

Application: 11346

Wagner, Katherine

**Page: Applicant Information**

This is the application form for the Program of Excellence (PoE) Award for FMIG/SAACOFPS at medical schools. If you have any questions as you complete the application, please email [studentorgfunding@aafp.org](mailto:studentorgfunding@aafp.org).

This application form will allow you to save and return to your work at a later date. You can also invite others to help you complete this application by clicking the "Manage Collaborators" button. For more details about this program, as well as specific instructions for family medicine student groups, visit the [AAFP website](#)

**Applicant's Name**

Wagner, Katherine

**FMIG/SAACOFPS Group Name**

Family Medicine Interest Group/Project Medscope

**Award Application Type**

Overall Award Application > Overall Award Application - US MD Program

**International medical school**

Not Applicable

**Medical School State**

New York

**Medical School Name**

Other

**Medical School Name**

Albany Medical College

**Medical School City**

Albany

**Main or branch campus**

Main campus

**Students on campus**

MS/OMS I, MS/OMS II, MS/OMS III, MS/OMS IV

**FMIG Network Region**

Region 4: Northeast (CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PR, RI, VT)

**Mailing Address**

47 New Scotland Avenue, Mail Code 46  
Albany Medical College, Bldg TS101  
Albany New York 12208 US

**Number of Students**

570

**Branch Number of Students**

N/A

**Active FMIG/SAACOF members**

150+

**Students serving in Leadership Positions**

20

**Applied for Award in the past**

YES

**Won Award in the past**

YES

**Page: Group Leadership**

Please complete the following information about your group's faculty advisors.

**Faculty advisor name**

Katherine Wagner, MD

**Faculty advisor email**

wagnerk@amc.edu

**Family physician?**

Yes

**Add to Faculty Advisor Online Community**

Yes

**Additional faculty advisor name****Additional faculty advisor email****Family physician?****Additional faculty advisors**

Please complete the following information about your group's staff support.

**alias394a7c658f5641ce8d6ac2cd2a02b05c**

Yes

**Staff supporter name**

Theresa Weinman

**Staff supporter title**

Academic Coordinator

**Staff supporter email**

weinmat@amc.edu

Please complete the following information about your group's student leaders.

**Students in Leadership Positions**

4

**Leadership transition**

April

**Primary student leader name**

Aidan Sullivan

**Primary student leader title (ex: FMIG president)**

FMIG Co-President (outgoing)

**Primary student leader class year**

MS/OMS II

**Primary student leader email**

sulliva2@amc.edu

**Additional student leader name (2)**

Erik Augspurgen

**Additional student leader title (2)**

FMIG Co-President (incoming)

**Additional student leader class year (2)**

MS/OMS I

**Additional student leader email (2)**

augspue@amc.edu

**Additional student leader name (3)**

Ye Rim Park

**Additional student leader title (3)**

FMIG Co-president (incoming)

**Additional student leader class year (3)**

MS/OMS II

**Additional student leader email (3)**

parky1@amc.edu

**Additional student leader name (4)**

Paige Cobb

**Additional student leader title (4)**

FMIG co-president (outgoing)

**Additional student leader class year (4)**

MS/OMS II

**Additional student leader email (4)**

cobbp@amc.edu

**Additional student leader name (5)**

Nicole Romanzo

**Additional student leader title (5)**

FMIG co-president (outgoing)

**Additional student leader class year (5)**

MS/OMS II

**Additional student leader email (5)**

romanzn@amc.edu

**Additional student leaders**

**Page: Overall or Categorical Award and Group Information**

**Category or Special Consideration**

N/A applying for Overall Award

## FMIG Operation

The Family Medicine Interest Group at Albany Medical College is a large and active organization that offers students opportunities to learn about the full spectrum of family medicine as a career. The FMIG offers programming in five different areas:

- 1) Clinical Skills Development
- 2) Patient Education
- 3) Community Service
- 4) Mentorship
- 5) Professional Development and Career Advisement

Students are introduced to the FMIG and the FMIG community service branch known as Project MedSCOPE (Medical Student Outreach for Prevention and Education) at a student organizational meeting early at the start of the academic year. At this meeting, students are given overviews to all programs, clinical opportunities, upcoming lectures and conferences. Students are encouraged to become members of the American Academy of Family Physicians as well. Each year the AMC FMIG has approximately 100 students participating in programming.

