



# STFM Board of Directors Student Representative 2018 Annual Report

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## SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF FAMILY MEDICINE (STFM) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Resident

Isabel Chen, MD, MPD  
Kaiser Permanente  
Los Angeles Medical Center  
Class of 2018

### Student

Ranjani Natarajan, MEd  
Albany Medical College  
Albany, NY  
Class of 2019

### Board of Directors: Purpose, Scope of Work, Activities

The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) is a national organization of family medicine teachers and scholars with the goal of advancing family medicine education and research to improve health, at all levels of medical training and professional development. As student member of the Board, I participated in board meetings with full voting rights, with the goal of representing student perspectives on the board. Over the past year, I have been fortunate to learn and contribute to decision-making on a variety of family medicine advancement areas, including promoting academic medicine at the Medical Student Education conference, spearheading the “student track” with student specific programming for those interested in entering the world of academic medicine (and family medicine), advocating on behalf of students to incorporate free STFM student membership (as one of the many offering STFM has for students), serving as a member of the Medical Student Education committee and participating in editing, updating and rewriting the learning objectives of the family medicine clerkship curriculum, recruitment of high-quality community preceptors, and the Student Scholarship funding program for the Conference on Medical Student Education, among many others.

### Resident

Inspiring, career-informing, and irreplaceable - words that just barely capture the rich and humbling experience of serving as the Resident Board Member to STFM. From my first experiences with the organization, I found like-minded mentors and role models who are committed to advancing the training and experiences of this country’s primary care workforce so that it serves our trainees, our patients, and our communities at large. Taking on the role of Resident Board Member and Graduate Medical Education Committee member allowed me the insight and voice to advance the breadth and impact of our specialty and I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity and strongly recommend the experience to any trainees passionate about the recruitment, training, and future of our workforce and our impact on this country’s health and wellness!

Contributing on both the Board and Sub-Committee is an excellent combination of roles because it provides a well-rounded experience for leadership development: committee work includes creating tangible deliverables to STFM members (Residency Faculty Fundamentals online course), participating in research projects and conference presentations (AAFP PDW, National Conference), alongside the more strategic, organizational skills needed to run such a large and effective organization through the Board. I graduate from my role with a better appreciation for the duty each and every one of us has to teach our very unique craft, one that is relationship-driven, inter-disciplinary, longitudinal, socially just, and equity driven. These are the keys required of excellent patient care but also are the ingredients toward a more fair and equitable society.

From Phoenix to Louisville, DC to Kansas City, I was welcomed wholeheartedly by the Board and the Graduate Medical Education Committee. The community of leaders and change agents embodies the best of family medicine and it was an honor to join their company. While I am already mourning the end of my tenure, I look forward to a long career as an active STFM member and trainee involvement in an organization that has deeply shaped my career path! Thank you to all in the STFM family for making this an unforgettable year.

## **Student**

### **Highlights/updates on Board activities since your last report:**

At our most recent meeting (both STFM and MSE committee) the following were discussed:

1. Institution of free student membership to STFM
2. The launch of a 2-year campaign to raise \$150,000 to support programs and scholarships for underrepresented in medicine (URM) students, residents, and new faculty.
3. Student specific conference track focusing on academic medicine at MSE conference

Summation of the Year:

As the Student Representative to the Board of Directors, I have been able to participate in a wealth of opportunities that have allowed me to serve as an advocate for my fellow students. In this role, I was able to advocate for free student membership to STFM, which passed this spring, and I am hopeful that this opens the world of academic medicine to students who are interested in learning more. I am currently collaborating with members MSE steering committee to promote academic medicine on social media platforms and will hopefully be launching this project later this summer. Since I started this role as a third-year medical student, I was given the opportunity to continue on in this position as a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student. I am delighted to be offered the opportunity to continue the work I have started.

### **Medical Student Education Committee:**

In this role, I also serve as a committee member of the STFM Medical Student Education Committee. The committee oversees the annual Conference on Medical Student Education, the National Clerkship Curriculum, and other initiatives that promote family medicine education of medical students. As a student member, I was primarily involved with the annual conference: evaluating submissions, serving as the student liaison at the conference itself, and what I am most excited for now, creating a student specific track, which will include workshops specifically targeting those who are interested in learning more about entering academic medicine. Earlier this year, I also participated in reviewing, rewriting, and updating the National Clerkship Curriculum. I also manage the official STFM Student Representative Twitter account (@STFMStudentRep). Currently, I am working with the MSE Steering committee to promote student interests at the MSE conference this year. I am also moderating a discussion on caring for the underserved at the 2018 AAFP National Conference.

### **Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on the STFM Board**

Without a doubt, this has been an incredible year of learning, networking and advocating. I am so honored to work with individuals who not only care about protecting Family Medicine as a profession, but who are also open to hearing more about how we can pursue change. Throughout the year, I feel as though I have been given an exclusive look at how advocacy works on a national level – whether it is through promoting student choice of Family Medicine, to the recent CMS guideline change on Medical Student Documentation, I am proud to serve as a student representative for an organization the remains committed to its values amongst a sea of change. STFM is an outstanding organization, and I feel quite fortunate to continue on in this role for another year. Please encourage your fellow classmates to join STFM, and if you aren't yet a student member yet, I am more than happy to help you become one (it's free!).

*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).*

