

Friends and colleagues,

It is with great sadness that I share with you the news that our former resident, Dr. Garon Coriz, died this past weekend following a climbing accident in the Sandia mountains near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Garon completed medical school at the University of New Mexico in 2013, followed by graduation from the University of Utah Family Medicine Residency in 2016. After residency, he went to practice in rural Salina, UT, working for the North Sevier Medical Clinic with Intermountain Health Care.

Garon was an individual who touched the lives of everyone he met. He was an outspoken advocate for the underrepresented in medicine, and during his time with us in residency he mentored Native American students as they shadowed him in clinic. He opened our eyes to the holistic approach to medical care that was possible, when he co-lead his Grand Rounds presentation with a local shaman healer who also made ICU rounds.

He was a passionate advocate for the rights of Native Peoples and for the preservation of Native lands, especially the Bears Ears Monument region in southern Utah. He was a passionate advocate for the rural patients he saw who were addicted to opiates, taking the initiative to learn about prescribing Suboxone treatment after residency, becoming the first and only Suboxone provider in Sevier County. He was passionate about living life to the fullest; our residency recruitment brochure and slideshow have had pictures featuring Garon rock climbing and skiing; our residency walls are adorned with vibrant paintings he created of the beautiful Utah landscapes he loved.

Garon was a dedicated and talented physician, an adventuresome spirit, and a caring and compassionate friend. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial gathering is being planned in Albuquerque in the next week by those close to Garon. The residency program and the Department of Family Medicine send our heartfelt condolences to Garon's family and all who knew him.