Strong student and faculty leadership enable this to be achieved. Each spring leadership for the upcoming academic year's FMIG is established. AMC's FMIG has a large student membership. Leaders are identified within the first-year class via current 2nd year student leaders as well as through faculty recommendations. Medical student leaders coordinate student participation in programming, serve as liaisons with faculty and community partners, and work with the FMIG faculty advisor to plan programming for the academic year. Third- and fourth-year students often stay involved as advisors to programs in which they served as leaders in addition to continuing to participate in the clinical and mentorship opportunities available.

Covid-19: Albany Medical College suspended many of our programs in March of 2020. We used this time to reimagine our programs and identify ways that we could continue to offer programs which would meet health and safety needs while still focusing on the well-being of our medical students during this time of stress and isolation.

In 2020-2021 we made a conscious effort to develop a more focused social media presence to reach our medical students, many who were working remotely. Using Instagram, Twitter and Facebook more effectively allowed us to share articles, videos and personal stories with our faculty, residents and students. We added Meet our Resident Mondays and Faculty Fridays to the weekly rotation to highlight our family medicine team's unique interests and work in our community and abroad.

The current leadership structure and programming activities are as follows:

FMIG Co-presidents (2 - 4 per year):

- Pathways Program: A Department of Family and Community Medicine shadowing program for 1st and 2nd year medical students interested in learning more about primary care medicine and the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model. FMIG leaders participate as well as help recruit student applicants.
- Chief Complaints: In September of 2015, our FMIG introduced "Chief Complaints" lunch time series for first and second year medical students. This brown bag lunch series was a vision of our two family medicine chief residents as a way for them to develop their teaching skills. Once per month, our residents offer an interactive clinical scenario featuring a variety of case presentations with an emphasis on clinical reasoning and diagnostic skills. The topics correlate with the second-year themes but are open to students of all years.
- Primary Care Symposium: The Department offered the 6th Annual Primary Care Symposium in October of 2020. This month-long event offers diverse collaboration with multiple clubs at Albany Medical College, family medicine alumni, family medicine community preceptors and medical students.

- Sheridan Hollow Community Health Fair: The FMIG provides health education and Project Medscope programming for hundreds of children during this annual community event.

COVID-19: Due to safety restrictions, the event held on September 12th focused specifically on food insecurity in the immediate neighborhood. The event served 368 households for a total of 1,475 people (776 of which were children)! FMIG students helped distribute perishable and non-perishable food sacks, backpacks with school supplies, and hygiene bags to community members.

Service Learning Program Student Leaders (2-3 leaders per program):

- AMCRI Refugee Program (Albany Med Commitment to Refugees and Immigrants) - Support program that matches medical students with recently resettled refugees with a focus on healthcare, language, education, transportation and more.
- Bring it to the Courts - Mentorship program for at-risk teens who participate in a health lecture series linked with membership in a basketball program.
- Care From the Start - Weekly medical clinic at an inner-city health clinic run by a member of our faculty. Students learn about health care issues affecting the underserved. Participants also participate in several community projects in neighborhood of clinic.
- CDAC/Capital District Asylum Collaborative - A student organization founded in 2014 that provides medical and psychological evaluations for those seeking asylum or refugee status in the United States.
- Cooks for a Cause/South End Children's Cafe - A cooking and mentorship program for at-risk teens at a local community Center.
- Cooks for a Cause/RISSE - A cooking and mentorship program for at-risk teens at RISSE (Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus).
- Project SOAR (Successfully Overcoming Adversity with the help of Role Models) - This program identifies gifted inner-city youth and offers them mentorship and resources to succeed both academically and personally.

## Goals

At the center of our mission is the desire to educate our students about the core elements of Family Medicine while enabling them to connect with the community and feel supported in professional and personal growth within their medical school journey. Strong student and faculty leadership enable this to be achieved via extensive one on one and group activities throughout the year.

