Patrick O. Kinney to tackle rural family medicine in remote Idaho

Patrick (Paddy) O. Kinney plans to go into rural family medicine and will intern with the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, his first choice. The Oregon State University graduate who has strong ties to Oregon – his grandparents own a cattle ranch near Sisters – hopes to practice in Alaska, and perhaps go back to Homer, his hometown.

He was invited to interviews with 11 family medicine residency programs but decided to limit himself to the Pacific Northwest. "Anything south or east is pretty far outside my comfort zone," he said. His plan is to learn the skills he will need "to practice in an austere environment where there are not a lot of people to rely on but yourself. When I showed up in Boise I got swept up by that program. I hope to leave Idaho being able to do colonoscopies and upper endoscopies and operative obstetrics among other things."

He hopes to be able to deal with a wider range of cases than he might at a program in a more populated area because he expects there to be less competition from specialists. "It's pretty much just the family medicine folks that rotate in the two Boise hospitals, but you also go out to Caldwell and Coeur d'Alene, and it's similar to Alaska."