

AAFP Foundation Student and Resident Trustees 2026 Annual Report

AAFP Foundation Student and Resident Trustees



Resident
Samantha Leadbetter
FMR of Western Montana
Kalispell, MT
Class of 2026



Student
Andrea Augustine, MD, MPH
Duke School of Medicine
Durham, NC
Class of 2026

Purpose & Scope of Work

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the AAFP, dedicated to advancing family medicine through humanitarian, educational, and scientific initiatives. Its mission is to improve health by supporting programs that enhance the professional development of family physicians, foster innovative research, and reduce health disparities in underserved communities. The Foundation's work is made possible through revenue from individual donations, AAFP Insurance Services, and support from corporate donors. Together, these contributions have enabled the Foundation to invest over \$2 million in initiatives that strengthen the primary care workforce and expand access to high-quality, patient-centered care.

Key Discussions & Actions

Family Medicine Leads (FM Leads)

FM Leads supports the future of the family medicine specialty through efforts to strengthen the workforce pathway and cultivate well-trained, visionary leaders. Dr. Augustine is honored to have participated in the Emerging Leader Institute, where she gained valuable knowledge, mentorship, and structured training to support her growth as a future leader in family medicine.

- **Emerging Leader Institute (ELI):** ELI pairs selected medical students and residents with experienced mentors to develop and complete a year-long leadership project in one of three tracks: (1) Policy & Public Health, (2) Personal & Practice, and (3) Philanthropic & Mission-Driven. Each year, 30 emerging leaders are selected to participate in the immersive 2-day institute and AAFP FUTURE with a \$1000 scholarship. Leadership Project Award recipients from the 2024 cohort presented their work through poster sessions at AAFP FUTURE, with the top project from each track honored during a special session featuring live presentations and a Q&A.
- **Scholarships:** AAFP FUTURE has been a cornerstone event for medical students and residents exploring a future in family medicine. Recognizing both the importance of attending and the financial challenges that may stand in the way, the AAFP Foundation continues to provide critical support through FM Leads Scholarships. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Foundation offered 270 scholarships this year- including 30 designated for participants in the FM Leads ELI- ensuring broader access to this transformative experience.

Family Medicine Cares (FM Cares)

- FM Cares International (FMCI): FMCI supports medical education and patient care in the Dominican Republic. A resident scholarship is awarded annually to join the delegation. The 2026 recipient is Dr. Victoria Kyerematen of Swedish Hospital Family Medicine in Chicago, IL.
- FM Cares USA: This program supports the establishment and sustainability of free clinics serving the uninsured. In 2025, 14 clinics received funding to purchase essential medical equipment and instruments.
- Resident Service Award: Each year, two first- or second-year residents are awarded grants to address healthcare disparities in underserved U.S. communities.
 - Dr. Katie Allan and Dr. Bridget Bunda (Full Circle Health FMR in Boise, ID): Their project, "Wound Care and Health Screenings for Unhoused People in Boise," expanded outreach services, including wound care and STI testing, to unhoused individuals living both in shelters and outdoors.
 - Dr. Amra Haroon (Mississippi Delta FMR in Greenville, MS): Her project, "SPARK: An Interactive Educational Intervention to Enhance Adolescent Health Literacy," improved adolescent health literacy, access to adolescent-friendly care, and long-term health outcomes in the Mississippi Delta.

Family Medicine Discovers

- Rapid Cycle Scientific Discovery and Innovation (RapSDI): The RapSDI program provides funding to practicing family physicians for short-term, innovative research projects that address real-world challenges in primary care. The program can support and welcomes early-career or inexperienced researchers because of a partnership with DARTNet Institute. This initiative empowers physicians to contribute valuable insights and solutions to the growing body of family medicine knowledge. Two new scholars have been selected for 2025, the 6th cycle, each receiving awards of up to \$40,000 and their research is underway.

Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM)

The CHFM serves as the collective memory of the specialty by functioning as a historical research library, archives, and museum. It also acts as the official repository for major family medicine organizations, including AAFP, ABFM, ACOFP, ADFM, AFMRD, NAPCRG & STFM.

- Richard D. Feldman, M.D. Student and Resident Essay Contest: This annual contest invites scholarly essays on the history of family medicine in the U.S.
- First Place (\$2,000): Saverio Feudo (Thomas F. Frist, Jr. College of Medicine at Belmont University in Nashville, TN)
Essay: [Activist Roots: How the Care of Political Refugees Forged the Identity of Family Medicine](#)
- Second Place (\$1,000): Mishaal Gardezi (Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN)
Essay: [Healing Communities Beyond the Bedside: Family Medicine's Foundations in Advocacy](#)
- Oral History Grant: This is a \$3,000 grant awarded annually to support the creation of oral history interviews that offer new perspectives on family medicine. Dr. Benjamin Popokh (University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, TX) documented the experiences of family physicians' spouses, children, and parents through oral histories examining their roles in clinical practice, family life, and caregiving relationships.
- The Sandra L. Panther Fellowship: This fellowship provides a \$3,000 award to support original research using CHFM collections, advancing understanding of FM's history.

This year, we also celebrate the incredible work of the AAFP Foundation's fundraising team. Their efforts ensure the continued availability of scholarships, fellowships, awards, and other resources for students, residents, and early-career physicians. In 2025, the Foundation received \$1,242,273 in contributions from 3,052 individual donors. As your fellow trustee representatives, we invite you to consider donating to the Foundation here. Whether it's supporting leadership development or global service opportunities, every dollar helps strengthen the family medicine pipeline. Your gift- no matter the amount- can support a classmate, a colleague, or a future changemaker in our field. We are the generation of action, and together, we can shape the future of family medicine.

Personal Reflections

Dr. Andrea Augustine, Student Trustee: Serving in this role over the past two years has been both an honor and an invaluable learning experience. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to connect with inspiring physicians, dedicated interdisciplinary collaborators, and the incredible Foundation staff. Participating in the FM Leads, FM Discovers, and FM Cares workgroups, as well as the CHFM Board of Curators, has broadened my understanding of the Foundation's mission, impact, and commitment to advancing family medicine. As an ELI alumna and FUTURE scholarship recipient, I have experienced firsthand the lasting influence of the Foundation's programs. As I prepare to begin residency at Brown University and continue my journey in family medicine, I carry these lessons with deep gratitude and remain committed to serving communities with empathy, integrity, and purpose. I encourage any student passionate about family medicine and service to apply for this role- it is both deeply meaningful and profoundly rewarding.

Dr. Samantha Leadbetter, Resident Trustee: My year serving as Resident Trustee for the Foundation has been inspiring and eye-opening. It has been an honor to have a seat at the table and bring a resident perspective as decisions are being made. The AAFP Foundation is deeply focused on the future of family medicine and understands that residents and students are that future. From the Emerging Leaders Institute and Family Medicine Leads Scholarships, to funding student-run free clinics through Family Medicine Cares USA and innovative research and ideas through Family Medicine Discovers grants- the Foundation has something for everyone. There is even No-Cost Life and Disability Insurance available for rising third-year residents! I strongly urge all medical students and residents to explore the opportunities that the Foundation can offer them. I also encourage everyone reading this to consider supporting the work of the AAFP Foundation by donating. Even small donations add up to big investments in the future of our specialty. This year has shown me that getting involved with the Foundation and building connections with other AAFP members is energizing and uplifting. I know that going forward, this type of involvement will help carry me through the ups and downs of a career in family medicine. While I am sad to see my time as Resident Trustee coming to a close, I am thrilled that someone will get to have this experience!