



AAFP Delegate to AMA-RFS 2021 Annual Report

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION RESIDENT FELLOW SECTION (AMA-RFS) DELEGATES

Resident

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Class of 2022

Resident

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The Resident and Fellows section (RFS) is the dedicated branch of the AMA that gives a voice to and advocates for issues specifically impacting resident and fellow physicians. Functionally, the RFS operates as an autonomous “mini-AMA”, made up of an appointed body of resident and fellow delegates who elect a governing council. Together, the RFS creates resolutions at bi-annual assembly meetings (in days preceding the AMA House of Delegates Interim and Annual meetings). At these RFS assembly meetings, resolutions are introduced, debated, and voted upon to incorporate as new policy into the RFS and sometimes, resolutions are forwarded to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) to become potential policy within the full AMA.

The AAFP Resident Delegate role in the RFS is to represent family medicine and family medicine residents by advocating for primary care issues. AAFP Delegates work closely together to review AAFP policy on related RFS issues and advocate for family medicine interests. AAFP Delegates also work alongside other specialty delegates in the RFS to testify for resolutions presented at RFS meetings. A key role of the AAFP resident delegate is to bring back the views of the RFS to the full AAFP delegation so that priority issues can be identified and represented in the house of delegates. In addition, at each AMA meeting one of the AAFP Resident Delegates to the RFS also serves as a voting delegate to the full AMA HOD alongside the AAFP delegation.

Activities & Achievements

Interim Meeting November 2020 (virtual)

- Delegates worked hard to navigate the barriers of the first virtual meeting of the RFS. The section was still able to consider and prioritize resolutions and reports involving several prioritized issues at the RFS assembly meeting including:
 - Work, life, balance (including protected wellness time substantiated at the ACGME level)
 - Denouncing racial essentialism in medicine
 - Availability of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Clarifying roles of non-physician post-graduate medical training
 - Identifying racism as a public health threat
- Notable topics the RFS advocated for in the full HOD of particular interest to family medicine:
 - Speaking out against race-based medicine
 - Protection of Resident and Fellow Training in the Case of Hospital or Training Program Closure (*AAFP delegates testified specifically on this issue regarding FM residents affected by the Hahnemann residency programs closure*)
 - Retirement Step 2/Level 2 Clinical Skills Exams
 - Telemedicine regulation surrounding COVID-19

Annual Meeting June 2021 (virtual)

- The RFS Assembly considered reports and resolutions on several key issues including:
 - The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on meeting graduation number requirements
 - The impact of private equity on medical training
 - COVID-19 vaccine rollout to emergency departments and urgent care facilities
 - The COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of access to vaccines worldwide
 - Non-physician oversight in medical education
- In the full HOD, the AAFP RFS-delegates testified for several priority issues and served on the reference committee for medical education. Notable topics included:
 - Resident access to healthy food, subsidized child care and medical supplies required by their programs.
 - The importance of counting telehealth encounters towards resident encounter numbers
 - The importance of patient access to telehealth including patient and physician access to the equipment necessary to be able to participate in telehealth visits

Value of Serving as an AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA-RFS

Derek's Lessons Learned:

Stepping outside of the pond of family medicine into the larger lake of medicine made me feel initially like a very small fish. But the invaluable first hand experience of serving in this role revealed how much one voice can make a difference in big decisions that have high impact. The passion of this community of medical leaders is supportive and contagious; it is rich soil for the growth of young leaders. Moreover, the exposure to such a diversity of healthcare topics helps young leaders to hone their interests and learn where their passion can be applied.

As a developing leader with a career interest in health policy, this experience was more than insightful in understanding the current issues in healthcare. This experience provided the opportunity to use my one voice to shape change for patients, advocate for improved training for my peers, and highlight future areas of improvement for healthcare to the largest medical organization in the United States.

Emma's Lessons Learned:

This experience has once again solidified the importance of getting outside of my own local bubble. To me, this means engaging with residents and physicians who aren't based solely at my residency program about issues that are pertinent to both family medicine and the medical community as a whole. By seeing what issues are being discussed at the national level, both within Family Medicine and outside of it, it brings a new perspective to the issues I am seeing in my own community. It sparks new ideas on how to address problems at my program and also gives me the opportunity to inform others about the work that is being done at the national level. It was incredible to see all physician groups and specialties represented in one meeting and hear about what topics they, and sometimes what we all, are passionate about.

I feel really fortunate to have been able to represent family medicine residents, physicians and primary care at these meetings. I learned the value of speaking on behalf of those I was representing and was able to conquer my fears of speaking in front of a large group of my highly-esteemed colleagues. It was also truly inspiring to see medical students and residents push the boundaries on topics being discussed at the AMA and reinforced the idea that medicine should not be a hierarchical field because when we are all represented and all work together, our best ideas are created.

Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies visit aafp.org.