The AMC FMIG/Project Medscope Program supports the belief that quality health care and education can greatly improve peoples lives. We strive to offer quality programming through collaborations with organizations and schools that serve needy populations. We integrate compassion and respect for individuals in all we do and find creative solutions to address health issues and will remain committed to serving the in-need communities surrounding Albany Medical College.

The FMIG mission is also to help students better understand the specialty of family medicine and achieve their career goals within this field if they so desire. For those students who chose to go into fields other than family medicine, we strive to help them more fully appreciate the role of the primary care physician to enable them to be stronger collaborators in their future practice. We accomplish this goal through a variety of avenues including clinical skills workshops, conference opportunities, ongoing interactions with our faculty and residents, service, and leadership and advocacy roles.

## **Faculty Advisor**

Faculty and administrative oversight is provided by the Administrative Vice Chair and Assistant Director of Medical Student Education in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Katherine Wagner, M.D. In addition, Ms. Theresa Weinman is the Administrative Coordinator for all FMIG programming for the department.

As the FMIG faculty advisor, Dr. Kate Wagner oversees direct programming, provides curriculum development and refinement for the patient education programs, runs reflective sessions for the service learning programs, advises students, and helps connect students with further opportunities with the family medicine field. Dr. Wagner helps engage students already interested in Family Medicine and connects them with mentors and advisors throughout their four years at AMC. She also works to support those students who are undecided about specialty choice. Her work and dedication make our FMIG dynamic, responsive, inclusive, and an excellent model of family medicine in action.

Dr. Wagner is supported by an extraordinary team of Family Medicine faculty and residents who give generously of their time and talents to make the FMIG programs at AMC valuable, fun, educational and available to all. With ongoing goal setting and planning early in the course of each academic year, the FMIG can meet our many goals. The primary mission is to educate medical students about family medicine and to help them understand the connection between health and community. Working closely with our family medicine faculty, residency program, alumni network, and other educators at our institution to maintain our faculty are able to (1) offer leadership and professional development for students interested in Family Medicine (2) offer unique opportunities for the FMIG students to serve their new community (3) provide information on local and national conferences where our students can network with family physicians from all over the state or country as well as present their scholarly work (4) provide residency information and support right up until the day of graduation.

## **Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #1**

### **Title of Program**

FMIG Open House (Annual)

### **Date and Time**

Held in late Feb or early March

### **Work Hours to Organize**

Faculty supported event

### **Participation**

2021 - Meeting capped at 32 with wait list of 20 students



## **Choose Categories**

Exposure to family medicine and family physicians: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to expose its members to family physicians in your medical school or the community , Promoting the value of family medicine as primary care: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to tell members about the role of family medicine in enhancing primary care. This could include the patient-centered medical home, primary care workforce, National Primary Care Week Activities, or other collaborations with Primary care interest groups. , Promoting the scope and diversity of family medicine: What your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to educate students and increase their understanding of and appreciation for the broad range of opportunities in family medicine. , Current issues or innovations in family medicine , Significant changes/improvement made on an existing FMIG/SAACOFPP program.

## Description

Project Title: FMIG Open House: Welcome Home to a Career in Family Medicine

Target Audience: First, Second, Third Year Medical Students

32 students attended (wait list 20), five faculty, two residents

Goal : To introduce students to the field of Family Medicine by giving them real world perspectives on training, work-life balance and scope of practice.

Examples of Family Physician careers:

Outpatient, Hospitalist, Student health Geriatrics Adolescent Medicine

Obstetric Care (with or without c/s) Abortion care Sports medicine Academic Medicine Expert witness

Emergency medicine Urgent Care Integrative Medicine Correctional health (adult or juvenile) Concierge Medicine

Direct Primary Care Policy/Advocacy Underserved Medicine Newborn Nursery Global Health

Health Management Psychiatric Care Asylum Medicine Sexual assault Research

Dermatology Pain management Addiction Medicine Employee Health Public Health

Event was virtual this year due to covid and held on the MS Teams platform. The new platform and virtual format prompted a number of revisions to previous program structure and offered opportunities for unique content.

Students picked up "swag bags" with supplies for hands on workshops, with dinner was provided in individual "dinner to go" bags.

