



Center for the History of Family Medicine
 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Leawood, KS 66211-2672
 Telephone: (913) 906-6000, ext. 4420
 Fax: (913) 906-6095
 Email: chfm@aafp.org
www.aafpfoundation.org/chfm



Administered by the
 American Academy of Family Physicians
 Foundation

TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE CREATION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FAMILY PRACTICE 1941-1969

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Organizations Involved</u>
June 1941	Resolution requesting certification for general practice (Rejected)	AMA
	Request for Section on General Practice at AMA (Not approved)	AMA
June 1947	Special committee to study conditions of general practice appointed on recommendation of president	AMA
June 1948	Report of Special Committee to Study Conditions of General Practice (members included Drs. Paul Davis and Stanley Truman of the AAGP) (Approved)	AMA
June 1949	Resolution on establishment of Committee on General Practice to report directly to House of Delegates at next interim session (Approved)	AMA
	Resolution that graduate and postgraduate education for general practitioners be made more widely available and that two-year rotating internships especially designed for training for general practice be set up as rapidly as possible. (Adopted)	AMA
June 1950	Report of Committee on General Practice, chaired by Dr. Truman (Approved)	AMA
Dec. 1952	Resolution on Training of the General Practitioner – asking for increase in residencies for general practice and decrease in specialty residencies (Referred to Council on Medical Education)	AMA
Dec. 1954	Resolution calling for exhaustive study of problems of general practice, including adequate educational programs (Referred to AMA Board of Trustees)	AMA
	Report of Special Committee on General Practice prior to Specialization – interim report	AMA
June 1955	Report of Special Committee on General Practice prior to Specialization (Accepted and referred to AMA Board of Trustees for consideration)	AMA
Dec. 1955	Resolution for study of general practice from 1954 clinical meeting, considered by AMA Board of Trustees; study not implemented because of required funds, but data on preceptorships, undergraduate and graduate programs in general practice to be reported in the next Directory of Approved Internships and Residencies	AMA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Organizations Involved</u>
Dec. 1956	Committee on Medical Practice report on directive to “utilize all possible means to stimulate the formation of a department of general practice in each medical school” stated that much needed to be done to properly define general practice “to determine more adequately the avenues of approach to the best indoctrination today for the individual who plans to enter the field of general practice.”	<i>AMA</i>
Sept. 1957	Minimum Uniform Standards in Education (MUSE) Committee formed by AAGP Board of Directors	<i>AAGP</i>
Dec. 1957	Joint committee, with representation from AMA, Council on Medical Education, AAMC, and AAGP, established by AMA to address itself to the directives in report of Committee on Medical Practice and to proceed “to objectively analyze and make recommendations as to best background preparations today for general practice.” (Committee met in January, May, June, September, October, and December of 1957 and February and May of 1958.)	<i>AMA, AAGP</i>
March 1958	MUSE Committee report to AAGP Congress (Referred back to committee)	<i>AAGP</i>
June 1958	Committee on Preparation for General Practice report presented as Supplementary Report A of the AMA Board of Trustees, as a preliminary report of the committee (Accepted for information)	<i>AMA</i>
Aug. 1958	Joint Committee of AMA GP Section and AAGP Executive Committee – to study possible Board	<i>AAGP, GP Section</i>
April 1959	MUSE Committee Report to AAGP Congress of Delegates – MUSE Committee was then discharged and AAGP Board of Directors was authorized to continue liaison with AMA GP Section on the subject	<i>AAGP</i>
June 1959	Final Report of Committee on Preparation for General Practice approved, referred to Council on Medical Education for implementation and committee discharged	<i>AMA</i>
Dec. 18, 1959	Independent group (not officially with AAGP or Section) filed articles of incorporation for “American Board of General Practice, Incorporated” in state of Maryland	
1960	AMA pilot programs in general practice and family practice eliminated requirement for training in obstetrics and surgery	<i>AMA</i>
April 1, 1960	AAGP Congress adopted Board report which stated “We repudiate the creation of an ‘American Board of General Practice’ without the knowledge, consent, or approval of the only national society of general practitioners in America... We deny responsibility for its parentage and we recommend that members of AAGP decline to affiliate with this or any other board which is without official status in organized medicine.”	<i>AAGP</i>
June 1960	Section on General Practice introduced a resolution requesting that the AMA support position that training in obstetrics and gynecology be a requirement for preparation for general practice. (Referred to Council on Medical Education)	<i>AMA, GP Section</i>
June 1961	Number of resolutions introduced protesting content of pilot programs, requesting that AAGP have input in determining content of training; a substitute resolution called for AMA to develop other pilot programs to comply with obstetrics and surgery training request (which was subsequently adopted)	<i>AMA</i>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Organizations Involved</u>
June 1962	Interim statement on “An American Board of General Practice for Family Physicians” prepared by AAGP Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of the AMA Section on General Practice, following joint meetings at the direction of the AAGP Congress and the AMA Section to “determine whether or not a board of general practice is feasible.” Published in <i>GP</i> with request that it be studied and comments forwarded to the AMA Section and Academy members to inform delegates of their stand when the subject comes up for vote.	<i>AAGP, GP Section</i>
March 1963	A number of resolutions (two for, two against certification) were introduced, but not adopted at the AAGP Congress.	<i>AAGP</i>
July 1963	Citizens Commission on Graduate Medical Education (Millis Commission appointed)	<i>AMA</i>
April 1964	One resolution introduced in AAGP Congress supporting formation of board (Not adopted)	<i>AAGP</i>
Sept. 1964	Ad Hoc Committee on Education for Family Practice (Willard Committee) appointed by AMA Council on Medical Education with concurrence of Trustees	<i>AMA</i>
April 1965	AAGP Congress of Delegates considered seven resolutions on the subject of a board pro and con. ALL rejected. Adopted a statement from the Report of the Chairman of the Board which concluded with: “The Board of Directors recommends that it be authorized to proceed with the establishment of a certifying mechanism and that it report back to a regular or special session of the Congress for approval or disapproval before the program is inaugurated.”	<i>AAGP</i>
June 1965	Four resolutions introduced in AMA House, calling for establishment of a certifying board in general practice. ALL referred to Council on Medical Education.	<i>AMA</i>
Feb. 1966	Liaison Committee for Specialty Boards considered a preliminary application from the Academy and Section. (Application prepared by CORC.) Application called “premature” by LCSB, and Academy asked to withdraw it until Citizens Commission and Ad Hoc Committee reports were concluded.	<i>AMA, AAGP</i>
Aug. 1966	Millis Commission report, “The Graduate Education of Physicians” published.	<i>AMA</i>
Oct. 1966	CORC report to AAGP Congress—including “Core Content of Family Practice” (Adopted)	<i>AAGP</i>
Nov. 1966	Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Education for Family Practice, “Meeting the Challenge of Family Practice,” issued.	<i>AMA</i>
Dec. 1966	Another preliminary application submitted.	<i>AAGP, GP Section</i>
Feb. 11, 1967	Advisory Board for Medical Specialties unanimously approved preliminary application.	<i>AAGP, GP Section</i>
Oct. 1967	CORC report presented to AAGP Congress, with appendices of “final application form, proposed constitution & bylaws, proposed articles of incorporation and charts of application, procedure, outline of 3-year training program and Evolution of a New Specialty.” (Adopted)	<i>AAGP</i>
Feb. 10, 1968	ABFM, in acting on final application, adopted motion to defer action for modifications, requested “clearer definition, etc.”	

