When we as doctors can communicate across a cultural divide, it makes a big difference in getting into people's lives."

"In our pluralistic society, experience in working with other cultures, languages, socio-economic groups, and ethnicities has a tremendous value in developing better physicians."

- Warren Heffron, MD

Please consider making a gift to support the Warren and Rosalee Heffron Faculty & Graduate Fellowship for International Health.

For more information, please call Betsy Smith at (505) 313-7623

University of New Mexico
School of Medicine
Office of Development and Alumni Relations
MSC08 4720
The Warren and Rosalee Heffron Faculty & Graduate Fellowship for International Health

The UNM School of Medicine's Department of Family and Community Medicine is pleased to announce the Warren and Rosalee Heffron Faculty & Graduate Fellowship for International Health.

Warren and Rosalee Heffron

Longtime UNM faculty member and former Family and Community Medicine Department Chair Warren Heffron and his wife, Rosalee, have devoted their lives to healing, both in the United States and abroad. This fellowship will honor their commitment and support their mission.

Dr. Heffron came to the University of New Mexico in 1968 and subsequently started its family medicine residency program, serving as the program's director for 12 years. He then became chair of the Department of Family Medicine, and served in that role for another 12 years. He was chief of the medical staff at UNMH for one year. Dr. Heffron met his wife, Rosalee, when he was at the University of Missouri. As a former teacher and active community volunteer, she has shared and supported Dr. Heffron's career, participating in some of his international outreach. Together they raised four children.

Dr. Heffron has consulted and taught in Albania, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, and Venezuela, to name a few. He has taught thousands of students, who in turn taught other health professionals.

Dr. Heffron is currently Professor Emeritus in the UNM Department of Family and Community Medicine. Between international trips, Dr. Heffron is still active in the department and sees patients in the clinic.

Dr. Heffron has served as:

- **North American President** — WONCA - The World Organization of Family Doctors
- **President** — American Board of Family Medicine
- **President** — United States Christian Medical & Dental Association (CMDA)
- **Delegate** — International CMDA
- **President** — NM Medical Society
- **President** — NM Chapter, American Academy of Family Physicians (NMAFP)
- **Vice President** — AAFP

In addition, he has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Consulting and teaching family practice residencies in economically developing countries are Dr. Heffron's main professional interests. However, his real passion is starting residency programs in mission hospitals. He said they are the perfect place to train family doctors.