

Why the Journal of Regional Medical Campuses? Why now?

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There has never been a better time for us to start a journal that reflects the innovation and flexibility of the regional medical campus. For those of us who serve on regional campuses in the roles of faculty, staff, administrators, and students, we know why we came, who we are and what we do. However, for many in the medical education community, little is known about the 115 regional campuses in the United States and Canada.

The IRMC was born out of a need to tell our stories and share our unique perspectives and challenges. Over half of the medical schools in the United States and Canada have regional campuses that are often mission focused with various numbers of students at various stages of their medical school careers. Just like our institutions where "when you've seen one medical school, you've seen one medical school", our associated regional campuses each have their own unique culture and processes. The JRMC is our opportunity to enhance the academic environments of our campuses by creating a home for the scholarship produced on our campuses. The richness of our work is reflected in the thoughtful writing of our students and faculty. Basic and translational research that emphasizes our locales and missions

needs a place to be shared. Discussions of operational challenges such as those associated with admissions processes and faculty development across campuses also needs a place where others can learn of best practices and lessons learned. Our contributors deserve a quality open-access, on-line venue for their valuable scholarship that will be indexed in Medline. Our readers need to know published articles have been peer-reviewed by editors and reviewers from many regional medical campuses.

In the spirit of open-access publishing, we offer to you our first issue of the JRMC which includes work from across the US and Canada. We want to thank the University of Minnesota Libraries for providing the opportunity for us to lead this effort from the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus. We want to thank our Editorial Board and Reviewers from across North America who are helping to shape the launch of this journal. We also want to thank the AAMC Group on Regional Medical Campuses for providing support and sharing information to help our future readers learn about our journal. Our goal is for the JRMC to become the preeminent place for scholarship produced on regional campuses. Join us!