

AAFP Commission on Continuing Professional Development (COCPD)

2025 Annual Report

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WRITTEN ANNUAL REPORT

The COCPD is responsible for guiding the AAFP's continuing medical education (CME) strategy and ensuring it meets the evolving needs of family physicians across all stages of their careers. This includes reviewing CME credit applications, shaping learning formats, and aligning educational offerings with current clinical and practice challenges.

During our time on the commission, we focused on increasing engagement through more flexible CME formats and expanding content around physician well-being, health equity, and leadership development. We had the opportunity to review CME proposals and provide feedback from the perspective of a resident and student, ensuring that content remains relevant and accessible to learners like ourselves. Furthermore, we were able to contribute to the conversation and we were welcomed by the commission to share our thoughts about various proposals that would directly impact us at an educational level. It was enlightening to be able to contribute to the conversation and recognize that our experiences bring a fresh perspective to the table.

As we are currently in our respective programs, we were able to share how some of the proposals directly impact us such as the setup of the current credit system and how it varies between states and the importance of establishing a plan to allow for the acceptance of AAFP credit towards licensure renewal requirements in all states. We were also able to engage in learning activity demonstrations and provide feedback about what we thought was most engaging to a student and resident audience and discuss ways to improve these activities.

Serving on COCPD gave us insight into how national CME strategy is developed and how much thought goes into ensuring family physicians are supported throughout their careers. It also gave us the chance to work alongside experienced leaders and contribute in a meaningful way. This experience helped shape our interest in academic medicine and lifelong learning.

Having the opportunity to take a seat at the table and participate in discussions that impact our future as residents and students is crucial. We are stepping into our roles as future physicians and with the medical field constantly evolving, it is important to be active in our professional development. Being able to listen to discussions that included students, residents and physicians allows for new ideas to be shared that can shape learning, clinical skills and education. As the student and resident participating with the Commission on Continuing Professional Development, we were able to express our thoughts and spark new conversations as well as vote for changes that impact the future of educational development.

You don't have to wait to be a seasoned physician to have a voice—you just need to show up and be willing to learn and contribute. We strongly encourage medical students and residents to apply for AAFP commissions.
