



National Research Network Advisory Group 2017 Annual Report

NATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK ADVISORY GROUP

Resident

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Role/Purpose

The AAFP National Research Network (AAFP NRN) is a voluntary research association of physicians who collaborate on studies within their practice to describe and improve upon primary care. Their mission is to cultivate, conduct and disseminate primary care research that improves healthcare and benefits the health of patients, families and their communities. This includes asking important questions and advancing evidence related to practice transformation, health information technology (HIT), population health, cost reform/new payment models, and team-based care. As a student and resident representatives of the advisory group, we provide medical student and resident insight into matters regarding the AAFP NRN initiatives, research agenda and strategic planning. AAFP NRN membership is free and we welcome our colleagues to become a part of this network of family medicine advocates for patient-centered, evidence-based practice.

Key discussions/actions/activities/projects

1. Increasing Student, Resident, and Fellow Engagement: As student and resident representatives, building student, resident, and fellow (SRF) participation with the AAFP NRN is one of our top priorities. We are currently working on initiatives to increase SRF involvement and primary care research mentorship for the future of family medicine practice.
2. Research Endeavors: The AAFP NRN continues to collaborate with partnerships to develop and sponsor primary care research projects and proposals. Current AAFP NRN studies can be found on the AAFP NRN website and include a diverse collection of primary care topics.
3. Engaging Patients in AAFP NRN Research: The AAFP NRN is currently working to gain a broader patient perspective as it relates to the focus of family medicine and family medicine research. Family medicine physicians have the unique opportunity to listen to patient concerns and needs. Engaging patients in the identification of research questions, development of research projects, and involving patients' feedback throughout the study process empowers patients to take active roles in their health care and improves patient-centered care. Recently a project was funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). By identifying successful models of patient engagement in family medicine practice, the conference will lead discussions and share models with the goal of accelerating the adoption of patient-centered outcomes research.
4. Family Medicine and Engagement: The AAFP NRN is conducting projects that strongly emphasizes the engagement of physician and patients in the study design and development. Through the Dementia Care Resource project, the PeRson EmPowered Asthma Relief (PREPARE) study, and

patient engagement in family medicine conference the AAFP NRN is including the perspectives of physicians and patients to develop practical and impactful projects.

Resident Reflection:

I joined the advisory board in order to learn more about the group, and more importantly, learn how physicians can stay involved in research when they are not affiliated with a major academic institution. The NRN plays a crucial role in the AAFP as it allows family physicians from across the country to collaborate with one another and research innovative solutions for our clinical practice issues. Although this is a great resource for practicing physicians, engagement with students and residents are currently lacking, and new initiatives are necessary to demonstrate its value to our physicians in training. This change can only happen from the continued input from residents and students, and I highly encourage any physicians in training interested in research to join the NRN help make this change happen.

Student Reflection:

As I continue to learn and develop my practice skills, evidence-based medicine and research become crucial to providing quality care to my patients and communities. The NRN seeks to empower patients and providers to improve patient-centered care through research. Being part of the AAFP NRN has broadened my understanding of primary care research. As student representative, I have gained significant insight into strategic planning and the collaboration required in the development of research projects and proposals. The NRN is a vast network of information and resources that is widely available to its members. I have met so many passionate physician role models who exemplify lifelong learning through ongoing research dedicated to improving patient care and family practice. Innovation and research is inherent to the dynamic field of family medicine, and I encourage my fellow family physicians-in-training to be a part of NRN's growing community.

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.