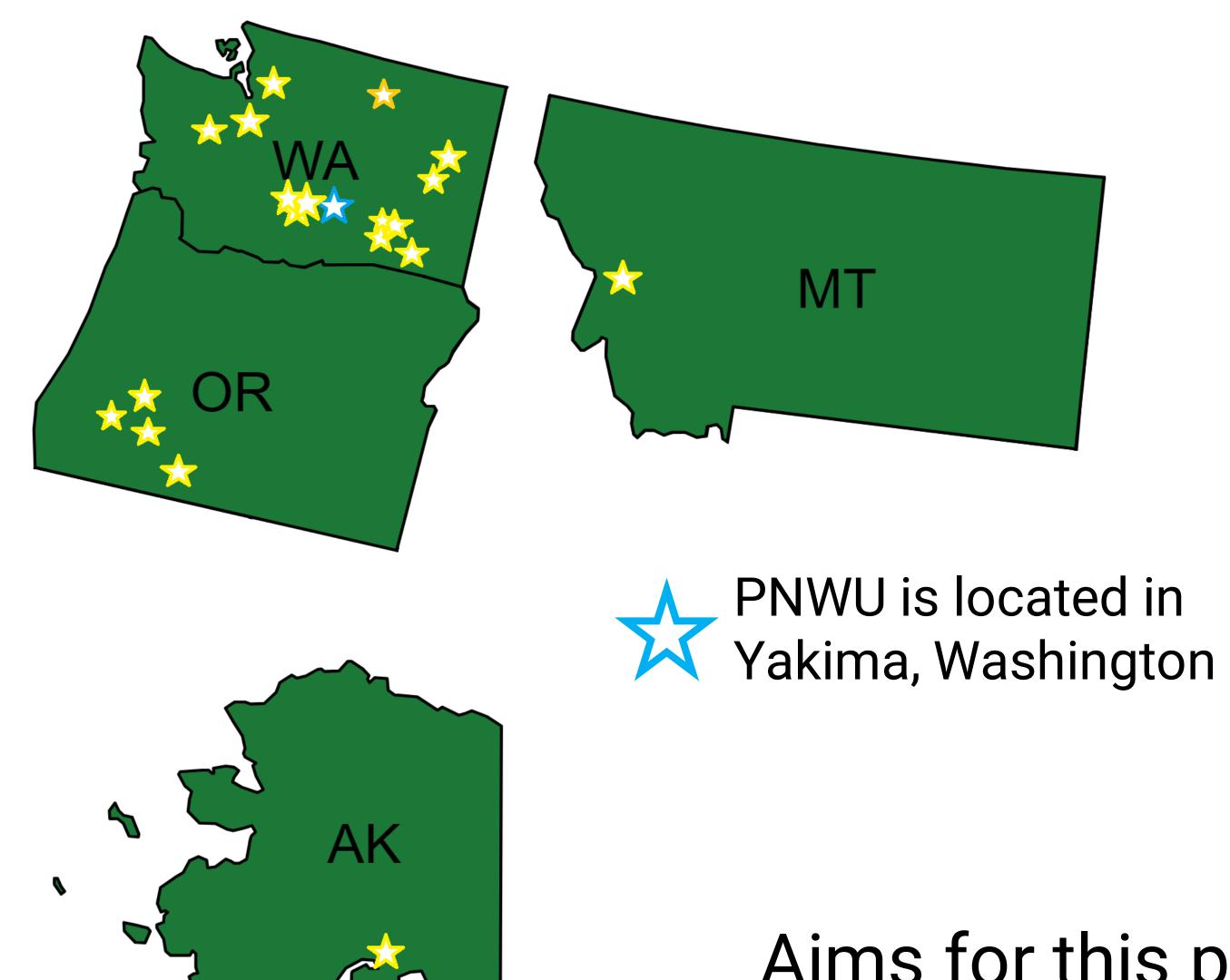


Preceptor-led QI in rural and underserved settings: A retrospective review of 20 projects throughout the Pacific Northwest

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Background and Aims



PNWU hosted a Master Preceptor Fellowship between 2018-2024

- 20 fellows enrolled in a 1-2 year fellowship with \$40,000 stipend for fellows
- Fellowship focus was to improve precepting skills, developing leadership qualities, and healthcare transformation through small quality improvement projects
- Quality improvement projects were meant to be conducted within one year

Aims for this project:

- How well did we do with coaching fellows through QI?
- Despite the small sample size, can we see any trends?

Methods

We evaluated:

- Our process log, team meeting minutes
- Exit interviews with Fellows
- Exit surveys for Fellows
- Discussions among grant fellowship staff

To create:

A retrospective chart review of the 20 projects

Results and Observations

- 19 of 20 Fellows completed the Fellowship and completed QI projects
- 8 were in provider-owned or small clinic (<6 locations) systems. None were in academic health centers
- Of the 19, seven changed project topics more than three months into the project. Reasons for changing:
 - > Too much turnover in key personnel/senior leadership
 - > Unable to collect relevant data from EHR
 - Dunning-Kreuger effect; project was poorly scoped from the beginning

Results and Observations

Types of completed projects:

- 10 projects addressed teaching students, residents, and/or physicians
 - More feasible to complete due to smaller locus of control and accessibility of implementation strategies
- 3 implemented health interventions for patients
 - Stability in personnel was critical for success
- 6 analyzed staffing workflows to improve quality/consistency of care
 - Workflows are easier to shift in smaller systems

Discussion

Appropriately scoping projects was the biggest hurdle, and an achievable project helped fellows complete on time, boosting both confidence and agency

Preceptors in non-academic settings benefit greatly from an academic partnership and academic resources including a statistician, library services, and peer support

Change management and stakeholder engagement skills are necessary for QI, and most physicians need coaching to help shift mindset towards collaborating and seeking buy-in for project implementation

The Master Preceptor Fellowship was a great way to identify 'rising stars' and invest in future healthcare leadership

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