



Draft Proposal – AAFP Opioid/Pain Fellowship 11/29/2016

The intertwined public health issues of chronic pain management and the risks of opioid use and misuse continue to receive national attention. Family physicians find themselves at the crux of the issue, balancing care of people who have chronic pain with the challenges of managing opioid misuse and abuse. In the face of this growing crisis, family physicians have a unique opportunity to be part of the solution. Both pain management and dependence therapy require patient-centered, compassionate care as the foundation of treatment.

The AAFP is committed to addressing the dual public health crisis of undertreated pain and opioid misuse/abuse at both the national and grassroots levels. To this end, the AAFP has an official position paper, “AAFP Chronic Pain Management and Opioid Misuse: A Public Health Concern” which outlines a call to action in addressing the growing burden of opioid dependence with specific actions at the physician, practice, community, education, and advocacy levels. In addition, the AAFP designated this topic as a priority and is addressing the multiple issues through its efforts with other physician and medical organizations, as well as governmental entities. The AAFP is committed to being a leader in promoting the advancement of safe pain management and opioid prescribing.

To help implement the “call to action” and leverage existing work, the AAFP is proposing a one year fellowship for opioid/pain management. This fellowship would develop the pipeline of family physicians with specific expertise in this area and continue to build upon the current strong foundation of the AAFP. A fellowship program will serve to build the Academy’s capacity in this area by training family physicians to be advocates at the local, state and national levels. The fellowship is a one year commitment with 2 family physician fellows. This fellowship proposal is similar to the AAFP’s Vaccine Science Fellowship program which is currently in its 6th year cycle and has been very successful in developing a strong cadre of family physicians with expertise in evidence-based scientific policy in vaccines.

Purpose:

To create a cadre of AAFP members who have the knowledge and experience in opioid/pain management. Two family physicians would be selected per one-year fellowship cycle.

Content of the Fellowship:

The fellowship would be one year in duration. It would involve a 0.10 FTE commitment on the part of the fellow. The activities to be completed during the year would include:

- Two designated mentors who are family physician content experts will be available
- Monthly calls for all fellows, mentors, AAFP staff, and invited guests (content experts, etc.)



- Attendance at one meeting of the AAFP's Commission on Health of the Public and Science in Kansas City
- Attendance at meetings regarding opioid/pain management
- Mentored reviews of topic specific guidelines and policies being considered for AAFP endorsement
- Researching state policies on opioids and pain management and their effect on the practice environment
- Develop and implement a member survey on opioid misuse and pain management to determine issues at the practice level
- Service on a national policy panel concurrently with an experienced AAFP member
- Meetings with national and state entities to learn about opioid misuse and pain management policies (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Health Departments, etc.)
- Obtain Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) training
- Project specific to addressing the "call to action" from the AAFP's position paper on opioid misuse and pain management.

At the end of the fellowship each fellow will be considered for opportunities to serve on national policy and guideline panels, and participate in other activities as an AAFP member with expertise in opioid misuse/pain management.

Because funding support for the AAFP Opioid/Pain Fellowship would be provided by Indivior, the selected applicants may be disclosed by Indivior and posted on a public website by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as covered recipients under the Physician Payments Sunshine Act, codified at 42 CFR, Parts 402 and 403. The funder will have no input into or control over selection of fellows or content of the fellowships.

Skills to be Learned

At the end of the fellowship each fellow will be able to:

- Understand policy implications on the topics of opioid use and pain management
- Understand the policy implications at the practice implementation level of state opioid/pain management regulations
- Perform an evidence review for a policy/guideline using AAFP's process
- Understand the AAFP's call to action and stance on opioid use/addiction and pain management
- Represent the family medicine and EBM perspective at meetings regarding opioid misuse/addiction/pain management

Program Costs

Each year there will be 2 fellows selected. The fellow's home institution will be expected to cover the 0.10 FTE commitment and provide equipment needed for the fellowship, including a laptop computer or iPad and telephone. The fellowship expenses to be covered by the program are estimated at **\$126,000**. Detailed budgets will be provided if you are interested in moving forward.

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