

The Honorable Susan Concannon,

I would love to practice Family Medicine in rural Kansas (I have studied for 14 weeks in Beloit during my first three years in medical school). Unfortunately, I have applied for KMSL for the past two years and have been told there is not enough funding as of yet for me to be selected. With that said, another one of my classmates (a Kansas native) has also been unable to obtain KMSL funding for all three years he has applied. This has been a large financial burden on our families and has made us have to realistically consider residency programs in other states even though both of us wish to be rural family physicians in Kansas.

With the above said, I see the need for rural psychiatrists and would not mind adding slots to KMSL for psychiatry as long as the funding source was unique and does not divert from primary care in rural Kansas. Perhaps a better long term solution would be to develop--and possibly fund--a one year training program for rural physicians to become more adept in psychiatry.

Sincerely,  
Matt Strang

PS Please pass on my sincere well wishes and prayers to every one at Mitchell County Hospital and Beloit Medical Center involved in the care of the young burn patient: I learned this morning he passed away and I know some of the staff are pretty devastated.