



Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Program of Excellence Award Winners

Categorical Award, First Time Applicant

Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences-College of Osteopathic Medicine

FMIG Operation

Our FMIG is student-led. We have five students on the leadership team that collaborate to create a vision for FMIG. All the members then have the opportunity to identify topics that would like to cover in the programming throughout the year. The team roles include president, vice president of academic affairs, vice president of community affairs secretary, and treasurer. The president and two vice presidents work together to organize the logistics for the events and advertise them to club members. The secretary helps coordinate leadership meetings and follow up on action items. The treasurer oversees group funds and processes event expenses.

Goals

Our mission is to introduce students at PNWU to the breadth of family medicine practice and help them to make connections to prepare for residency. We organize special interest events, provide opportunities for conference attendance, and collaborate with large family physician organizations including ACOFP, AAFP, and WAFP.

Faculty Advisor

Our FMIG/SAACOF is has great support from several staff at PNWU. Ms. provides administrative assistance in organizing events, reserving venues, and processing reimbursements. This takes a significant workload of the students allowing them to focus on content rather than operational aspects. Ms. knows virtually every FM residency coordinator and most program directors in a 5 state area. This helps us get in the door for webinars that include alumni, residents, and faculty from the programs. In addition, she is the primary organizer of our annual residency fair working on the logistics so our club can focus on student turnout and spend our time speaking with programs. Lastly, we are fortunate to have Dr. , a family physician and educator in the region these past thirty years with connections with programs, organized medicine, politicians, and with the experience of a full spectrum family doc who did OB, hospital work, and home visits. He helps us connect with the right people for the sessions we plan. Our club has really taken off the last few years when this team of staff and faculty came on board to help us.

Programs

National Primary Care Week

STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

Early in fall semester our FMIG hosts National Primary Care Week on an annual basis. Our goal this year was to showcase the variety of the family medicine specialties, as well as provide information and teach skills that are not emphasized elsewhere in the curriculum. For five evenings we invited speakers to discuss topics including end of life care, private practice, pediatric wellness visits, family medicine in the military, and suicide prevention.

These events were planned by the FMIG president and vice president of academic affairs. Several of the speakers had presented with our club in previous years and were invited back to our campus. Two new topics discussed this year included end of life care and suicide prevention. Dr. helped us find a resident from the Central Washington FM Residency Program to talk about the importance of advanced directives and how to talk to patients about dying. For the suicide prevention session, we invited a community crisis response professional, who helped demystify what leads to suicide and how physicians can intervene.

Because it comes earlier in the academic year National Primary Care Week is a special opportunity to show what the FMIG represents, and it is an event we will continue to hold. The student leaders advertise the event annually and arrange for food for students who attend. In the future we hope to increase the number of students that come with mission-driven advertising, collaboration with other campus groups, as well as perhaps recording these sessions so interested students can benefit from them later.

Dinner with a Doc

During the two years of preclinical education at PNWU, when students are focused on learning the ins and outs of physiology and pharmacology, the path to becoming a practicing physician appears anything but clear. In order to address this need for guidance our FMIG set up the “Dinner with a Doc” program. This event, which was held four times this academic year, creates an informal setting where a small group of students could ask their questions about the path to family medicine, with a family medicine physician from the community.

This event was organized mainly by our vice president of community affairs. With the help of our advisor, who himself is a family physician, she was able to find local physicians and schedule a date. Then she advertised the event and arranged for food. We limited spots at this event to about 10 students so each student could have time to ask their questions. All the sessions filled up quickly, and we encouraged people who had gone before to let others have an opportunity. Students who attend our FMIG Dinner with Doc events benefit from networking and mentorship opportunities. We intend to continue this program and expand it so more students can participate.