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2:00 PM Stop by Family Medicine TS101 to pick up Swag Bag & Food

5:30 pm Welcome / Family Medicine Panel Discussion (faculty and resident panelists)

6:00 pm OB and Women's Health in Family Med / suturing hand-ties

6:10 pm Procedures in Family Med / punch biopsies

6:20 pm Wellness and resilience in medical training / Chocolate Activity

6:30 pm Class Breakout Rooms:

MS3 – Dr. Sean Roche (Associate Director AFM residency)

and Dr. Joanne Dannenhoffer (FM AI Director)

MS2 – Dr. Annie Rutter (FM Clerkship Director) and

Dr. Madeline Haas (MAT Training Director and Assistant Professor)

MS1 – Dr. Kate Wagner (CBB Clerkship Director; Director of Community Outreach)

and Dr. Jen Papuzza (AMC '20)

7:00 pm Wrap ups/Q&A

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**Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #2**

## Title of Program

Fourth Year Planning Evening/Match Preparation Meeting

## Date and Time

Meeting held at the end of third year/post Match Day

## **Work Hours to Organize**

Faculty supported programming

## **Participation**

15-20 rising third year students typically attend

## **Categories**

Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members. , Exposure to family medicine and family physicians: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to expose its members to family physicians in your medical school or the community , Promoting the value of family medicine as primary care: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to tell members about the role of family medicine in enhancing primary care. This could include the patient-centered medical home, primary care workforce, National Primary Care Week Activities, or other collaborations with Primary care interest groups., Promoting the scope and diversity of family medicine: What your FMIG/SAACOFP does to educate students and increase their understanding of and appreciation for the broad range of opportunities in family medicine.

## **Description**

We strive to support the professional development and success of our students through FMIG supported meetings, many with a specific focus on fourth year matching success. Direct access to our faculty and residents has been important to our success. Beginning at the end of third year and throughout the fourth year, the FMIG faculty advisor collaborates with the department's faculty to create an ongoing support system for those students pursuing a career in family medicine. Guidance is provided with group programming such as the CV Workshop, Fourth Year Planning Meeting, AAFP National Meeting in Kansas City, Mock Interviews, as well as individual, one on one advising.

This 4th year planning dinner meeting is held on campus with a strong team of faculty and residents as well as 4th year students who just matched in FM. It offers students an excellent opportunity to better understand the full scope of family medicine. The faculty provide a clear timeline with directed guidance for each stage of the residency application process and discuss types of programs (University vs community), fellowships and career paths. In 2021 the meeting was held virtually.

Highlights of the year-long faculty-supported match process which are included in the Planning Meeting:

(1) CV and Personal Statement Workshop: Faculty provide an evening workshop where the students bring their draft CVs and PS and faculty "workshop" them on the spot. Students receive directed feedback and guidance from experienced faculty.

(2) Mock Interviews: For the past 13 years our department has offered mock interviews with a team of our faculty who are directly involved with the residency interview process. Though this structured activity we are able to give valuable feedback and guidance to our students before they begin their residency interviews. Many students have commented that these supportive and constructive interviews were instrumental in their success on the interview trail.

(3) National Conference: Our faculty attend this meeting annually and we typically bring 5 - 10 fourth year medical students with us. Faculty advisors meet with students before the meeting as well as at the meeting to provide direct, one on one advising on site. Faculty use this conference as an opportunity to introduce students to other program

directors.

This year specific information regarding COVID-19 limitations and planning for electives and interviews was included in the 4th year planning meeting. The meeting agenda included:

#### Fourth Year Schedule Planning

- AI's and Electives
- Away rotations
  - o VSAS
- Rotations for the interview vs. rotations for the job: timing is everything
- o Virtual Interviews and how to prepare.
- Solidifying letter writers

#### ERAS Planning and Timelines

- LORs: writers and requests
- CV workshop
- Personal statement
- Resources:
  - o Strolling Through the Match
  - o Careers in Medicine
- National Conference and scholarship opportunities
- FMEC

#### Meet your AMC FM Team / Longitudinal Support Elements

- CV workshop: May/June
- Personal statement review
- Mock Interviews: September
- Rank List Questions

### **Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #3**

#### **Title of Program**

Please proceed forward for programs 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 due to a technical issue with this page (it is not recognizing the word count).

