



# FMIG Network National Coordinator 2023 Annual Report

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## FMIG Network National Coordinator

### Student

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Class of 2024

### Purpose & Scope of Work:

The AAFP established the National Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Network in 1995 to aid communication and the exchange of best practices between FMIG students and faculty leaders across the country. The network consists of student FMIG leaders and campus-based faculty, five appointed Regional Coordinators, one elected National Coordinator, a liaison to the Latino Medical Student Association, and a liaison to the Student National Medical Association. These coordinators serve as consultants to and resources for FMIGs.

Six regional coordinators began their terms in January and will serve through December 2023; Student liaisons to the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) began their term in January and will serve through December 2023. The 2023 leaders are listed below:

#### Regional Coordinators:

- Region 1: Derek Southwick, MS3; University of Washington School of Medicine
- Region 2: Michael Persinger, MS3; University of Colorado School of Medicine
- Region 3: Julia Schulte, MS3; Central Michigan University College of Medicine
- Region 4: Jaime Ssegundo MS2; University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine
- Region 5: Allison Smith, OMS3; Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine

#### International Medical Student Regional Coordinator:

- Ernie Rodriguez, MS4; Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine

#### LMSA Liaison:

- Melissa Gonzalez, MS3; University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

#### SNMA Liaison

- Brianna Chachere, MS3; University of Houston School of Medicine

I serve as the FMIG National Coordinator. My term began at the 2022 AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students and will end in July at the 2023 National Conference. I previously served as the Region 1 coordinator.

### Activities & Achievements

## Strategic Planning

FMIG Network met for their orientation at the AAFP headquarters in Leawood, KS, in January 2023 for a strategic planning and teambuilding weekend. The FMIG Network reaffirmed the following Strategic Objectives:

1. Develop a robust family medicine workforce that is inclusive and representative of those underrepresented in medicine.
2. Raise the awareness, understanding, and confidence of U.S. and international medical students, current and aspiring, to choose family medicine and spread a shared vision for the future of family medicine and primary care in the U.S.
3. Develop leadership skills and competencies that will enable and encourage future family physicians to excel in a primary care career and influence the health care system.
4. Encourage the success and effectiveness of FMIGs and increase their ability to collaborate with other family medicine and ally organizations.
5. Empower FMIG Network members — student and faculty leaders — to engage and serve their communities and challenge social and systemic barriers to health equity.

## Student Membership Promotion

FMIG Network leaders actively recruit new Student Membership Ambassadors and AAFP promote student membership through FMIGs and collaboration with LMSA and SNMA. Student membership remained about the same between 2021 and 2022. We recognize this stagnation, and our goal is to develop resources to promote engagement and membership.

## Program of Excellence Awards

The FMIG Network continues to host the Program of Excellence Awards, which recognizes outstanding FMIGs across the country. Best practices and innovative ideas from the 2022 award winners are also captured and promoted in FMIG programming resources on the [AAFP website](#) and throughout the Network.

The 2023 Program of Excellence Awards application opened on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The National FMIG leaders added an additional category for this year's application: "Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion."

## National Conference Promotion

For the tenth year, the AAFP has funded an initiative to promote the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students through FMIGs. FMIGs are given \$100 to help offset the costs of hosting a meeting or event in which they share information about National Conference. Leaders are provided a PowerPoint presentation and an attendance sheet to collect the

names and emails of students who attended the meeting. Emails submitted at each event are shared with the marketing team to add to email send lists. The program deadline is May 31, 2023.

### FMIG Network National Conference Workshops

The FMIG Network student leaders are in the process of developing programming for the AAFP's Inaugural FMIG Leadership Summit, where FMIG leaders from across the country will come together to train on all things FMIG. This one stop shop will provide attendees with the ability to network with FMIG leaders, learn FMIG basics, develop innovative programming, advocate and build a an impactful presence, and discover opportunities to collaborate with organizations such as the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). Attendees will receive the necessary training and resources needed to successfully lead an FMIG and become a family medicine champion,

The FMIG Network will also support the following sessions at National Conference:

**FMIG Leadership:** In this session, students will learn about the different leadership opportunities found within the AAFP, from local and state chapters to nationally elected positions. FMIG leaders are working on identifying speakers for the panel.

**FMIG Annual Celebration and Awards Breakfast:** During this fun event, the 2023 Program of Excellence recipients will be announced. Your FMIG national leaders will put on a celebration featuring VIP guests. Come to this event to have a good time!

**Underrepresented in Medicine Discussion Group:** AAFP liaisons to SNMA and LMSA with the resident and student members of the AAFP Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will plan and host a gathering of students from minoritized groups.

### FMIG/SNMA Collaboration

At the 2023 SNMA Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC), Brianna Chachere will attend to represent the academy. She curated a panel of 5 family physicians highlighting the diverse career options family medicine has to offer.