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Organizations Involved</u>
April 1968	Joint Conference of AAGP, GP Section members and AMA Committee on Family Practice and representatives of various specialties. Ad Hoc Committee formed to draft “Essentials.”	<i>AAGP, AMA, GP Section</i>
Dec. 1968	The Essentials—“Special Requirements for Residency Training in Family Practice” (Approved)	<i>AMA</i>
	Resolution in AMA House: “ <i>Resolved</i> , That the AMA affirm the importance of providing appropriate recognition for family physicians through approval of a primary specialty board for family practice and that the Council on Medical Education be encouraged to continue its efforts with the American Academy of General Practice and the AMA Section n General Practice to achieve this goal.” (Adopted)	<i>AMA</i>
	Another application drafted to be considered the following February.	<i>AAGP, GP Section</i>
Feb. 6, 1969	Liaison Committee for Specialty Boards considered application, recommended changes.	
Feb. 7, 1969	Application and LCSB recommendations considered by Standards Committee.	
Feb. 8, 1969	Three more considerations: a) Application and all recommendations considered by ABMS (49-member board) b) Considered by full Council on Medical Education c) Application and all recommendations returned to LCSB for final consideration and action that night. (Approved granted)	
Feb. 15, 1969	Date of incorporation of the American Board of Family Practice (ABFP; now the American Board of Family Medicine)	

Source: *Family Practice: Creation of a Specialty*. Kansas City, MO: The American Academy of Family Physicians, 1980, pp. 53-59.