



National Research Network Advisory Group 2018 Annual Report

National Research Network (NRN) Advisory Group

Resident

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The AAFP National Research Network (AAFP NRN) aims “to cultivate, conduct, support, promote, disseminate, and advocate for primary care research in practice-based settings. It assists in realizing overall strategies for achieving improved primary care for the nation. 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.” Resident and student representatives bring trainees’ perspectives to this advisory group so as to continue to encourage the involvement of future family medicine physicians in primary care research.

Key Discussions and Activities

1. Increasing student, resident, and fellow engagement: The AAFP NRN is eager to foster the primary care research workforce and expose trainees to primary care research, so there are ongoing discussions about the best way to facilitate this exposure.
2. Research studies: The AAFP NRN has several research studies that involve practices from across the country. This work spans research questions related to both practice and patient level factors.
3. Engaging various stakeholders: The AAFP NRN is committed to identifying novel ways to engage the multitude of players involved in health care, most notably patients.

Student Reflection

This role offers students and residents a unique glimpse into the vast world of primary care research and all of its’ permutations. Up to this point, I have primarily participated directly in research via data collection and analysis. Thus, it was very interesting to learn about the steps that precede research, most notably surrounding strategic management and planning, especially in the context of health care transformation and a rapidly evolving primary care health delivery system. I would encourage trainees who are interested in research to participate in the AAFP NRN.

Resident Reflection

My passion for research and teaching, specifically data analysis, preventive medicine, and quality improvement, led me to become an active participant in the NRN. Learning about the current initiatives of the NRN and its commitment to increasing awareness of primary care research as well as support for those interested has been a delight. Any who are interested in research at any level whether it is local, regional, patient-level, population-level, or other would be well served to become involved with the AAFP NRN.

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