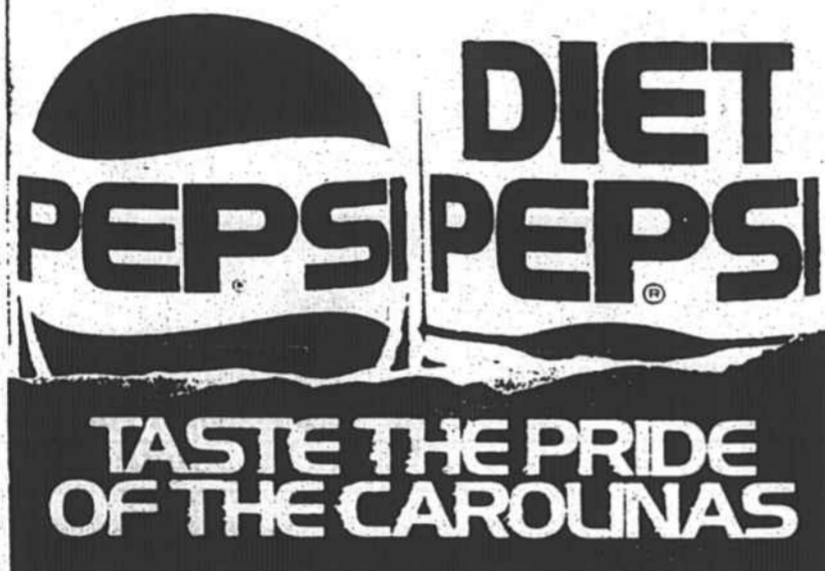


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Drs. Dennis Stuart and Joseph Bell and Robeson health Care Corp. Sponsor N.C. Rural Health Scholars



Deepa Perumallu

This summer Drs. Dennis Stuart and Joseph Bell of Robeson Health Care Corporation are serving as preceptors for Deepa Perumallu and Elizabeth Quick, rising second-year medical students who have been selected as Rural Health Scholars for the Class of 2000 by the N.C. Office of Rural Health and Resource Development. Eighteen physicians and interdisciplinary community-based practices that have demonstrated themselves as excellent role models and teaching sites now participate in this innovative program. This is the third consecutive summer that Robeson Health Care has sponsored Scholars.

During summer preceptorships with physician-mentors, Scholars are immersed in clinical medicine and community life. But learning skills to treat medical conditions of individual patients within the four walls of the examining room are not the

only lessons that Scholars hope to learn during their summers. By visiting patients in their homes, spending time in other agencies and working in their communities, Scholars learn about the needs of the broader community and how physicians can work effectively with others to address them.

The Program dispels many myths about rural practice. During their summers, Scholars see that rural medicine offers patients a wide range of services and excellent quality, that rural areas and populations can be vastly different from each other, and that "it is not all work and no play" for health care providers.

On June 2nd, Deepa Perumallu began her preceptorship with Dr. Stuart at South Robeson Medical Center in Fairmont and Elizabeth "Beth" Quick joined Dr. Bell at the Julian T. Pierce Medical Center in Pembroke.

Perumallu, a native of Goldsboro, has seen her parents, both physicians, care for rural North Carolinians with inadequate insurance coverage since she was a child. An active volunteer in clinics, a hospital intensive care unit and a retirement center, perumallu is "at home" in health care settings. During college at UNC-CH where she majored in biology and history, perumallu was senior dancer of a ballet troupe and features editor of the university's newspaper, the "Daily Tar Heel". In 1994, she studied Indian history, politics and dance at the School for International Training in India.

Quick majored in biology at Mars Hill College in northwestern North Carolina where she was reared. Shaping her interests in medicine were volunteer and work experiences in inpatient and ambulatory care settings and with children who have experienced the death of a family member. Quick is drawn to pediatrics and family medicine.

The Rural Health Scholars Program was developed and is administered by the N.C. Office of Rural Health and Resource Development in conjunction with the N.C. Primary Health Care Association, the N.C. Area Health Education Centers Program, the N.C. Medical Society Foundation and the ECU and UNC-CH Schools of Medicine. Now in its fifth year, the Program has included a total of 73 Scholars. It is funded through a grant from the National Health Service Corps, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Elizabeth "Beth" Quick

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