

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation represents the interests and endeavors of family physicians all throughout our country and enables their action through funding opportunities, operational support, and organized promotion of family medicine as an essential medical specialty. Through its unique emphasis on the many facets that make our specialty a powerful agent of change for our patients and communities, the AAFP Foundation is the heart of the AAFP and its stakeholders. Our AAFP member and corporate donors make it possible for the AAFP Foundation to inspire trainees, mobilize community resources, facilitate scientific progress, and maximize the reach of our practitioners.

In the face of all that has occurred this past year, from the war in Ukraine to attacks on women's rights, school shootings and even rising gas prices; the AAFP Foundation has remained focused on its vision to advance "the values of family medicine through humanitarian, educational, and scientific philanthropy dedicated to improving health."

Given my position as the Student Trustee, I would like to give examples of how the Foundation is shaping family medicine for future family physicians:

Family Medicine Leads: Scholarships for the AAFP National Conference

For the past 47 years, the AAFP National Conference has been the prime destination for family medicine residents and students to not only explore opportunities within Family Medicine but also to make meaningful connections that can influence choices both professionally and personally. The AAFP Foundation recognizes not only the importance of physicians in-training to have access to this opportunity but also the financial barriers that may prevent them from doing so. This year, we were able to provide 240 scholarships to students due to the generous contributions of our donors in order to mitigate some of those financial concerns and provide them the chance to cultivate the relationships that are vital to their continued growth and development as family medicine physicians.

Family Medicine Leads: Emerging Leader Institute

The Emerging Leader Institute is one of the flagship programs of the AAFP Foundation. This program aims to pair promising future family medicine leaders with qualified mentors to identify and carry out a year-long project in one of three leadership tracks: (1) Policy & Public Health, (2) Personal & Practice, and (3) Philanthropic & Mission-Driven. Now more than ever it is imperative that physicians not only be highly trained clinicians but also be trained to be effective leaders. Medical students and residents often feel dwarfed by the titan that is organized medicine and the AAFP Foundation acknowledges the critical role that mentorship plays in fostering an environment for growth to occur. I have had the pleasure of being a part of the 2020-2021 cohort and have personally seen the impact that many of the projects have had on their communities within such a short period of time. Even in the face of unprecedented difficulties and challenges, participants in this program have demonstrated resilience, tenacity and creativity through finding ways to continue to be change-agents within their schools, residency programs, and communities. I can assure you that the future of family medicine is bright and look forward to another year of outstanding projects.

Family Medicine Cares USA

Through Family Medicine Cares USA, the AAFP Foundation awards grants to new and existing free clinics seeking financial support for equipment and other necessary practice resources in collaboration with the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) Volunteers in Medicine program. The vast majority of these clinics operate in areas of the country where health care access is severely limited. In addition to offering substantial financial support, the Foundation also provides guidance to assist these clinics with effective utilization of the resources at their disposal. As of September 2021, the FMC-USA program has given

out 94 awards for a total of \$1,728,697 to free clinics in 32 states plus one U.S. territory, and we look forward to the continued impact of this program.

Family Medicine Cares International

The Family Medicine Care International Program seeks to provide (1) Medical education and faculty development through the support of ongoing medical education and training in collaboration with local medical schools and family medicine residency programs; (2) patient care via a one-week trip to allow licensed physicians and residents to provide primary care to patients; (3) children service project. While the program was initially implemented in Haiti; due to the events of 2021 and the current civil unrest, the program has focused its efforts in the Batey sugar cane communities within the San Pedro de Macortis area of the Dominican Republic. As the delegation recently returned from its inaugural trip, it remains clear that the Foundation remains true to its aims to continue to push the specialty of family medicine forward both locally and internationally.

Family Medicine Discovers: Rapid Cycle Scientific Discovery and Innovation

Now in its third year of inception, the Family Medicine Discovers: Rapid Cycle Scientific Discovery and Innovation program (RapSDI) aims to assist promising practicing family physicians, who have limited research experience in the implementation of projects, that aim to change the practice of Family Medicine for the better. Through the collaboration between the AAFP Foundation and AAFP National Research Network researchers are mentored and assist with the development of new evidence and innovative models for what works in real-world primary care settings. This years' proposals aim to tackle many of the inadequacies within health equity and demonstrate the diverse impact that the field of family medicine can have. I am personally excited to continue to see the growth of this program and encourage new physician-trainees to stay connected with this program as it continues to grow throughout the upcoming years.

Final Thoughts

Serving as the Student Trustee on the AAFP Foundation Board of Trustees has been an immense pleasure. This role has allowed me to not only play a role on the development of future leaders within family medicine but also to interact with amazing family physicians, stakeholders, and the dedicated staff who work tirelessly to ensure that the Foundation remains focused and achieve its goals. My perspective on how to interact with medical students and new physicians, in addition to input that I offered on issues facing our communities and specialty during our board meetings and strategic planning sessions was met with a listening ear. From day one my perspective felt valued. My goal in this position was to inspire a new generation of family physicians to see their own potential take the reins and lead. Through this position not only was I able to do that but also to reignite my own flame to continue to carve out a life of devotion to family medicine and philanthropy.

The AAFP Foundation is a catalyst for innovation in the practice, study, and development of family medicine. All of these efforts are made possible because of the generosity of our donors and as a board we stand, "Together in Gratitude" for all that you do.

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