



Center for Global Health Initiatives

2020 Annual Report

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES (CGHI)

Resident

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Class of 2021

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Purpose & Scope of Work

Our mission at the GHCI Advisory board is to support national and international efforts in granting access to quality health care around the globe for the people who need it the most. We seek to integrate practitioners with similar perspectives and provide a home for them to discuss, as well as bring to awareness the most important necessities in global primary care. For this purpose, our attention is centered in workforce advocacy, practice transformation, international development, as well as student and resident development.

The scope of our work focuses on serve as liaison between clinical staff as well as doctors in training, in order to enhance intercultural patient care through practice transformation. Similarly, we recognize the importance of organizing conferences and webinars in physician education and direct our efforts towards activities that will strengthen the global physician work force.

Activities & Achievements

Global Health Summit

Every year, physicians from around the world meet in the U.S to discuss current and relevant topics in Global Health. This gathering serves as an academic platform to showcase the work of relevant figures in the world of Global Health medicine, as well as a channel to foster collaboration between different health organization and parties. For the current year, given the current travel restrictions, our efforts are geared towards providing the same accessibility to these resources as well as the ability to establish new connections for the attendees in a virtual platform.

WONCA Polaris collaboration

WONCA is the World Organization of National Colleges and Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians and Polaris is the North American arm of the WONCA Young Doctor's Movement. The resident and student representative sit at the executive board of this organization to provide an insightful perspective of the work being done in the States as well as to propose and/or counteract changes that will be discussed at the biyearly international conference. Because of the current travel restrictions, the conference planned for this year in Dubai, may be subject to change, but our monthly meetings serve us as a platform for network and health reform advocacy. A concrete summary of our current plans and projects can be found in the quarterly newsletter upload in the Polaris website (www.polaris.org).

Fellowship development

A most recent project presented by the board was the development of webinars and/or presentation of the fellowships available for physicians interested in pursuing a career in Global Health. The resident and student representative will be leading a Global Health Fellowship Fair at the next Global Health Summit to highlight program opportunities and allow for interested residents to ask questions and network with leaders of global health fellowship programs.

Mentorship program

The Global Health Mentorship Program has the goal of bringing together people interested in global health and family medicine at various stages in their career. We are planning to expand our one-on-one mentorship to incorporate small group mentorship. We are also working on developing a webinar series to give more people access to our wonderful mentors and the opportunity to hear answers to frequently asked questions.

Resources hub

Through our website, our organization seeks to maintain a novel and current database of resources available for family physicians interested in learning about the Global health pathways, as well as for current clinicians in developing global competence for their professional projects.

Any Subcommittee Work

Border Health working group.

During the last Global Health Summit, the opportunity was presented for establishing a working group for practitioners near the US-Mexican border to discuss specific topics and issues, given the specific patient population they provide care for. As a result of the first three meetings, this working group is currently developing a curriculum for residency programs along the border that will better prepare training physicians in addressing these health care needs. Similarly, it has been proposed to establish connections with institutions in Mexico to minimize the impact of the healthcare inequities between the nations.

Health Advocacy working group.

The Health Advocacy working group was formed at the 2019 Global Health Summit in Albuquerque, NM. This year, the working group has largely focused on advocating for an allotment of foreign aid money to go toward comprehensive primary healthcare. In partnership with the Fund for Global Health, the group has mobilized a national campaign calling for Congress to support a bill that would set a floor that at least 20% of the Migration and Refugee Assistance and International Disaster Assistance accounts, respectively, be used for comprehensive primary healthcare.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on Global Health initiative.

Resident representative.

My experience as part of this organization has brought an immense deal of satisfaction as I am able to help fulfill two of my current goals in life – global physician character development and quality care provision to the people who need it the most. Similarly, through this experience I am learning about how to advocate for something that I feel very strong about- in our case- better allocation of health resources. Though much of our work has been hindered by the current pandemic restrictions, it has been gratifying to see the level of involvement of my international colleagues in mitigating the impact

of the global health crisis in the developing nations. I feel fortunate to serve as one of the pillars of this advisory board, and in this sense, I'm grateful for the opportunity to develop this young network of professionals from whom I'm learning on a daily basis.

Student representative.

The position of student representative on the AAFP CGHI Advisory Board is an immense honor and privilege. This opportunity has allowed me to build upon my prior experiences in global health and to explore new avenues of leadership, mentorship, and system change. While our work has been disrupted in many ways by COVID-19 and the national awakening of the depth of systemic racism in our country, such events have also highlighted the importance of primary healthcare and made visible the truth that global health is local health and vice versa. I'm proud to be a part of an organization that stands at the intersection of primary healthcare and global health, two fields that must be at the forefront of our changing world.

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.