



AAFP Congress of Delegates Resident and Student 2021 Annual Report

Delegate/Alternate Delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates

Residents

Michael Keller, MD, MPH
Memorial Hospital FM Residency
South Bend, IN
Class of 2022

Allen Rodriguez, MD
Scripps Chula Vista FM Residency
Chula Vista, CA
Class of 2021

Students

Morgan Weiler
University of Kansas School of Medicine
Kansas City, KS
Class of 2022

Becca Stoll
Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine
Dothan, AL
Class of 2022

Purpose & Scope of Work

We represent residents and students at the AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD), which is the academy's primary policy-making body. In addition to Congress duties, we facilitate a caucus process at COD for any residents or students who attend to ensure that their input is maximized. We also attend two in-person meetings per year in Kansas City to 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). Commission duties include intermittent virtual meetings and assignments which generally require no more than a few hours of work per month.

AAFP Congress of Delegates

The COD meets annually to discuss actions the AAFP should adopt to forward the quadruple aim and AAFP strategic objectives. Much like the U.S. Senate, it consists of 2 delegates from each state as well as 2 delegates from each U.S. territory, 6 delegates from National Congress of Constituency Leaders member constituencies (minorities, LGBTQI, women, international medical graduates, and new physicians), 2 resident delegates, and 2 student delegates. We have full voting and speaking rights at COD, where we work alongside family physician leaders from around the country to address the problems facing our patients and members. All resolutions approved at the COD immediately become AAFP policy as, according to AAFP bylaws, the control and administration of the AAFP is vested in the COD, subject to the statutory authority of the Board.

Highlights of the 2020 AAFP Congress of Delegates

Due to COVID restrictions, the 2020 Congress of Delegates was held virtually. Naturally, this led to many changes of the format and consequentially there were fewer resolutions introduced as well. Unsurprisingly, many of these resolutions focused on the timely issues of the pandemic, access to vaccination and necessary health care and racism. The resident and student delegation advocated both for and against many resolutions and frequently provided testimony to ensure that student and resident voices were heard. Notable resolutions are listed below:

Support Deregulating Buprenorphine Administration - X the X Waiver

A resolution was adopted that stated the American Academy of Family Physicians supported deregulating Buprenorphine prescribing by removing the X waiver and Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 associated regulations.

Preserving Public Trust in Vaccines

A resolution was adopted asking the AAFP to advocate for stringent approval standards for COVID-19 vaccines and for transparency in the process to promote public trust in the emerging COVID vaccines.

Close the US Detention Centers, Provide Humane Care to Migrants

A resolution was adopted calling for the closure of detention centers holding migrants and demanding that migrants obtain adequate and appropriate medical care.

End Race-Based Medicine

A resolution was adopted calling for the end of inappropriate practice of using race as a proxy for biology or genetics in their educational events and literature, including phasing out educational materials that refer to race as a risk factor and removing terminology in training materials and publications that furthers this misuse and misunderstanding.

Specific Reflections from Michael Keller, MD, MPH

It has been an honor to serve as a Delegate to the Congress of Delegates. To represent the residents in these debates is deeply rewarding. It is a remarkable thing to be in a room (even a virtual room) with family physicians who are deeply passionate about their specialty, their patients, and their country. That passion also extends to many residents and students. Prior to the Congress of Delegates, any interested resident and student are invited to attend a caucus where our positions on each resolution are determined. It is encouraging to witness the extensive, deep, respectful discussions that occur. I am looking forward to the upcoming Congress of Delegates in Kansas City.

Specific Reflections from Morgan Weiler

It was an honor and privilege to serve as student delegate to the Congress of Delegates during these quickly changing times. I formerly worked with the AMA as AAFP student representative to the American Medical Association- Medical Student Section. It was a large learning curve, but worth it. The confidence I gained during my experience with the AMA allowed me to fully dive into an important workforce with the COD and COE. During my time as delegate, I was able to provide input with my fellow students and residents on important issues related to a myriad of healthcare topics and medical education.

At Congress of Delegates, I testified in support of resolutions related to elimination of raced-based medicine and reproductive healthcare for incarcerated women. Most of the work through the year was through the commissions I serve on. I worked with many other AAFP colleagues to make change regarding student choice in family medicine, discrimination and harassment in medical education and virtual learning for students and residents. I hope to continue my journey in leadership with a great team of dedication staff, learners, and educators. Thanks for a great year AAFP!

Specific Reflections from Allen Rodriguez, MD

Being a delegate to the Congress of Delegates is an amazing and rewarding experience i would recommend to anyone interested in gaining experience in healthcare policy development and learning more about the AAFP in service of your fellow members.

The AAFP works for members based on member input with a backbone of incredible staff and a surprising amount of member involvement all along the way.

Representing the resident voice at the COD is a privilege that involves attending two meetings a year apart - at the first meeting you serve as an alternate delegate and the next year the delegate. In preparation for last year's COD I researched all 29 policy topics up for consideration, and then we met as a team to discuss our positions. It was fun and educational helping each other understand nuanced ideas and come up with the best possible arguments in order to best represent our peers across the country. I ended up testifying at the congress on several interesting topics. I look forward to more learning and collegiality at our next meeting in September.

This position also comes with the opportunity to serve on the Commission on Education and the Subcommittee on Student and Resident Issues, where a ton more policy is crafted. These were impressive groups of people. I volunteered to serve on additional task forces focused on issues surrounding buprenorphine regulation and training and on trainee access to mental health resources.

This position opened my eyes to the tireless year-round nature of the work the AAFP does to advocate for FM doctors, trainees and our patient communities, a process I hope to continue to be a part of throughout my career.

Specific Reflections from Becca Stoll

Working as the Alternate and then Student Delegate to the Congress of Delegates has been such a rewarding experience. Filling such large shoes and such a large role with little experience was a daunting task, but the other student and resident leaders, as well as AAFP staff, were there to help every step of the way. It was such an honor and privilege to continue my leadership with the AAFP and there is no better way to fight for your patients than as a Student Delegate. You are the connection between what patients need, what students want, and what the AAFP can do. I look forward to staying involved with the AAFP any way that I can!

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.