



# AAFP Congress of Delegates Resident and Student 2020 Annual Report

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## AAFP CONGRESS OF DELEGATES (COD)

### Residents

Derek Baughman, MD  
WellSpan FMR at  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
Lebanon, PA  
Class of 2022

Victoria Boggiano, MD, MPH  
University of North Carolina FMR  
Durham, NC  
Class of 2021

### Students

Sydney Doe, MD  
Northwestern University  
Feinberg School of Medicine  
Chicago, IL  
Class of 2020

Libby Wetterer, MD  
Georgetown University SOM  
Washington, DC  
Class of 2020

### 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 2019 Congress of Delegates

*Updates that may be of particular interest to resident and student members:*

- A resolution for the AAFP to support enhanced paid parental, birth-related, and other medical leave was adopted.

- A resolution for the AAFP to ask participants in all conferences if and how they would like their gender pronouns to be displayed on their nametags was adopted.
- A multi-clause resolution entitled “Increasing Family-Centeredness at AAFP Meetings” was adopted that enhances provisions for families to bring children to AAFP events and to support increased lactation rooms and other support services for parents.
- A resolution in support of insurance coverage for acupuncture was adopted.
- A multi-clause resolution about AAFP support for family medicine residents whose programs are experiencing closure was referred to the Board of Directors for further discussion.
- The following powerful resolution about keeping asylum-seeking families together was adopted:
  - Entitled, “Family Separation”
  - RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians oppose any U.S. policy that separates families seeking asylum, and be it further
  - RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support providing any individuals in detention facilities with age appropriate food, water, personal hygiene, and health care.

A full summary of the 2019 COD’s work can be found [here](#).

### Highlights of Commission on Education and Subcommittee Work

The COE is the AAFP’s largest commission with the most robust student and resident representation. It has three subcommittees:

1. Subcommittee on **Resident and Student Issues (SRSI)** - focuses on AAFP resolutions and current events/hot topics that relate to students, residents, or both.
2. Subcommittee on **Graduate Curriculum (SGC)** - creates, review, and maintains AAFP Curriculum Guidelines to be used by family medicine residency programs. Also addresses residency program requirements set by the ACGME.
3. Subcommittee on **National Conference Planning (SNCP)** - plans the AAFP National Conference with extensive staff assistance.

**Our cohort worked closely within the SRSI** where in group meetings we discussed and voted on policies from NCCL, the National Congress of Family Medicine Residents, and the National Congress of Student Members. In addition, the SRSI worked diligently in revising AAFP curriculum guidelines and policy statements. Smaller working groups, composed of students, residents, and attending physicians, amended and reworked resolutions and policies which were recommended and voted on at subsequent full Commission on Education meetings. The following is a summary of resolutions and curriculum guidelines in which this medical student and resident delegate group worked actively.

Resolutions sent from the 2019 NCCL NCSN:

- NCCL Resolution No. 3015 – Oppose Racism. We addressed discrimination within both allopathic and osteopathic medical school communities culminating in the suggestion for an AAFP joint letter to LCME and COCA.
- NCCL Resolution No. 3009 – Implicit Bias. We recognized the importance of implicit bias training and modified the resolution to include medical education accrediting bodies to support this training
- The SRSI also addressed resolutions regarding continuity of care in medical education, creating advocacy and health policy milestones for medical students, and clerkship duty hours. These were ultimately accepted for information.

## Policy Statements Up for Review in 2020 by COE:

- Resident and Student Education, Discrimination in. Our working group both streamlined the categorical listing of discrimination types and strengthened the overall tone of the policy accounting for more inclusive condemnation of discrimination at large.
- Clinical Skills Assessment Exam for Medical Students. The SRSI agreed that standardized examinations burden medical students with financial and logistical barriers and that ongoing policy efforts should focus on reducing cost and increasing accessibility.
- Teaching, Physician Responsibility. SRSI working groups clarified language on the policy indicating the need for increased efforts to support both undergraduate and graduate recruitment of family medicine physicians.

Among the most exciting projects addressed by the COE this year was Reworking the Resident Work Hours Policy to eliminate the opposition to 24-hour work limits and government enforcement of work hours regulations, opting instead to include an endorsement of reduced work hour burden on residents. A working group for clerkship duty hours was assembled to continue efforts in supporting the sentiment of this resolution.

