



# FMIG Network National Coordinator 2016 Annual Report

## FAMILY MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP NETWORK

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### Structure

Mission of the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Network:

- Encourage the active learning and promotion of family medicine
- Improve communication between the AAFP and campus FMIGs
- Serve as a reliable resource for FMIGs regarding programming, administration and fundraising
- Foster positive leadership skills in FMIG student and faculty leaders

The FMIG Network is made up of five Regional Coordinators, one National Coordinator, and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Liaison. Five new Regional Coordinators and one Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Liaison started their terms as FMIG Network leaders in January 2015, and will serve through December 2016:

- Kelsey Murray, M4, The Ohio State University, Columbus, FMIG Region 1
  - Served as FMIG Region 1 Coordinator in 2015
- John Heafner, M3, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, FMIG Region 2
- Yeri Park, M4, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, FMIG Region 3
- Olivia Bolen, M3, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, FMIG Region 4
- Cordelia Whitlatch, PGY1, In His Image FM Residency, Tulsa, OK, FMIG Region 5

Brittany Watson, PGY1, Charleston, SC, is the 2016 student liaison to the SNMA, a part of the FMIG Network student leadership team. The FMIG Network is led by Lauren Abdul-Majeed, M4, University of Illinois at Chicago. Her term as FMIG National Coordinator began at the 2015 AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students, and will end at the 2016 National Conference.

### Network Communication and Social Media

The FMIG Network leaders communicate with FMIG student and faculty leaders around the country through a variety of modalities. The current staple of this communication is our FMIG email system. The five regional email listservs have a total of 1,545 members, including FMIG leaders, members, and faculty advisors. Regional Coordinators send out monthly email updates to their respective regions regarding various deadlines and events, with additional periodic emails as necessary.

In 2014, the FMIG regional coordinators and AAFP staff produced the pilot episode of Family Medicine On Air, a series of live videos featuring leaders in family medicine. The 15-minute videos are archived on the AAFP website and the FMIG Network's YouTube channel, and they are designed to be used by FMIGs at on-campus events. Episode content is based on questions solicited from FMIGs through Facebook, Twitter, and the listserv; questions were then chosen to be answered during the live event. Each archived video features topics pertinent to FMIGs and medical students interested in family medicine. Recently, Dr. Wanda Filer was featured for the discussion of "What Medical Students Need

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to Know about Gun Violence,” and Dr. John Parks, a family physician working in Malawi, discussed global health in celebration of World Family Doctor Day.

In August 2015, the FMIG Network launched an additional FM On Air series specifically dedicated to providing leadership support for FMIGs. This series, entitled the FMIG Leaders Series, has effectively replaced the FMIG Network regional conference calls. This series addresses FMIG-specific topics and resources, and they are recorded so that students may access them at their convenience via the AAFP website or social media. The series benefits the entire FMIG Network by promoting familiarity with Network leaders, inspiring collaboration between FMIGs, and disseminating successful FMIG programming ideas. Additionally, the series provides an opportunity for leadership development, as FMIG Network leaders take turns planning and hosting episodes.

All episodes of FM On Air and the FMIG Leaders Series are recorded and posted to the FMIG Network YouTube channel as well as to the AAFP website. Additional resources for students to use with these 15 minute episodes can be found at: [aafp.org/FMonAir](http://aafp.org/FMonAir).

Finally, social media is a vital tool for FMIG Network leaders to connect with FMIG leaders across the nation. Throughout the year, AAFP staff and FMIG Network leaders use Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to reach out to medical students, family medicine faculty advisors, and others involved in medical education during conferences and on a regular basis. Announcements, photos, and discussions are posted to Facebook and Twitter. Currently, there are 2,492 fans of the FMIG National Network Facebook page – up from 2,441 in May 2016. Staff posts multiple times per week. The FMIG Network operates a Twitter handle, @aafp\_fmig, as the official account of the AAFP FMIG Network, which is operated by AAFP student interest staff. FMIG Network leaders have established their own Twitter presences, including the new 2016 regional coordinators, many of whom are eager first-time Twitter users. As of late June 2016, @aafp\_fmig had 2,301 followers – up from 2,254 in May 2015.

FMIG Network leaders will continue to work on building their networks on Facebook and Twitter. Following critical discussion at the January 2016 FMIG Network Leaders Orientation, the Network leaders determined that while the Facebook and Twitter accounts are invaluable tools, additional online means of communication should be considered for the purpose of fostering meaningful conversation and idea sharing among FMIGs, as this has been difficult to achieve via current modes of social media. Under the guidance and expertise of AAFP staff, the FMIG Network has been exploring this possibility, aiming to foster optimal communication and camaraderie within and across the FMIG Network’s regions.

### **SNMA Collaboration**

This year’s AAFP liaison to the SNMA, Brittany Watson, was selected to lead the SNMA Family Medicine Student Interest Group. The formal collaboration between the AAFP and the SNMA has continued to form a stronger foundation throughout the academic year. Alice continues to lead the SNMA Family Medicine Interest Group (SIG), ensuring that members receive monthly emails with announcements from the AAFP and the FMIG Network. She continues to participate actively in the monthly conference call with AAFP staff, regional coordinators, and national coordinator.

This spring, Brittany attended the SNMA Annual Medical Education Conference in Austin, TX where she successfully represented family medicine, the AAFP, and the FMIG Network. Brittany addressed the SNMA House of Delegates and networked with attendees interested in family medicine. She is also exploring improvements in ways to develop connections among SNMA members who are interested in pursuing family medicine. Brittany regularly promotes pertinent information to the SNMA regarding AAFP membership, National Conference, and Tar Wars.

