



ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF *ROCKY MOUNTAIN OPTI*

Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM) announces the formation of a new Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution (OPTI). Rocky Mountain OPTI is a Colorado 501 c (3) non-profit educational institution that will be a community-based consortium comprised of medical schools, hospitals and other clinical facilities. Rocky Mountain OPTI will be focused on providing graduate medical education to physicians in Colorado and encouraging Colorado-trained physicians to practice medicine in Colorado.

The overall goals of Rocky Mountain OPTI will be to: increase the opportunities for graduate medical education in Colorado with an emphasis on the development of rural and primary care training programs; provide continuity of educational experiences from medical school through residency and fellowship training; help to keep physicians practicing in underserved areas of Colorado; equip medical school graduates with the ability and the motivation to deliver comprehensive medical care in rural Colorado.

The effort to launch the new institution will initially be led by Duane Brandau, D.O., Ph.D., RVUCOM Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and Thomas Told, D.O., RVUCOM Assistant Dean of Clinical Education.

“Our role at this time”, said Dr. Brandau, “is to position the OPTI for American Osteopathic Association (AOA) accreditation and further the development and availability of osteopathic graduate medical education in Colorado and the Mountain West region of the United States. We are also actively looking for health care partners and affiliates who wish to be involved in this important effort.”

According to Dr. Brandau, “Two critical elements of Rocky Mountain OPTI will be its emphasis on clinical research and its approach toward establishing a continuous curriculum that will guide students from their first year of medical school through graduate medical education. “

Although there will be individuals from RVUCOM involved in the development and organization of Rocky Mountain OPTI, the two institutions will operate independently and will address the needs of students who are at different stages in their professional medical education. The creation of an OPTI is a specific AOA accreditation requirement for providing graduate osteopathic medical education. There are currently 18 OPTI's operating nationwide.

Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine located in Parker, Colorado launched its inaugural class in August, 2008. The college educates students who, upon completion of a four-year academic program, will become osteopathic physicians. While having many similarities to an M.D., an osteopathic physician (D.O.) receives additional training in the musculoskeletal system and typically focuses on primary and preventive health care. Both D.O.'s and M.D.'s may be licensed to practice medicine, prescribe medication and perform surgeries throughout the United States.

For further information please contact either Dr. Duane Brandau or Dr. Thomas Told in the RVUCOM Clinical Affairs Department: 303-373-2008.

Rocky Vista University (RVU)

RVU is a health sciences university located in Parker, Douglas County, Colo. RVU's College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM) opened its doors in August of 2008, enrolling 160 students in its four year program of study leading to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree. The University is located in a new 145,000 square foot contemporary facility on twenty acres, housing the latest in classroom, lecture, laboratory and audiovisual equipment, with additional instruction conducted at sixteen teaching hospitals throughout the state of Colorado. The University is dedicated to the better understanding and provision of health care in Colorado, the Mountain West region and nation in the twenty-first century. For more information visit www.rockyvistauniversity.org or call 303.373.2008.

