Resident Report

Role/Purpose of STFM resident representative:
The role of the resident representative for the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine is to actively participate as a member on the STFM board on behalf of all residents across the country.

The responsibilities of the representative include: preparing for and attending all meetings in person and over the phone; becoming a spokesperson for this organization; becoming familiar with the programs STFM produces; and contributing ideas to determine policies and the direction for STFM in the future.

In addition, the resident observes how a national board operates, how to contribute in a meaningful way to conversation as a board member, how the STFM board interacts/collaborates with other associations/groups, how to help other colleagues who are interested in STFM become involved, and how to connect with physicians across the country to create lasting professional relationships.

Discussions/actions/activities/projects (take home points)

- As a resident representative, my activities included:
  - Making regular reports to the board and helping advance the STFM strategic plan originally created in 2011
  - Contributing ideas to increase the society’s visibility through social media, specifically targeting millennials
  - Participating in discussions to (1) Increase membership for our organization, particularly for residents (2) engage and recruit more community preceptors (3) Implement the new Preceptor Summit

- My projects included:
  - Two scholarly activities: Presentations at two national meetings, including the annual STFM conference and today’s conference
  - Serving as the resident representative to the Graduate Medical Education committee where we worked on the “Residency Accreditation ToolKit Review”
  - Developing curriculum for “Residency Faculty Fundamentals”; helping with webinars
  - Helping launch the “Family Medicine for America’s Health” campaign
• My actions included:
  o Going back to my residency and introducing STFM to my faculty, junior faculty, and colleagues
  o Guiding colleagues to STFM resources, including our resource library
  o Preparing for the 50th Anniversary events for STFM

My reflection
For me, becoming the resident representative on the STFM board was an incredible, wonderful experience. It opened up so many opportunities in so many different ways: I was able to see how an organized board functions, how policy for family medicine is shaped, how I could contribute to family medicine through my organization and policy in my state. I learned about the workings of the STFM organization and what it has to offer (education/awards). I was able to meet hundreds of physicians, residents, medical students, and staff from across the country. To everyone here today who is looking for a position which will challenge you and offer innumerable chances to create and shape your future, I urge you to run for this position—whether or not you plan to go into academic medicine. This society is for everyone and its value to Family Medicine will only continue to grow.

Student Report

I had the great opportunity to join STFM at an exciting time for the specialty of Family Medicine. With the launch of Family Medicine for America’s Health, STFM and 7 other organizations dedicated to our field came together to launch a multiyear, ambitious campaign to demonstrate the value of primary care.

As a member of the board, we met with campaign representatives to discuss our role and ask hard questions about finances and measurable results. As a student, I was able to ask questions about how the campaign would involve and appeal to students.

In addition to working on Family Medicine for America’s Health, we also addressed the issue of preceptor shortage. I was able to offer my thoughts on the role of students in the clinical setting and discuss how to make providers and students benefit mutually from preceptorship.

Finally, I acted as liaison for students who attended the Conference on Medical Student Education. I met with students, coordinated student tracks and helped review sessions.

While I certainly appreciated the chance to represent students on the STFM Board, perhaps most valuable was the opportunity to be a part of organized Family Medicine. Working with leaders in family medicine education from all over the country gave me great insight into higher-level administrative and executive decision-making on topics that affect the profession as a whole. I know that the experience has only increased my interest in a future in organized medicine and I am sure that the professional and personal connections I have made will continue to benefit me down that path.

These are just some of the benefits I have had the honor of receiving this past year. If students are particularly interested in the teaching of family medicine, at the student, resident or even post residency level, I encourage them to apply. I thank the student congress for electing me last year and am confident the new board member will enjoy their experience immensely.

Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies visit aafp.org.