Thank you, Brittany, for all of your hard work!

## **AMSA Collaboration**

Each year, the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) hosts a week dedicated to primary care called National Primary Care Week (NPCW). In 2015, it was held from October 5-9, and the theme was "Climate Change and Its Impact on Health Care." NPCW's goal is to engage health care professionals and to educate the general public on the importance of primary care in our health care system. For many years, local FMIGs have collaborated with their local AMSA chapter for programming during this week. For NPCW in 2015, the FMIG Network hosted an FM On Air episode with Dr. Glen Stream, president and board chair of Family Medicine for America's Health and its Health is Primary campaign, titled "What Medical Students Need to Know about Changemaking in Primary Care." Additionally, FMIGs were encouraged to participate in NPCW programming at their home institutions, independently, or through collaboration with other campus organizations.

National Coordinator, Lauren Abdul-Majeed, addressed the AMSA House of Delegates during its Annual Convention on April 2, 2016. This was the third time a representative from the AAFP or FMIG Network has spoken before AMSA leadership and conference attendees. We are honored to host current AMSA National President, Kelly Thibert, DO, MPH, here at National Conference, where she will address FMIG leaders at the FMIG breakfast. This year, the FMIG National Network looks forward to continued collaboration with AMSA to promote the value of family medicine to medical students across the nation.

## **FMIG Funding Initiative & National Conference Promotion**

With many thanks to the AAFP and the AAFP Foundation, 145 FMIGs across the country participated in the AAFP Funding Initiative in 2015-16. To receive the \$600 grant, FMIGs had to present a chapter event as well as complete some informational paperwork. This funding could have been used for anything related to the FMIG chapter, and surely enabled many FMIGs to have the financial resources and ability to reach their programming goals.

For the fifth year, the AAFP funded an FMIG initiative to promote National Conference. FMIGs were given \$100 to help offset the costs of hosting a meeting or event in which they shared information about National Conference. This year, 29 FMIGs participated in this initiative.

## **Program of Excellence Awards**

This year, the AAFP received 38 applications for the Program of Excellence (PoE) Awards, honoring the impressive work of FMIGs around the nation. FMIGs who received an award for overall excellence or categorical excellence will be recognized at the FMIG Breakfast here at National Conference. A select number of our awardees will generously contribute to the FMIG Network by presenting their accomplishments at the FMIG Best Practices. The winners and some highlights of their amazing programs can be found online at [aafp.org/poe](http://aafp.org/poe). We would like to encourage our colleagues to continue to let us know about the great things their FMIGs are doing by applying for this award in 2017. Many thanks to the 2016 PoE judging committee and AAFP staff for their time and dedication to this project!

## **Promoting Student Interest**

The FMIG Student Ambassador Program serves to introduce students to family medicine, recruit students to join the AAFP, and offers financial incentives for the local FMIG chapters. This year, the Regional Coordinators recruited more ambassadors, and consequently more students, to be AAFP members! The group will also continue to garner student interest in family medicine through the AAFP's collaboration with Health is Primary/Family Medicine for America's Health and the "Choose More. Choose Family Medicine." campaign, as well as through promotion of the FMIG resources available at [aafp.org/fmig](http://aafp.org/fmig) and via social media.

With reports of student interest in family on the rise from medical schools across the country, this continues to be an important and exciting year for the FMIG Network. The current student leaders are enthusiastic and well prepared to continue to influence students to choose family medicine.

## **National Coordinator Experience**

My experience as the FMIG Network National Coordinator has been one of the most enjoyable and beneficial opportunities that I have had during medical school. Working closely with AAFP staff and networking with medical students, residents, and attendings from across the country has been truly inspiring, and I am incredibly thankful for the relationships that have been forged and nurtured this year. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to participate in influential discussions pertaining to AAFP policy and activities through my role in the Commission on Education. Contributing to National Conference planning has been an exciting honor, as was discussing medical student and resident issues with accomplished medical student and resident leaders in the AAFP. I am continuously inspired by the dedication, effectiveness, and heart of all of the commissions and subcommittees' participating members. I am especially grateful for the opportunity to attend the 2015 Congress of Delegates and to participate in the student and resident caucuses. All of my experiences during my term as National Coordinator have shown me the incredible extent to which the AAFP values medical students and wants us to succeed in family medicine. The lessons and skills I have learned through this role are too numerous to count, and I look forward to pursuing additional avenues of leadership with the AAFP!

I encourage all students to consider a leadership role with the AAFP, especially within the FMIG Network. The five Regional Coordinator positions and the SNMA liaison position are appointed this fall, and more information about applying can be found on the AAFP website.

I am eager to see what the FMIG National Network continues to accomplish, and I hope to continue to participate in promoting the value of FMIGs and family medicine!

I would like to thank the 2015 Regional Coordinators Kelsey Murray, Krystal Foster, Tricia Minton, Megan Ohmer, and Kaci Larsen, SNMA Liaison Alice Esame, and the 2016 Regional Coordinators Kelsey Murray, John Heafner, Yeri Park, Olivia Bolen, and Cordelia Whitlatch, and SNMA Liaison Brittany Watson for their contributions of hard work, wonderful ideas, and inspirational dedication to family medicine.

I am sincerely grateful for our incredible AAFP staff Ashley Bentley, Sam Carlson, Mary Harwerth, Jenifer Scheibler, Amy Mulligan Kennedy, Angela Wasson, and Dr. Stan Kozakowski, as well as the entire AAFP staff and Board of Directors, for their undying support of medical students as they pursue their dreams in family medicine.

*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).*