



Center for Global Health Initiatives 2022 Annual Report

Center for Global Health Initiatives (CGHI)

Resident

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The AAFP CGHI Advisory Board serves to enrich the experiences of AAFP members who seek to either place global health at the forefront of their careers, incorporate it into their existing careers, or simply explore the broad, all-encompassing definition of what global health means. We aim to support individuals at all different phases in their career development from new medical student to seasoned faculty member. The board does this by providing platforms and opportunities that encourage important conversations as well as allow for a place for like-minded individuals to educate one another, network, and discuss their unique perspectives on different aspects of global family medicine. An important concept that is often emphasized within this group is global health ethics.

As medical student and resident members of the board, we represent the voices of our medical student and resident counterparts, bringing a trainee perspective to conversations surrounding engagement and event planning.

Activities & Achievements

Global Health Summit

Annually, the AAFP hosts a Global Health Summit based in the U.S. where attendees are given the opportunity to network and learn from experienced family physicians who have integrated and centered Global Health in their careers. The GHS included poster presentations, panels, workshops, and opportunities for trainees to learn more about FM GH residencies and fellowships. A top priority for the CGHI advisory board was organizing an event that inspired

more FM trainees to imagine themselves in GH and encourage FM GH practitioners to continue bringing medical care to people around the world.

To date, our roles have been centered on navigating the changes to CGHI and the Global Health Summit. At the very beginning of taking on these positions, a decision was made to integrate the GH Summit into the annual FMX conference. We, then, have been discussing and strategizing how to best maximize engagement in Global Health within Family Medicine trainees in this new arrangement. We have organized a Get Global event for the AAFP National Conference (AAFP NC) to further captivate and inspire students and residents to explore and pursue GH opportunities.

Mentorship Program

In the past, the CGHI had developed a mentorship program that aimed to connect trainees interested in global health with established faculty members eager to mentor rising physicians. Over the last couple of years, this program has lost its momentum. Therefore, we are hoping to revitalize the program by first re-assessing the amount of interest in it at the AAFP NC and then developing a “mentorship curriculum” to be employed throughout the year that would serve to prevent program drop-outs.

WONCA Polaris

WONCA is the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians, an organization that collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other groups around the world. Polaris is the North American arm of the WONCA Young Doctor’s Movement. The medical student and resident CGHI board members sit on the Executive Committee of this organization. Currently, we are working on new initiatives including starting a quarterly newsletter highlighting different topics and GH professionals, updating the Polaris website to include new leadership, and employing social media strategies that include MythBusters and Monthly Spotlights to increase awareness and engagement.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on Global Health Initiative

In the first 6 months of this role, we have learned much about the processes of leadership, as well as how change is discussed, proposed, and made within the AAFP body. We have been able to identify the importance of certain networking opportunities and how exchanging ideas can allow us to build upon global health capacity. Since the Global Health Summit has been canceled this year, we are learning how to advocate for our fellow medical students and residents who have a passion for humanitarian work in global and underserved settings by engaging in resolution writing to reinstate the summit. This has been an invaluable experience for us. As trainee representatives, we have experienced the value of our voices being necessary as the AAFP seeks to best support and engage young doctors. We have also learned about the level of commitment and dedication it takes outside of our normal careers and daily lives to serve on a national advisory board where its members often have conflicting schedules and live

in different time zones. We are both very humbled and honored to serve as the medical student and resident members on this board and look forward to furthering our professional development in this sphere of work.

We strongly encourage other trainees who possess good leadership skills and are interested in global health to apply for the medical student and resident board members to the CGHI Advisory Board. It is such a unique opportunity to work with passionate and established global health leaders who quickly become your mentors and provides an exclusive look at the inner workings of an important AAFP advisory board.

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.