

Thank you for your interest in joining the AAFP National Research Network as a Residency Member! The document below outlines the basic requirements for membership of residency practices within the AAFP NRN. The purpose of this branch of the AAFP NRN is to demonstrate to family medicine residents that being a part of a PBRN can be fun and fit within their future practices, to help develop the research skills of residency faculty and to perform meaningful research that will improve the health of America.

The following are the guiding principles of the Residency Branch of the AAFP NRN:

- The AAFP NRN actively encourages residencies to join the network.
- The AAFP NRN recognizes that residencies are the future of the discipline as well as the original source for all PBRN members.
- The AAFP NRN will actively pursue studies that residencies and residents may participate in, though there may be selected studies for which residency members are not eligible to participate.
- In collaboration with residency faculty, NAPCRG, STFM and the AFMRD the AAFP NRN will seek to develop special services and activities for residency members.
- We believe there are at least 4 contemporary activities that make the active recruitment of residency program members timely.
 - Residency programs are under increasing pressure from the ACGME – RRC accreditation process to demonstrate an effective research curriculum.
 - The Future of Family Medicine project has identified incorporating research into every family physicians office as a goal. This must start within our training programs.
 - The future of the AAFP NRN and regional practice-based research networks is in the recruitment of new members.
 - The NIH roadmap calls for the training of practicing clinicians who are capable or participating in NIH research activities to promote better translation of results to practices and study results that are more reflective of the real world. The NIH broad agency agreement will be supporting training centers to help educate these clinician researchers. This program may help stimulate FM residency graduates to seek this training. PBRNs need to be a part of this movement.

Requirements for Residency Membership

Due to the special nature of residency practices, which include virtually 100% part time clinicians and other learners that are not only part time but also short term within the practice, the AAFP NRN believes residency membership will need to be somewhat different than typical clinician members. Currently we believe that selected members of a residency program must commit to AAFP NRN membership in order for the residency to a successful member of a PBRN and the AAFP NRN. The draft expectations for residency members are:

- The Residency Program Director must be an active AAFP NRN member.
- At least one of the following two faculty members must be an active AAFP NRN member: Medical Director or the faculty member responsible for research activities (the Program Director may not fulfill both requirements.)
- The Practice Manager for the residency model practice must be an AAFP NRN member.
- It is the expectation of the AAFP NRN that residencies will see the entire program as a part of the network, even if only selected faculty and or residents are actively listed as member clinicians.
- The AAFP NRN encourages all faculty and residents within the program to join as active clinicians in the AAFP NRN.
- If the program has more than one clinical office, then each office may join separately. In these cases the Program Director along with the Medical Director or lead physician and the practice manager for each member office must be an active AAFP NRN member.
- Each office within the program must designate one staff member to serve as the AAFP NRN coordinator within the office. This individual may delegate actual study activities to other staff members, but will serve as an additional point of contact for the AAFP NRN. The AAFP NRN strongly encourages this individual to join the AAFP NRN.
- Residency program members are encouraged to participate in residency study development projects. Residencies are encouraged to develop mechanisms that allow residents to be active participants in the development of network studies. Residencies are expected to share successful methods of incorporating residents into this process with other members of the Residency arm of the AAFP NRN.
- Residency program members agree to participate in at least one study every 3 years along with study development activities on a regular (at least every other year) basis.

We have included an interest form for participation in the network. If you would like to become a member of the National Research Network, please complete the interest, criteria, and Institutional Review Board forms and mail to the AAFP in the enclosed return envelope. The Clinician/Practice Demographic Questionnaire is also enclosed. We are asking each residency member to complete this survey; this questionnaire will provide Network staff with important information about you, your practice, and your patients that will be beneficial to the growth of the Network and for your involvement in future studies. The demographic questionnaire may also be returned in the enclosed envelope.

Again, the AAFP would like to thank you for your commitment to practice-based research and your possible future participation in National Research Network. Should you have questions about the NRN, please contact me at 1-800-274-2237, extension 3172 or tstewart@aafp.org.

Sincerely,



Wilson Pace, MD, FAAFP
Director, AAFP National Research Network