AAFP staff will host an exhibit at the record-breaking conference of more than 2,500 medical and premedical students.

### FMIG/LMSA Collaboration

Melissa Gonzalez will attend 2023 LMSA National Conference as a representative of the AAFP. Additionally, she and AAFP staff will host an exhibit with lots of interaction with students interested in family medicine.

### FMIG Network Social Media Presence

Throughout the year, AAFP staff and FMIG Network leaders use Facebook and Twitter to share stories about family medicine and reach out to medical students, family medicine faculty advisors, and others involved in medical education during conferences and on a regular basis.

Currently, 4,206 people “like” and 4,568 people “follow” the FMIG National Network Facebook page. AAFP student interest staff post multiple updates per week on the channel.

The FMIG Network also operates a Twitter handle, @aafp\_fmig, as the official account of the AAFP FMIG Network. This account is managed by the AAFP. FMIG Network leaders have also established their own Twitter presences. As of January 2023, @aafp\_fmig had 7,665 followers.

### Primary Care Leadership Collaborative

The Primary Care Leadership Collaborative (PCLC) is a leadership program sponsored by the AAFP with support from Intend Health Strategies that is designed for medical students in family medicine interest groups who are passionate about advancing primary care and improving the health of their communities. PCLC teams meet virtually throughout the year and in person at National Conference to take their leadership to the next level through skill-building workshops and long-term, team-based coaching support, then use what they learn to design and act on a community project.

The current cohort, listed below, is in their second year of their two-year program.

- Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
- Georgetown University School of Medicine
- George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- University of Kansas, Wichita School of Medicine
- Northeast Ohio Medical University
- Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Quinnipiac University Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine
- University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine
- University of New Mexico School of Medicine
- University of North Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Windsor University School of Medicine
- Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

Applications for the next cohort will open in December 2023.

### FMIG Well-being Champion Program

The AAFP was awarded a Health Resourced and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to support “Physician Health First: Building Resiliency Interactionally During Graduate Education (BRIDGE).” Goal three of the grant included the development of an FMIG Well-being Champion Program. The program provides selected champions with training to produce and facilitate workshops at your medical school on wellness-related topics that are designed to help students build the critical skills needed to create a culture of well-being and overcome the challenges of education.

Members of the 2022 Well-Being Champions Cohort:

- Halimah Hamidu-Egiebor, Central Michigan University College of Medicine, MS-3
- Lauren Hisatomi, California North State University College of Medicine, MS-2
- Khevna Joshi, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, MS-2

- Aryanna Thuraisingam, Campbell University, School of Osteopathic Medicine, OMS-2
- Joanna Bernatowicz, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, MS-2

Members of the 2023 Well-Being Champions Cohort:

- Megan Hanley, Albany Medical College, MS1
- Samantha Hicks, Charles Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University, MS2
- Ravia Khan, Ross University School of Medicine, MS3
- Rosalie Mattiola, University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine, MS3
- Blaise O'Malley, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, MS1
- Dana Shefet, Brody School of Medicine – East Carolina University, MS2
- Molly Stegman, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, MS1
- Randy Tsai, David Geffen School of Medicine, MS1

All FMIG Well-Being Champions will receive training at the 2023 Physician Health and Well-Being Conference April 25-28 in Palm Springs, CA.

### **Any Subcommittee Work**

I have been able to serve on the Commission on Education. Specifically, I have served as part of the subcommittees on resident and student issues, the resident and student selection, and national conference plannings. Working with these subcommittees as part of the COE allowed me to provide student perspective in discussions on proposed changes to family medicine resident requirements, fellowship training opportunities, workforce development, and diversity and equity within medical education.

### **Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving**

Working with my FMIG coordinator team this year we have been able to continue to reach students and engage in ways we haven't been able to since the beginning of the pandemic. There has been more activity across the FMIGs leading to in person as well as continuing our virtual events. We have been able to connect students with other institutions, grants and scholarships, and professional development. We continue to revamp our presence by listening to what our students are passionate about and how we can best serve their needs. We added in more DEI and advocacy efforts this year as a direct result of feedback from our FMIG leaders and members across the nation and internationally. We still have work to do in terms of continuing to build our social presence and growing the pathway programs and I hope that the next student to take this role continues that work.

This year I have been able to participate in Commission work, serve as a delegate during student congress, participate in reference committee at National Conference, and attend the AMA Annual meeting to learn more about organized medicine. It has showed me how we as students, residents, and practicing physicians can advocate for change and be the voice for our patients and our work in providing care. In the last year I was exposed to advocacy and policy for the first time and realized how important it is and how much I intend to continue this work. I have learned so much about the kind of doctor I want to be and this year has heavily influenced what my future will look like. I highly encourage anyone interested in running, for this position or any AAFP leadership position, take the

chance to do so. It has been a lifechanging experience and I will be a better student, resident, and physician because of it.

*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](http://aafp.org).*