



Latino Medical Student Association Student Liaison 2021 Annual Report

STUDENT LIAISON TO THE LATINO MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (LMSA)

Student

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It has been an honor to serve as this year's AAFP National Liaison to the Latino Medical Student Association. I look forward to continuing my leadership role for both organizations until the Spring of 2022. As the AAFP to LMSA Liaison, my goal is to facilitate cooperation between the organizations in pursuit of common goals.

Purpose & Scope of Work

The AAFP recognized the need to establish a relationship and collaborate with the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) at the national level, as it is a growing organization with shared goals to the AAFP. An LMSA representative attended the COE meeting and discussed goals and direction of this partnership in February 2017. A memorandum of understanding between AAFP and LMSA was reached and this position was created. Both organizations mutually agreed upon eligibility criteria and selection process. It is important to note that AAFP is more heavily involved with the Liaison student, with much more participation in AAFP meetings, discussions, and events.

The purpose of this partnership has been to work collaboratively towards the main goal of increasing workforce diversity in primary care, especially in Family Medicine. To do so, this position has aimed to identify and act on opportunities for increasing medical student awareness and affinity for primary care careers, especially as it relates to serving the underserved and underrepresented communities.

Activities & Achievements

Defining responsibilities: The MOU established between the two organizations was discussed with the President of LMSA, the Liaison, and Ashley Bentley in June 2020. The position's term was agreed to be served between January 1st 2021- after the LMSA National Conference in 2022. The role responsibilities include collaborating with both organizations to help identify priorities, common goals, and the ways that both organizations can support each other in efforts. The role is fairly new (established in 2017) and continues to evolve over the years, further defining the responsibilities of the position. I communicated with and worked with the LMSA National President, Vice President of External Affairs, the Southwest Co-Directors, and AAFP Student Interest staff, and my fellow AAFP Student Leaders to plan and executive events

including LMSA National Conference, AAFP National Conference, and LMSA National Policy Summit.

Leadership: The role began with attending a virtual National Leadership Orientation Training with the AAFP FMIG Regional Coordinators as well as the SNMA and IMG Liaisons. This training allows the LMSA liaison to be a part of the student leadership team. I attended monthly “hang out” calls where we discussed goals, events, and planning of National Conference. Communication involved emails, phone calls, and video sessions as needed.

I met with the program directors of the Harbor UCLA and Brown family medicine residencies in an effort to explore diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at their programs and family medicine programs across the country

I participated on a panel to discuss my journey as a medical student pursuing family medicine with high school students involved in HOSA.

I helped lead a webinar on leadership journeys for members of FMIGs across the country in order to illustrate the variety of journeys to leadership and the different ways one can become involved in leadership roles within family medicine.

I designed the layout and helped with the content of “mini-manuals” on leadership transitions and how to navigate AAFP National Conference. Both manuals are installments in a series of mini-manuals on various leadership topics distributed to FMIG, SNMA, and LMSA leadership.

Increasing Family Medicine awareness at LMSA events: I organized a panel of four Latinx Family Medicine physicians who had completed a variety of fellowships for the 2021 LMSA National Conference. The goal was to exhibit different types of fellowships available within family medicine and explore the journeys of individual Latinx physicians who had pursued those fellowships.

I also attended the virtual orientation for the 2021 LMSA national leadership team wherein I had the opportunity to get to know the rest of the board and learn about the leadership structure and goals of the organization. I attended a monthly LMSA pan-national call for updates and added appropriate announcements to the FMIG monthly newsletter. Additionally, I have worked towards establishing the role of the AAFP Liaison into the leadership structure of LMSA by adding it to the external affairs committee. I now meet with external affairs monthly for collaboration and cooperation.

AAFP National Conference: My responsibilities included planning and coordinating different events for the National Conference. My efforts were focused on executing the POE awards and happy hour event for the conference as well as the Diversity Workshop for students and residents.

Social Media and communications: As part of my role, I have been actively involved in social media and our internal student and leader’s portal on the AAFP website. I also used the platform “Slack” and Twitter to communicate with LMSA members about scholarship opportunities and registration for AAFP National Conference. Our goal is to promote LMSA and AAFP events, news related to Family Medicine and Latinx health, policy, and advocacy.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on both National committees:

Feedback: While I am very grateful to be incorporated into the AAFP student leadership team in monthly hangouts, I do find that portions of the meeting are dedicated to FMIG specific duties that I do not share. I think it might be productive to have a portion of the meeting set aside for FMIG specific discussion and allow the SNMA, IMG and LMSA liaisons to meet in a separate breakout room during this time to have a discussion pertaining to different innovations and obstacles pertaining to liaison roles specifically.

It has been an honor to serve as the National AAFP to LMSA Liaison. Serving on both national committees has allowed me to combine my passion with family medicine and serving the Latinx community. I am excited to continue working with this wonderful group of individuals in both organizations. The role has allowed me to experience a true sense of belonging in medicine as an underrepresented student with support from two powerful national organizations. The role has facilitated professional development, promoted my interpersonal skills and my ability to collaborate and network with strong leaders within medicine. This role has led to my development of leadership skills, team building skills, and my ability to use my voice to represent underrepresented students in medicine.

My biggest accomplishment in this role has been learning how to become an active and engaged member of a leadership team. I have acquired great knowledge of how national organizations work, improved my communication skills, and collaborated with diverse leaders to organize successful events. I have no doubts that serving in this position has made me a stronger leader, a better team player, and a fiercer advocate for my patients. I look forward to promoting student awareness of the joys of choosing a career in family medicine.

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.