#### **Date and Time**

Please see next page

#### **Work Hours to Organize**

Please see next page

#### **Participation**

Please see next page

**Categories**

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members. , Significant changes/improvement made on an existing FMIG/SAACOFPP program. , Collaboration with another campus group: Please include which group (SNMA, another primary care interest group, etc.)

**Collaboration**

Please see next page

**Description**

See next page please.

**Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #4****Title of Program**

Annual Primary Care Symposium (Advocacy, Education & Compassionate Care)

**Date and Time**

Held since 2014 - multiple sessions throughout the month of October

**Work Hours to Organize**

Student and Faculty coordinated events

**Participation**

150+

## **Categories**

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members. , Exposure to family medicine and family physicians: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to expose its members to family physicians in your medical school or the community , Promoting the value of family medicine as primary care: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to tell members about the role of family medicine in enhancing primary care. This could include the patient-centered medical home, primary care workforce, National Primary Care Week Activities, or other collaborations with Primary care interest groups. , Promoting the scope and diversity of family medicine: What your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to educate students and increase their understanding of and appreciation for the broad range of opportunities in family medicine. , Collaboration with another campus group: Please include which group (SNMA, another primary care interest group, etc.)

## **Collaboration**

AMC Gold Humanism Honor Society members, AMC Wilderness Medical Society, Alumni Office, FMEC, Engeye Health Center

## Description

The Primary Care Symposium was created by our faculty in response to strong student interest from our FMIG. Begun in 2014, we continue to work with medical students, faculty, residents, alumni and local and international partners to create a month of dynamic discussions, educational offerings and collaborative sessions.

2020 Primary Care Symposium  
Advocacy, Education & Compassionate Care

Schedule:

[ FMEC Conference (Oct 1-3) ]

Thursday, October 8th \* Noon – 1 MS Teams  
Primary Care Perspective / Alumni Highlight  
Sports Medicine and Beyond: Alternative Careers in Family Medicine with Dr. Rowan Paul (AMC '05)

Tuesday, October 13 Noon – 1 \* MS Teams  
Primary Care Perspective / Alumni Highlight  
Research as Advocacy: Race/Ethnicity and the TOLAC calculator (labor after cesarean section)  
With Dr. Madeline Haas (AMC '16)

Wednesday, October 14 Noon – 1 \* MS Teams  
FMIG Welcome and Family Medicine Chief Complaints Session  
with Dr. Dan North (Albany Med Co-Chief)  
Small group discussion on the primary care approach to a chief complaint of back pain

Thursday, October 15 Noon – 1 \* MS Teams  
Global Medicine with a Mission: Engeye Health Center Panel  
Faculty and Residents from recent medical team trip to Engeye in Uganda share tips for collaborative global health work

Saturday, October 17 Noon – 4:30 PM \* MS Teams  
Capital District Asylum Collaborative (CDAC) Training  
Training for new volunteers will cover Legal Process, Medical Exam, Mental Health Evaluations, Writing an Affidavit & Testifying

Monday, October 19th 7 – 9 pm \* ME-700  
Healthcare America: Uniting Our Voices - Documentary film produced by Brian Kaszuba, AMC MS 4, and Co-hosted by AMC's Gold Humanism Honor Society student members

Thursday, October 22 Noon – 1\* MS Teams  
Primary Care Perspective / Alumni Highlight  
Media in Medicine with Hajat Avdovic, MD (AMC '17)  
Join us as we explore the life of a family doctor through the lens of a camera.

Saturday, October 24th Noon – 3 PM\*  
MedWar (Medical Wilderness Adventure Race) combines wilderness medicine with adventure racing to create unique events designed to teach and test wilderness survival and medical skills. Join a team!

Outreach with AMCRI Service Learning Program October 12 – 18  
Winter Clothing Drive  
Donation box outside Commons at Albany Med. Clothing in good condition only.  
Sponsored by: Albany Med's Commitment to Refugees and Immigrants (AMCRI) SL Program

**Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #5**

**Title of Program**

Cooks For A Cause

**Date and Time**

Bi-weekly sessions held September - April

**Work Hours to Organize**

6

**Participation**

35

**Categories**

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members. , Significant changes/improvement made on an existing FMIG/SAACOFP program.

