Second and Third Year Medical Students  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Dear students:

The Indian Health Service offers elective clerkships in areas that serve Native Americans. Locations include Alaska, Mississippi, Arizona and Montana. The rotations are popular and are often filled ten months in advance. Rotations can focus on clinical experience or on a service or research project. For general questions regarding the IHS, feel free to contact Michael Berryhill at IHS (301-443-4242) or via email at Michael.Berryhill@ihs.gov. For further information go to the IHS web site at www.ihs.gov.

For specific information on clerkships, see: www.ihs.gov/JobsCareerDevelop/CareerCenter/vacancy/dsp_profrec_clerkships.cfm

To contact specific sites, go to: www.ihs.gov/JobsCareerDevelop/CareerCenter/MedRotat.asp and click on the e-mail address of the area in which you are interested. If you are interested, please contact the Indian Health Service soon in order that you may apply for a spot before they are filled. This course is listed as Family Medicine 5420 (FM 5420).

The following is a description from a physician who took an elective in Alaska:

The most valuable experience from my fourth year of medical school was a 6 week family practice rotation in a small town north of the Arctic Circle, Kotzebue, Alaska. It was enlightening to experience the practice of medicine in a low tech environment, where reliance on clinical skills increases. I learned so much that I returned for another rotation as a second year resident. Some of my experiences included: trauma management (repair of complex lacerations and casting of fractures,), diagnosis of appendicitis, involvement in a hepatitis A epidemic, medivac trip to a small village at 3 am with the ‘midnight sun’ still above the horizon. Sarah Gilmour, MD.

Sincerely,

Richard Zimmerman, M.D., M.P.H. 
Professor