

Leadership Matters

The benefits of AAFP leadership roles are numerous for your organization and for your family physicians.

At the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), we believe family physician leaders are key to shaping the future of health care.

Representing more than 131,400 family physicians, residents, and medical students, the AAFP provides a community of support for today's leaders at all stages of their career. The AAFP is committed to helping family physicians improve the health of Americans by providing the tools, resources, networking opportunities, and support they need to help them do what they do best: provide high-quality and cost-effective patient care leading to a successful patient experience that meets patients' needs and engages them as partners in their care.

When family physicians volunteer to serve in leadership roles within the AAFP, they influence the future practice of family medicine/primary care, improve the care provided to patients, receive hands-on insights into how to effectively lead a team and/or organization, and develop skills that will benefit your organization by:

- Training a leader who can provide guidance, nurture others' strengths, and inspire others to reach their goals
- Boosting public image with family physicians trained in advocacy and media relations skills
- Having engaging family physicians who are system thinkers and promote a culture of accountability and achieving goals
- Increasing family physicians' confidence and raising their profile, at the same time providing recognition and value to the health system/organization
- Having physician leaders who understand and can lead value-based care, payment reform, clinical integration, and population health management

Your organization also benefits in the following ways:



Building Skills – Taking on an AAFP leadership role allows your family physicians to build new skills outside of clinical care and practice those skills separate from their daily job.

Problem-Solving – Allows your family physicians to learn new ideas and solutions that can be brought back to your organization such as information on value-based payment.



Networking/Communication – Family physicians assemble a network of experts and peers to trade knowledge and professional insight on both a personal and professional level. These networking skills provide opportunities to hone "people skills" that increase rapport with patients and connect with other leaders to advance health care priorities by sharing best practices from one organization to another. This benefits your health system/organization by gaining free access to how others are successful and lessons they learned.

Voice – Family physicians contribute to the creation of public and AAFP policy by participating in their chapters or national AAFP leadership meetings. They also work collaboratively with other health care organizations and regulatory agencies to foster a spirit of innovation and creativity to strengthen the family medicine specialty. This voice gives strength to helping shape public policy related to health care for all.

The AAFP and our chapters offer numerous ways for members to get involved in the AAFP, including:

- Commissions and committees: These entities make recommendations regarding policy, development of new programs and projects, or improvements to current activities. Serving on a chapter or national commission or committee offers family physicians the ability to develop strategies, network with peers from around the country, influence new payment models, develop clinical guidelines that become the standard of care and develop evidence-based CME to educate today's physicians.
- AAFP and State Chapter Boards of Directors: These bodies direct the work of the organization and are on the cutting edge of national and state health care policy and reform.
- Congress of Delegates: This is the policy-making body for the AAFP. It is made up of delegates from all 55 chapters and member constituency groups who meet two and a half days each year to develop, debate, and adopt policy for the AAFP. These physicians are seasoned leaders who have been recognized by their peers and elected to represent their chapters at the national level.
- Member Interest Groups (MIGS): Established by members with a shared interest, MIGs provide opportunities for networking across the country on hot topics in health care, especially those related to the evolution of our health care system. The networking can be a great source of ideas and solutions to apply to local challenges.

Family physicians who volunteer to lead and serve within the AAFP and its chapters are physician leaders who are ideal candidates to lead other physicians in their practices, their communities, and their health systems to shape the future of health care.

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