**Description**

Our dept sponsors the Cooks for a Cause (C4C) Program at two locations in the City of Albany. Both programs use cooking as the medium to offer children life skills, share a passion for cooking and give students a chance to talk about issues important to them.

South End Children's Café (SECC): Mentorship program and cooking classes for middle school children from an underserved community - run in collaboration with the SECC which offers education, activities and food support for families in the South End of Albany, NY.

Cooks for a Cause: RISSE: Mentorship program and cooking classes for middle school children who are refugees or immigrants that have resettled in Albany, NY. - run in mentorship with RISSE (refugee and immigrant support services of Emmaus) that offers comprehensive support services to families that have recently resettled in Albany, NY

COVID-19 Update: After discussions with our community partners, programming was recently refocused on four specific areas for the participating children: (1) Food Insecurity (2) Isolation related to covid lockdowns (3) Trauma from a recent increase in violence in their community (4) Technology support and mentorship.

SECC: The program hosted 10–12 children per week on a rotating schedule, meeting twice a month. The main lesson learned was the value of consistent presence of the med students and the support of a strong community partner. Med students were also surprised to learn how powerful cooking can be in supporting free-flowing communication and relationship building, even amongst themselves. After a brief pause in the program due to Covid, the program resumed in-person cooking in February at a temporary location with a reduced number of children and medical students that allowed for appropriate social distancing.



C4C/RISSE took place twice a month at RISSE prior to Covid. The program was extremely successful and had more community participation than initially expected. Some of the medical students are themselves former refugees, immigrants, or second-generation Americans, and their personal stories resonated with the RISSE community. After a brief pause in the program due to Covid, the med students were interested in resuming the in-person classes but the site was closed to outside volunteers due to ongoing Covid concerns. The students worked together with faculty and the community partners to devise a plan to pivot to a fully virtual platform, livestreaming the cooking classes from one of their own kitchens. The livestream was broadcast in the classroom at RISSE while the teachers on site helped the children cook along with the med students. Student participants at RISSE were provided "to go" bags with all of the groceries needed to re-create the meal for their families at home. To-go bags also included a "snack of the week" which was also highlighted via fun facts as part of the video series. The food and snacks were offered in partnership with two local community partners who assisted with underwriting the cost of the bags of food for each child and their family.

#### Med Student reflection/Kara L (AMC II)

"This has been a wonderful experience in that it is such a nice change of pace from medical school. Studying all day, every day, I often forget what it means to be a child and what their everyday lives are like. Working to understand the personal and socioeconomic situation of each child has helped me better contextualize and inform the subtle nuance that I am developing to be a holistic and allied healthcare provider. I also have realized how honest and open children can be when you make an effort to connect with them. The children have told me a great deal about their family lives, school lives, and their hopes and dreams. My takeaway from this experience is that children will open up if they can trust you and feel heard by you. I also took away that it is not difficult to find things in common with people who are seemingly very different from you in age, socioeconomic status, or race. When we cook together, everyone is equal and everyone has a job to do."

#### Student participant comment:

While picking up one of the children in the van, Shekinah stated "on Wednesdays when 4pm hits I go to my front window and watch for your car to come (the van comes at 5:30pm). I don't want to miss the van for cooking class, it is so much fun and everyone is so nice to me."

#### C4C Video links here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHi5KktVCSw>

- (96) Cooks for a Cause: RISSE 3/16/21 - YouTube

### **Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #6**

#### **Title of Program**

CDAC (Capital District Asylum Collaborative)

#### **Date and Time**

Work is ongoing along with training sessions held two times per year

#### **Work Hours to Organize**

5 student leaders

**Participation**

20

**Categories**

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members. , Exposure to family medicine and family physicians: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to expose its members to family physicians in your medical school or the community , Promoting the value of family medicine as primary care: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to tell members about the role of family medicine in enhancing primary care. This could include the patient-centered medical home, primary care workforce, National Primary Care Week Activities, or other collaborations with Primary care interest groups. , Current issues or innovations in family medicine , Collaboration with another campus group: Please include which group (SNMA, another primary care interest group, etc.) , Other

**Collaboration**

Albany Med's Department of Psychiatry; The Legal Project

**Other**

Community Care Physicians

## Description

The Capital District Asylum Collaborative has been established to provide free medical and mental health evaluations for asylum applications of asylum seekers in the Capital District through a unified system of lawyers, doctors, and medical students. As part of the College's service learning program, CDAC also enriches students' understanding of the asylum process and the unique challenges faced by those seeking asylum.

