

National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students

The National Conference is held annually in Kansas City, Missouri. This special event has three distinct elements: **educational programming** (special lectures, procedural skills courses, workshops, musculoskeletal clinics and poster presentations), the **exhibit hall** (over 400 exhibits featuring family medicine residencies, healthcare systems, placement services, medical publishers, pharmaceutical companies and AAFP programs and services), and the **resident and student congresses** (forums for discussing issues of importance to residents and students and shaping Academy policy).

The 2008 conference is scheduled for July 30-August 2. The conference theme is *Global Health "Where Will Family Medicine Take You?"* To learn more about this year's meeting, including the National Conference Scholarship Program, visit www.aafp.org/nc08.

THIS IS A PHENOMENAL OPPORTUNITY FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

- **Participate in the Resident and Student Congresses**
The National Congress of Family Medicine Residents (NCFMR) and the National Congress of Student Members (NCSM) each hold four business sessions during the National Conference. (The congress schedule appears at the end of this section.) This is your chance to voice your opinions and vote on issues important to future family physicians. Many of the initiatives launched by residents and students are now Academy policy.
- **Serve as Your Chapter Delegate**
Each year, AAFP constituent chapters send one student member and one resident member to serve as chapter delegates to the resident and student congresses. (See job description in Special Opportunities section.) These delegates attend all business sessions, poll their state delegations about issues before the congresses and vote in the elections. If you are interested in serving as a delegate to your congress, contact your chapter executive.
- **Dialogue With Your Peers**
On Thursday afternoon, discussion groups explore common interests and concerns about medical education; international health, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues; legislative/public policy; minority issues; rural underserved populations; urban underserved populations and women's issues.
- **Write Resolutions and Testify on Issues Important to You**
Discussion groups are ideal forums for generating resolutions. A resolution writing center, equipped with computers and resources for researching resolutions, will be open on Thursday from 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. If you would like to know more about writing resolutions, check out the resolution guide on the National Conference Web site.

Resolutions are debated during reference committee hearings on Friday afternoon. The final resolutions are presented by the reference committees and voted on by the congresses during the business session on Saturday afternoon. To vote on issues before the congress, you must be a member of the AAFP.

Conference Volunteer Assignments

There are many opportunities to serve in volunteer roles during the National Conference. A list of job descriptions (for each congress) appears below. The resident and student conference chairs are responsible for filling these positions. If you are interested in learning more about these

opportunities or wish to volunteer, contact Lyndia Flanagan, Manager of Resident & Student Activities at 800-274-2237, Ext. 6720 or e-mail her at lflanagan@aafp.org.

Business Session Assistant

Assist the Chair with elements of the business session, including the distribution and collection of resolution amendment forms during the Saturday business session.

Booth Coordinator – Resource Center/Exhibit Hall

Enlist resident and student officers and resident and student commission representatives to man the Academy's Resource Center in the Exhibit Hall on Thursday through Saturday during dedicated exhibit hours. The role of resident and student leaders is to share information about leadership opportunities. Academy staff will also be present in the center.

Community Service Coordinator

Promotes participation in the various community service projects, including the Blood Drive, during the conference.

Credentialing Coordinator

Works with staff to register credentialed chapter delegates during the congress business sessions and to enlist individuals to serve as chapter delegates as needed.

Discussion Group Facilitators (7-10 groups; one resident and one student facilitator in each group) Encourages idea sharing, discussion and development of resolutions in the designated topic area; provides the Conference Chair and AAFP staff with a written summary of the group's discussion. The 2008 topics are: education, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues; international health; legislative/public policy; minority issues; rural underserved populations; urban underserved populations; and women's issues.

Election Committee Members

Call for nominations and maintains list of nominees; distributes, collects and oversees the counting of ballots and provides the Conference Chair with the final results. The resident and student board members chair the election committee in their respective congresses.

Parliamentarian

Assist the Conference Chair in executing the appropriate parliamentary procedures (source: The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, current edition).

Reference Committee Chair/Members (up to 3 committees each composed of a chair, three experienced members, three inexperienced members and an observer)

Conducts the resolution hearing and then convenes in executive session to recommend specific action for each resolution. The reference committee chair writes the committee's final report with the assistance of AAFP staff.