



# AAFP Board of Directors Resident/Student 2016 Annual Report

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## AAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESIDENT/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

### **Resident**

Richard Bruno, MD, MPH  
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center  
Johns Hopkins University  
Joint Family & Preventive Medicine Program  
Class of 2016

### **Student**

Tiffany Ho, MD, MPH  
Swedish Family Medicine Residency at Cherry Hill  
Class of 2019

Thank you for choosing us to represent you on the AAFP Board of Directors for 2015-2016. It has been an amazing experience to serve as the resident and student voices on the board. We were vocal of our support of resident and student issues, including debt relief, curriculum reform, and social justice, and felt that our contributions were valued by the board members and staff.

### **Purpose & Scope of Work**

As the student and resident representatives to the Board of Directors, we have had the honor of voicing the priorities of over 30,000 students and 10,000 residents on a national level. The Board values the perspective we provide as the training in medicine is a constantly evolving process. In addition to attending quarterly board meetings, we also serve as liaisons to a commission (Dr Ho to Membership and Member Services, and Dr Bruno to Governmental Advocacy), and serve as members of the Commission on Education's Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues. We attended all three major conferences (Family Medicine Experience, National Conference of Constituency Leaders, and the National Conference for Students and Residents). Dr Bruno was also asked to attend the College of Family Physicians of Canada's Section of and Students and Residents Meeting in Toronto this Spring and the Family Medicine Congressional Conference in Washington, DC in May.

### **Activities and Achievements**

Since the AAFP is one of the few medical organizations that offers student and resident positions on their board of directors, it was a unique privilege to participate in board level deliberations and decisions that affect the 120,000 members and the direction of the US healthcare system is headed. We participated in discussions that were especially relevant to students and residents, and we've highlighted a few below.

### Membership

Membership analysis showed that 31.8% of US allopathic medical students are members of the AAFP, nearly doubled from the 17% in 2010. We credit this to our robust FMIG networks, and continue to work on helping encourage the 32,000 allopathic and osteopathic members to choose family medicine for residency.

The Commission on Membership and Member Services recognizes that more than 95% of family medicine residents are members of the AAFP and this number decreases to 74% upon graduating residency. The commission is working with states to identify incentives for new graduates to retain their membership, including a generous first-year new physician dues reduction.

### Education

Through our work on the Commission on Education's Subcommittee of Resident and Student Issues (SRSI), we were able to tackle the important topics of **student and resident well-being and resilience, diversity and inclusion**, medical students affected by **documentation status** (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - DACA), and increasing **student choice** in family medicine. Tiffany wrote several [posts](#) on being a graduating medical student, and matching into family medicine as a graduate of an medical school that did not have a family medicine department.

Diversity and inclusion is an important topic not only in our family medicine workforce but within the Academy walls itself. In terms of AAFP employees, 11% self-identify as racial minorities, with only 6% of officials and managers (which is below a goal of 17.4%, however, 19% of new hires meet criteria for minority status). In order to continue to improve diversity, all supervisors must take a diversity awareness refresher training course.

On the topic of well-being and resiliency, Richard wrote [a blog post](#) on the AAFP Leader Voices blog that framed the systemic faults that lead to burnout and how residents can tackle those and what they can do personally to mitigate burnout with the goal of becoming well-grounded physicians.

### Advocacy

Through the Academy's advocacy both on Capitol Hill and in the federal agencies, we have continued to champion **mental health reform**, funding of **Teaching Health Centers**, and promotion of the newly formed **Primary Care Caucus** in the House of Representatives. On the topic of **opioid abuse**, we released an opioid toolkit on the AAFP.org webpage to help physicians mitigate opioid abuse and misuse by standardizing evaluation and treatment. The AAFP's Commission on Health of the Public & Science issued an opioid position paper. AAFP President Dr Wanda Filer has been involved in the national scale by attending meetings with Health and Human Services, and the Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy. The AAFP also provided comments on the recently released CDC guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic pain.

The AAFP launched a **MACRA** Ready campaign to give members background on the new law (Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act) and how to prepare for upcoming changes to value based payments and quality measure reporting.

The Commission on Governmental Advocacy recommended to the board resolutions on **rural hospital funding**, prorating primary care **loan repayments**, and **debt relief** resources.

Our FamMedPAC has neared the **\$1M goal**. The Family Medicine Congressional Conference each spring in DC will become the Family Medicine Advocacy Summit with a Family Medicine Day of Action in DC and throughout the US at state capitals. The AAFP is launching a new grassroots program the [Family Physician Action Network](#) to help members engage in advocacy-related campaigns.

## Public Health

In the realm of public health, AAFP President Dr Wanda Filer attended a symposium about **gun violence prevention** at the South Carolina church where congregation members were massacred last summer. The AAFP signed a joint letter to House and Senate leaders urging them to end the 1996 restriction on research on gun violence, and wrote in support of the Fix Gun Checks Act, which would eliminate most exceptions to the requirement for background checks before purchasing firearms.

The board discussed revising its strategic objectives as part of the Strategic Vision for the Academy, which included highly prioritized recognition of the impact of the **social determinants of health** on the people we serve. Through a social justice lens, the Academy is working on how to address issues of diversity, and institutional racism in our country, our profession, and our Academy. We recently invited the American Public Health Association President Dr Camara Jones (a family physician) to speak at a board meeting on the topic of institutional racism and she provided thought-provoking suggestions for how we can address it.

We are training in an exciting and unpredictable era in healthcare, and it's been incredible to learn how involved the AAFP is when it comes to pushing for change. Thank you again for such a wonderful opportunity.

Richard Bruno, Resident Representative  
Tiffany Ho, Student Representative

*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).*