Faculty Advisors and medical clinicians work with an extensive student leadership team to arrange for medical and psychiatric evaluations, complete affidavits and correspond with the legal teams. Student leadership team roles include physician coordinators, student scribe coordinators, legal liaisons, training coordinators, and continuing care coordinators. The CDAC team runs training sessions twice a year. They have also started a project to assess and respond to continuing care needs of asylum seekers, collaborating with local agencies for added support for clients. The program is run in collaboration with The Legal Project, an Albany-based nonprofit that helps people access protections of the law. Their lawyers refer clients to the CDAC team and the students arrange for the evaluations, act as scribes for the evaluations, and submit the affidavits required to obtain legal status back to the legal team.

Comprehensive Objectives for CDAC Programs include:

1. Enable asylum seekers in the Capital District to be evaluated by medical and mental health professionals, for the purpose of providing a legal affidavit
2. Allow students to help gather a full physical and/or mental health examination for asylum seekers
3. Train students and providers to document physical and mental health examinations for a legal document, and construct an affidavit
4. Allow students to collaborate as members of an interdisciplinary team, uniquely connecting legal, medical, and social services in the Capital District
5. Provide students with a stronger understanding of local immigrant populations and marginalized persons in the Capital District
6. Establish a strong cross-over between primary care, mental health, and social services for asylum-seekers

In 2020, the CDAC program was recognized for their extensive efforts in outreach and advocacy with The Legal Project's "Champion Award", which honors "those who have made a tremendous difference in supporting the work of The Legal Project and promoting the goal of access to justice for all."

"We are witness to [our refugee clients'] testimonies of trauma, abuse and horrors from which they have escaped temporarily. It is a privilege to bear some of the burden and use our training to better their chances of attaining asylum or other protective status. Our volunteer scribes have become skilled in cross-cultural communication and improved their understanding of the legal immigration process and how it impacts refugees. This translates to improved sociocultural awareness with patients on the floors as well as knowledge of community resources to empower these patients."

~ Ifeoluwa Adelugba '23

Link to Articles:

<https://www.amc.edu/PR/students-recognized-for-work-with-immigrants-and-asylum-seekers.cfm>

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Albany-College-med-students-provide-free-14501896.php>

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**Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #7**

## Title of Program

Care from the Start - COVID Vaccination Project

**Date and Time**

February - March, 2021

**Work Hours to Organize**

10 students - extensive phone outreach and on site coordination for clinics

**Participation**

15 (coordination plus on-site support)

**Categories**

Community Service: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among your members. , Professional development: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to promote professional and/or leadership development among our members. , Exposure to family medicine and family physicians: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to expose its members to family physicians in your medical school or the community , Promoting the value of family medicine as primary care: This is something your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to tell members about the role of family medicine in enhancing primary care. This could include the patient-centered medical home, primary care workforce, National Primary Care Week Activities, or other collaborations with Primary care interest groups. , Promoting the scope and diversity of family medicine: What your FMIG/SAACOFPP does to educate students and increase their understanding of and appreciation for the broad range of opportunities in family medicine. , Current issues or innovations in family medicine , New event for this FMIG/SAACOFPP , Significant changes/improvement made on an existing FMIG/SAACOFPP program.

## Description

The Care from the Start (CFS) Program was developed by Dr. Bob Paeglow through a partnership with the Albany Medical College Department of Family & Community Medicine and the AMC Family Medicine Residency Program. The educational program/medical clinic takes place every Wednesday evening at Dr. Paeglow's inner-city clinic, Koinonia Primary Medical Care, P.C., Albany, NY. This innovative program allows self-selected medical students to participate in a volunteer, longitudinal program focusing on health care issues of the underserved. The program provides the opportunity for an educational experience to allow students to care for a cohort of patients while paying close attention to the needs of patients and their communities.

