



## Faculty Spotlight of the Month: Dr. Donna Roberts

October 2016

### Anne Loop: "The Grass Roots"

While Dr. Roberts is the force that provides the students with the curriculum and structure, Anne Loop is not far behind with a compassionate familiar face. Anne Loop, Clerkship Rotation Coordinator, is the "grass-roots" of the operation where students refer to her as the "mother-hen."

Anne Loop is the people person who spends her time interacting with students, answering their questions and making sure they stay professional. Between third and fourth year, Anne can have upwards of 300 students to keep track of. "I love learning a little bit about the students and what they want to become," says Loop.

When explaining why Loop loves working for the University of Louisville, she explained, "There are truly a lot of people who care here. We want our students to be well-rounded and compassionate." Loop has worked as Dr. Roberts counterpart for 11 years and acknowledges they both have the students best interest at heart at all time.



Dr. Donna Roberts

Every third year medical student is lucky enough to have the opportunity to rotate through the Department of Family Medicine. This is a six-week rotation where four out of the six weeks are done in an AHEC rotation in rural and underserved areas in Kentucky. As unnerving as it sounds, students find comfort in knowing they will have Dr. Donna Roberts as their guide.

"Students have a lot of anxiety about the idea of going to a community that is not their home for four weeks," Dr. Roberts explained. Her primary goal is to let the students explore all of the opportunities that are presented with the AHEC rotation. "We want the students

to look at communities that are very different from their home communities."

Along with serving as the Family Medicine Clerkship Director, Dr. Roberts serves as an Advisory Dean for the School of Medicine and meets with eight students from each class. Over the course of the last decade Dr. Roberts has directed the GLOH Student-Run Free Clinics, precept residents, third and fourth year medical students, and been involved in a long list of educational activities. Outside of education and enriching the lives of her students, Dr. Roberts enjoys cycling, diving and quilting.

Dr. Roberts has been with the University of Louisville since she was a resident in 1984. During her residency she was elected Chief Resident and in the following years she has moved through the

ranks of Assistant Professor and now Professor. She says the reason she has stayed at the University of Louisville for all of these years is due to our diverse faculty and the opportunities our departments can provide.

The advice Dr. Roberts wants to give her students is, "It's important for a student at every level to recognize they are going to be learning things today that they may not feel is useful to them. Eventually they will learn to recognize the importance of the things they learned in their first anatomy class to the last palliative medical course they will take as a 4<sup>th</sup> year student. There will come a time in the students' life where they will find all of this useful."

Dr. Roberts says she lives in "the best of both worlds." One-part academic, one-part clinician, and all about long term relationships with students and patients. Dr. Roberts is one of the many heartbeats of the Department of

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