



AAFP Board of Directors Resident and Student 2020 Annual Report

AAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Resident

Kelly Thibert, DO, MPH
Grant Medical Center
Family Medicine Residency
Class of 2020

Student

Margaret Miller, MD, MPH
East Tennessee State University
Quillen College of Medicine
Class of 2020

Thank you for choosing us to be your voices to the AAFP Board of Directors for 2019-2020, and what a whirlwind of a year it has been! This experience has been truly incredible and we will never forget it. We were able to bring issues to the Board that were important to students and residents and were able to voice student and resident opinions on a multitude of issues brought to the Board through other means. Our input at the table was well received, highly valued and influential to discussions and decisions made by the Board.

Purpose and Scope of Work

As the student and resident board members, we have been able to represent more than 13,000 residents and 37,000 students on a national level. The Board values our perspective as members who are actively training as family physicians. In addition to attending board meetings throughout the year, we each served on the Commission on Education's Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues as well as board liaisons to different commissions (Dr. Thibert to the Commission on Health of the Public and Science and Dr. Miller to the Commission on Education). We attended major conferences both in person and virtually this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. These included Family Medicine Experience 2019, National Conference of Constituency Leaders 2020 virtually, and National Conference for Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students 2020 virtually. We also wrote blogs for the AAFP about rural health and passion for family medicine, vulnerability in medicine, death and dying, advocacy and social determinants of health, the Match experiences, how to stay well read during a pandemic and the virtual Match.

Activities and Achievements

COVID-19 Global Pandemic and Organized Response

As expected, much of the 2020 year-to-date has been dominated by the Academy's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time the Board of Directors was in very close contact as we met on a nearly weekly basis. Starting early on we were able to voice our concerns and strongly advocate about the safety, wellness and educational challenges that learners faced on the front lines. From these conversations, a [policy protecting medical learners](#) was created by the AAFP. We participated in conversations surrounding advocating for expanded testing, changes to public health policies and how to keep AAFP members updated with the fast-paced changes regarding billing and medical recommendations. We shared personal experiences on the front lines and made challenging decisions regarding AAFP's CME events with the safety of the members at the forefront of our minds. We continue to have conversations and lead the way on what clinical rotations and the virtual Match will and should look like to ensure equity for all students involved in the process while maintaining safety and meeting educational requirements. Aside from the education perspective, the AAFP had,

and still has, a strong voice as it relates to racial and ethnic disparities in the face of COVID-19. Many letters were written to legislators, conversations had, information shared, and policies supported to bring to light the health disparities further worsened by this pandemic. The AAFP has continued to advocate to address the needs of vulnerable communities through efforts to reduce inequities at a multitude of legislative levels.

Transitions in AAFP Leadership

This marked a significant year for the Academy with several transitions of leadership. First and foremost, we felt privileged to be a part of Dr. Doug Henley's last year as Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer of the Academy. Dr. Henley has made significant contributions to our organization during his 20 years, and it was our honor to participate in the selection of his successor. We are excited for the Academy to grow and flourish under the leadership of former Senior Vice President Shawn Martin. His passion for family medicine is evident with every conversation held and action taken. We are fortunate to have a leader with such a range of health policy experiences, especially during the many changes facing family medicine in the face of a pandemic. Stephanie Quinn, former director of government relations, has been promoted into his former role and we look forward to her continued leadership in Washington. In the coming year, we will also say goodbye to Chief Operating Officer Todd Dicus. We were happy to welcome new Chief Financial Officer Charlotte Kerner and her expertise, upon Dale Culver's retirement following six years of service. All in all, the Academy continues to hire both wonderful and competent new members of the senior management team who have navigated the growth and transitions in Kansas City flawlessly.

Policy and Advocacy Efforts

As always, the AAFP Board spends a great deal of time and energy leading advocacy efforts on behalf of the Academy. In March, our Board meeting in Washington DC included Capitol Hill visits to our elected officials and their staff. Core topics included improving fee for service payment and E/M codes, reducing administrative complexity, introducing a primary care benefit and teaching health center legislation. We were both able to share our personal stories with legislators and their aides on how these issues affected us and our patients personally. We look forward to improvements in medicine that the AAFP surely will be a driving force behind.

Anti-racism

After the murder of George Floyd this year, there was a renewed sense of urgency in the anti-racism movement and the AAFP raised its voice. Last year while the AAFP witnessed the growth of the Center for Diversity and Health Equity, this year the AAFP has pushed the envelope further to develop more resources for its members to use in their efforts to work not only on identifying implicit bias, but on being actively anti-racist and advocating for justice. Letters were written to legislators declaring racism a public health issue and asking for the development of a federal response to address systemic racism in our country, the backbone of poor health outcomes in our country. COVID-19 was addressed specifically as it relates to the health disparities faced by people in vulnerable communities. Academy leadership also participated in a Virtual Town Hall around the public health crisis of racism. Prior resolutions passed by our Congress of Delegates were acted on directly, taken to outside governing bodies to advocate for changes in medicine. While our country, organization and members continue to gain further awareness and learn more about this issue, we as the Student and Resident members to the Board have been able to amplify the voices of our colleagues and advocate for change.

Overall, while this year looked different than we ever could have imagined, we have truly enjoyed being on the Board of Directors. With the unexpected, everlasting changes coming our way from COVID-19 and the much needed changes we hope are coming our way through social justice movements, we are eager to see how the AAFP remains engaged with crucial issues facing family physicians, learners and our patients and communities. We want to encourage every student and resident to consider pursuing a leadership opportunity within the AAFP. You will find that this organization provides supportive, non-judgemental leadership training unlike what you may have

experienced before. Thank you again for this opportunity, we look forward to working with you in the future as family physicians, the stimulus for social and political activism.

Kelly Thibert, DO, MPH, Resident Member of the Board of Directors
Margaret Miller, MD, MPH, Student Member of the Board of Directors

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.