



Congress of Delegates

Resident/Student

2017 Annual Report

RESIDENT AND STUDENT DELEGATES TO CONGRESS OF DELEGATES

Residents

Vivian Jiang, MD
University of Rochester FMR
Rochester, NY
Class of 2017

Chetan Patel, MD
Columbus Regional FMR
Columbus, GA
Class of 2017

Students

Matthew Peters, MD
University of Washington School of Medicine
Seattle, WA
Class of 2017

Laura Ruhl, MD
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
Scranton, PA
Class of 2017

Purpose & Scope of Work

As elected representatives of National Congress of Student Members (NCSM) and the National Congress of Family Medicine Residents (NCFMR), our primary role is to represent the resident and student voices at the AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD), which is the academy's central policy-making body. In addition to our work at COD, we serve on the AAFP Commission on Education (COE) and two of its subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues (SRSI) and the Subcommittee on Graduate Curriculum (SGC).

AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD)

The COD meets annually to discuss actions and policies the AAFP should adopt to forward the Quadruple Aim. It consists of 2 family physician representatives from each of the 50 states, 6 family physician representatives from underrepresented groups (minorities, LGBTQI, women, IMGs, and new physicians), 2 family medicine residents, and 2 medical students. As the resident and student representatives, we have full voting and speaking rights at COD, where we work alongside these practicing physician leaders from around the country to address the problems facing our patients and members. Topics tackled at the 2016 COD ranged from single payer systems to increasing the minimum wage, from Medicare drug negotiation powers to death with dignity.

Key Activities & Achievements from the 2016 AAFP COD included:

- Urging the AAFP to continue work more on physician burnout and loan repayment, including innovative repayment options for family medicine faculty or preceptors.
- Pushing the AAFP to take an active stance against transgender discrimination and to address gun violence as a public health issue.
- Addressing the opioid epidemic, including passing a resolution supporting a national prescription drug-monitoring database (PMP).

Commission on Education and Subcommittee Work

The Commission on Education meets twice in-person each year during Summer and Winter Cluster meetings. In addition these cluster meetings, the SRSI and SGC meet virtually throughout the year via

conference calls. The work of the commission and both subcommittees is very relevant to our roles as physicians-in-training and our voices are deeply valued by the other members. We make every effort to represent the voices and interests of you, our constituents, when participating in these meetings and making policy decisions.

Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues (SRSI)

The SRSI focuses on AAFP resolutions and current events/hot topics that relate to either students, residents, or both. For example, the SRSI dedicated time during the 2017 Summer Cluster to discuss what resources, knowledge gaps, or helpful information may be considered to improve the AAFP's *Strolling through the Match* publication for medical students applying to residency.

Key Activities & Achievements from Winter 2016 and Summer 2017 Cluster Meetings

- Rural Training Opportunities for Medical Students (R3-611 & S3-309) - the AAFP will collaborate with the RTT Collaborative and NRHA to explore new ways to expand medical student access to rural training with the goal of growing the rural physician workforce.
- Lobby to End Step 2 CS & COMLEX Level 2 PE (R3-612 & S3-308) - a modified version of these resolutions is in the process of being passed by COE and will likely be sent to the AAFP Board of Directors for approval soon.

Subcommittee on Graduate Curriculum (SGC)

The SGC primarily serves to create, review, and maintain AAFP Curriculum Guidelines to be used by family medicine residency programs. SGC also discusses hot topics related to FMR curricular requirements (i.e. ACGME requirements). For example, during the 2017 Summer Cluster, the SGC thoughtfully discussed the AAFP's role in supporting AOA residency programs to seek and obtain ACGME accreditation by 2020, since failure of these residency programs to be accredited—many of which are primary care residency programs—could negatively affect the U.S. workforce of primary care physicians.

Key Activities & Achievements from 2017 Winter and Summer Cluster Meetings

- Curriculum Guideline on Wellness - SGC has decided to create a new guideline on wellness education for family medicine residents. This guideline aligns well with the AAFP's current strategic objectives related to workforce well being. The AAFP will be putting out a call for authors to write this document in the coming months.

Reflections on Serving as Resident/Student Delegates

This is my second year serving on an AAFP commission as a resident representative. It continues to be one of the most meaningful experiences I've had in residency. Once you start, it's difficult to get away! Every meeting I am humbled by the passion, kindness, and integrity of the people around me – the students and residents, the practicing physicians, and the AAFP staff. The practicing physicians are all involved in their own communities, academic centers, and state AFPs and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the meetings. The staff have been with the AAFP for years and know more about AAFP policies and current hot topics than most of the physicians in the room. But even with their years of experience and wisdom, both the top-notch practicing physicians and the incredible staff very palpably welcome and value the resident and student voices on all issues. At each cluster meeting, we ended with an open discussion that asked for our opinions and ideas on what the AAFP should focus on moving forward. The AAFP recognizes, that everyone brings something to the table, that many people working together is better than a few deciding what's best for everyone. They believe that residents and students are the future leaders of primary care, and it shows in how the organization is run. I cannot say enough good things about all that the AAFP has taught me these past 2 years – about medicine, about being a leader, about advocacy. I am reminded of why I came into

medicine. I am reminded that across the nation there are people passionate about the same things I am passionate about, who I can work with to improve healthcare for all.

- Vivian Jiang, MD

This is my first time serving on an AAFP commission. This past year has been an incredible whirlwind of learning on the job, inspiration, connection and hard work. I'm sad and excited that my time on the commission about is to end. I will deeply miss working along side our crack staff, fellow colleges and sage mentors in the academy. Their collective strength and wisdom forged through years experience has been a guiding light on my quest to serve my fellow residents and students. I'm excited about the work we have done and the work that will continue long after my term has ceased. I'm excited for the residents who will take my place and the opportunities that await them. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve the academy. I'm extremely lucky and thankful for the opportunity. When the practice of medicine feels cold and lonely, it warms my heart to know that I have found my home and my tribe in the AAFP. And if I've learned one thing over this last year, it is this: the academy is eager to embrace all of us as family with arms open.

- Chetan Patel, MD

This was my second year serving as a student member on an AAFP Commission. I can honestly say these leadership experiences have been among the most memorable parts of medical school. Over the past two years, I've gained a deeper understanding of the AAFP and how its' work actively seeks to improve our profession and our patients' lives. I have seen first-hand how important student and resident involvement is to the AAFP - the academy realizes we are the next generation of leaders and they're doing everything they can to get us involved and prepare us to lead. Most importantly, I firmly believe the work that I've been involved with at the academy is helping drive the evolution of family medicine - it is both meaningful and rewarding. Working alongside this gifted and passionate group of leaders for the past two years has been a sincere honor - I find myself inspired by them every time we're together. I would strongly encourage anyone who is interested in this opportunity to just go for it! This chance to network, advocate, and grow as a leader has been transformative and I know it will be for others as well.

- Matt Peters, MD

I've learned so much about so *many* current issues facing medical students, residents, and family medicine residency programs. I also better understand the roles of each leadership group within the AAFP, and I so appreciate their work! It's been exciting to be involved in discussions and POLICY-making that directly affect me and my fellow students/residents! And, as one of my mentors encouraged after her experience as a student delegate, all members of the AAFP's COD, COE, and subcommittees are truly *passionate* about family medicine and inspiring to be with.

- Laura Ruhl, MD

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.