## Reflections on Serving as Resident/Student Delegates

- **Victoria Boggiano MD MPH:**

It has been an unbelievable honor and privilege to serve as one of the AAFP resident delegates to Congress of Delegates this year. Two years ago was the last time I served on a national level at the AAFP, as the 2018 AAFP National Conference student co-chair. That position helped me understand what it means to serve on various AAFP committees, and I was able to attend the 2018 AAFP COD to give a report about how national conference had gone that year. It was exciting to be able to take those skills and transform them this year to my new role as one of the resident delegates to COD. I appreciated the opportunity to get to serve as an alternate delegate at the 2019 AAFP COD and work with the resident and student caucus to advocate on behalf of issues that are important to learners, particularly gender affirming care and all aspects of women's health. In addition, I have had the opportunity to help edit several family medicine residency curriculum guidelines. The curriculum guideline that I feel the most pride in helping to edit is the one about residency teaching around LGBTQA+ health and gender affirming care. It has also been exciting to get to work with other members of the Committee on Education, the Subcommittee on Graduate Curriculum, and the Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues to discuss things like the step two CS exam, teaching around reproductive health, revision of policies related to recruitment of physician mentors for undergraduate and graduate medical education, and other topics.

- **Derek Baughman MD:**

My involvement with corporate AAFP this past year - from testifying at COD to resident subcommittees, to google docs and web ex meetings, to re-writing policy in COE working groups that represents an entire speciality - has been one of the most rewarding highlights of my medical career. I've come to embrace the constructive feedback of new mentors and colleagues alike which has stimulated my growth as a resident leader, challenged my views/perspectives for the better, and helped me understand how valuable representing my national cohort can be in propagating change. My front row seat to viewing the passion of family medicine physicians leading this change is deeply encouraging. I have gained a greater sense of what representing family medicine interests at large means, the practicability of policy development, and the power of uniting on patient centered goals regardless of personal ethics.

- **Sydney Doe MD:**

It has been an incredible privilege to serve as a representative of medical student voices during these unprecedented times. I would like to outline the following as the accomplishments during my term of which I am most proud:

- Congress of Delegates, 2020: Despite that fact that the Student & Resident Congresses have consistently voted in favor of Single Payer resolutions, the student/resident caucus testified against the Single Payer resolution to the Reference Committee. I broke with the caucus and testified independently to the Reference Committee to ensure they were aware that the Student & Resident Congresses support Single Payer as the most evidence-based option for our healthcare system.
- Summer Cluster, 2021: After learning that the AAFP Resident Work Hours Policy opposed 24-hour work limits and government regulation of work hours, I drafted a detailed brief including 18 citations that outlined the negative consequences of lax and poorly enforced work hour restrictions on resident health and safety. I then volunteered to serve on a working group within the Subcommittee on Graduate Education to rework the policy to eliminate opposition to government enforcement and 24-hour work limits, changing the language to state that “[t]he AAFP endorses efforts to reduce work hour burden on residents.” This revised policy was submitted with my brief to the Commission on Education, which voted in favor of it.

- **Libby Wetterer MD:**

Serving as one of the student delegates to the congress has been a highlight of my time in medical school. Last year, as a student representative on the Commission for Health of the Public and Science (CHPS), most of my engagement happened in small working groups. Conscious of the many years of experience present, I hesitated in full commission discussions. This year, as delegate and member of the Commission on Education, I found my voice. Instead of being appointed by the AAFP (as one is for typical commission positions), I felt emboldened by an election and the direction I gleaned from all the resolutions passed at the student and resident congress’ of delegates. It was and is clear to me that the next generation of Family Physicians cares deeply about justice.

At Congress of Delegates, I testified in support of resolutions related to reproductive healthcare and abortion, the elimination of race-based medicine, and training opportunities in LGBTQ healthcare. On the commission, I worked to center issues of equity in group conversations and joined working groups related to testing requirements and duty hours for trainees. I also took the lead in revitalizing the AAFP’s policy on Training in Reproductive Decision Making.

I am incredibly grateful for my time as a delegate and on the commission and will always cherish the welcome I received from all the wonderful family physicians along the way.

*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](http://aafp.org).*