



Commission on Continuing Professional Development (COCPD)
2026 Annual Report

Resident

Julie Ngo, MD
Henry Ford Health
Detroit, MI
Class of 2026

Student

Devan Woody
East Tennessee State University
Quillen College of Medicine
Johnson City, TN
Class of 2027

WRITTEN ANNUAL REPORT

The Commission on Continuing Professional Development (COCPD) is responsible for advising the American Academy of Family Physicians on issues related to continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development. The commission reviews policies, accreditation standards, emerging educational trends, and physician learning needs to help ensure that family physicians have access to high-quality educational opportunities throughout their careers. The commission also provides guidance regarding the AAFP Credit System and helps shape the Academy's approach to lifelong learning and professional development.

During the past year, the commission engaged in several discussions that will have important implications for family medicine education. One of the most significant topics involved the growing role of artificial intelligence in CME development and physician education. The commission discussed both the opportunities and challenges associated with AI, including its potential to improve efficiency and educational design while also emphasizing the need for transparency, human oversight, and safeguards against inaccuracies and bias. These discussions contributed to the development of guidance intended to help CME providers incorporate AI responsibly while maintaining educational integrity.

Additional discussions focused on continuing accreditation standards, accessibility in medical education, physician engagement with CME, and the future of CME membership requirements. The commission also reviewed opportunities to better support physicians at different career stages through innovative educational formats, including asynchronous learning and other flexible approaches that meet the evolving needs of learners.

Student Remarks: Serving as the student member on COCPD provided a unique opportunity to observe how educational policy and materials are shaped at the national level. The experience broadened my understanding of the challenges involved in balancing educational quality, requirements, specific physician needs, and emerging innovations in medicine such as A.I. I particularly appreciated the desire of the group to hear a student perspective to discussions that will ultimately influence physicians throughout their careers. The role reinforced the importance of lifelong learning in family medicine and highlighted the work the AAFP undertakes to ensure education remains relevant and effective. I would encourage any student interested in leadership, medical education, advocacy, or organized medicine to

11400 Tomahawk Creek Pkwy.
Leawood, KS 66211

aafp@aafp.org
(913) 906-6000

www.aafp.org



pursue opportunities within the AAFP. The experience offered valuable mentorship, professional growth, and insight into the future direction of family medicine.

Resident Remarks: This was a great opportunity to evaluate the national-level efforts to create, facilitate, and support family physicians and those they mentor in creating relevant CME to our specialty. I am now more cognizant of the potential for students and residents to develop CME alongside their mentors, especially in topics that they are passionate in. I am inspired and excited to see the future educational and learning opportunities we as a specialty develop for our fellow family physicians.