

Commission on Membership and Member Services 2020 Annual Report

COMMISSION ON MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBER SERVICES

Resident

Clayton Cooper, MD, MBA Duke FMR Durham, NC Class of 2021

Student

Austin Witt, MD
East Tennessee State University
Quillen College of Medicine
Johnson City, TN
Class of 2020

Our job as the resident and student on CMMS is to represent your voice in all things related to membership in the academy.

This year there was a lot of discussion regarding membership of new physicians- defined as physicians in their first 7 years out of residency- where we will all be before we know it. We discussed ways to retain membership after residency and to increase the value proposition of what AAFP membership means, so that the academy can strive to meet the evolving needs of its members.

We also reaffirmed that the AAFP should continue to maintain 6 specific delegates as elected at NCCL for individuals underrepresented in medicine, with the goal that the membership of the academy better reflects the diverse patients we care for, and the leadership of the academy reflects the diversity of members we serve.

Accepted for information resolution on non-physician FM faculty "membership/subscription", as this would be a small number of people requiring lots of work from staff, and the staff resources were felt to be better spent elsewhere.

Additionally, we were strong voices to advocate within CMMS to continue holding NCCL virtually when initially cancelled due to Covid-19, ensuring the voices of underrepresented groups and new physicians remain represented to the academy.

At our virtual spring meeting, we re-addressed many issues impacted by Covid-19, and voted to delay the proposed dues increase in the setting of financial hardship from Covid-19.

Through this position, we both have learned how important our voices as the next generation of family physicians are. We have been vocal, and we have been heard. We have also learned about how member interest groups are formed, approved, and maintain membership.

As members on this commission we learned just how the academy centers its members as priority stakeholders in the advancement of health in our country. In the unprecedented time of COVID, we were able to see just how flexible and creative the academy can be in order to help meet the pressing needs of our membership. As a student member of an extremely large organization, it can feel as though you are trying to do a U-turn on the Titanic trying to enact change. It was extremely

encouraging to see the academy pivot and allocate resources in such a responsive manner and gives me much hope for ongoing improvement moving forward.

If you are interested in advocating for our voices as students, residents, and the next generation family physicians, we would encourage you to apply to be the representative to CMMS for 2020-2021.

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.