CFS Program Objectives for medical students:

- Characterize the non-biological determinants of health as they relate to patients' health
- Prepare to meet the needs of underserved patients and their communities now and in their future
- Develop communication and physical diagnosis skills appropriate for the level of the medical student
- Demonstrate effective feedback and teaching skills
- Learn how to develop appropriate time management skills and establish effective professional boundaries, key elements in development of effective doctor/patient relationships

Care from the Start students are also expected to participate in several community events including the holiday blessing party (holiday dinner, gift distribution and party for all patients and families), serving a Thanksgiving dinner to all of the patient families and working at the Sheridan Hollow Community Health Fair.

New Programming - Vaccine Outreach and Delivery:

The Care from the Start participants recognized that lack of vaccine access due a variety of barriers as well as vaccine hesitancy within the community were impacting health and safety for the community members. Dr. Paeglow was able to receive vaccine at his clinic site, but needed students to perform a concentrated phone outreach to eligible patients in a very short amount of time. Led by one of our 3rd year med students, a team of nearly 15 students developed an outreach program for hundreds of patients to receive information about the vaccine, schedule their appointments, and assist with any hesitation they had. Additionally, when a snow storm then delayed the delivery of nearly 400 vaccines, the students went to work again, re-calling each patient and rescheduling their appointments. Then they also volunteered at the clinic, registering patients, administering vaccine and supporting patients throughout the process.

Student reflection: Kyle K (AMC II)

"I got to work in this primary care setting in an impoverished neighborhood. I assisted in patient workflow as well as vaccine administration. This was very important to me being able to provide important preventative medicine during such a long and difficult pandemic. I was able to witness patient's reactions to getting the vaccine. Some were excited, some were anxious and unsure about receiving it. I was able to listen and talk with many patients to get an understanding of their feelings and perspectives and in the end, provide them an important service".

George S:

"It was an honor being able to administer COVID-19 vaccines to vulnerable individuals with co-morbidities. Being a part of a team that is actively taking steps in helping end this terrible pandemic was empowering. It allows you to truly see how the social determinants of health impact the health of populations and what we, as providers, can do to combat these inequalities"

Link to Story:

<https://www.amc.edu/PR/med-students-instrumental-in-vaccinating-albany-neighborhood.cfm>

**Page: OVERALL PROGRAM/PROJECT/INITIATIVE #8**

**Title of Program**

Teddy Bear Hospital Day (Year 26 of event sponsored by Dept of Family Medicine and FMIG)

**Date and Time**

Typically one Saturday in April - this year will be virtual and live on website for the year

**Work Hours to Organize**

6 students/20 hours for video project due to pivot to virtual

**Participation**

In a typical year 70 - 100 students volunteer on the day of the event

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**Collaboration**

Healthy Picture Productions, Peds Interest Group, Med/Peds Interest Group, Surgery Interest Group, Ronald McDonald House, LifeNet, local ambulance company, several hospital departments

## Description

Teddy Bear Hospital Day is an annual day-long event held at Albany Medical Center where children bring their stuffed animals for a "check-up" and learn about the body and good health habits through hands-on displays and interactive programming. Families also have a chance to explore an ambulance, fire truck and the Med Flight helicopter, learn about vaccines and poison control services and obtain information about various programs offered at Albany Medical Center. Special programming is offered to children who are in-patient as well. The in person event draws 350 - 400 attendees from the community.

An informational meeting is held each Fall to appoint program coordinators. Student volunteers are organized in early Spring. Approximately 75-100 medical students participate in TBHD each year. Representatives from student-directed programs and interest groups at the medical college staff the stations at TBHD. Local news stations advertise the event and then cover the event with photos and video.

Program Objectives for community attendees:

1. Discover skills and concepts that can encourage healthy behaviors
2. Recognize the roles of various professionals that a child may encounter at the hospital
3. Alleviate some of the anxiety children feel when they visit the hospital
4. Gain insight into various medical and support services offered at the hospital and within the community
5. Share tools that children can employ to stay healthy

This volunteer program has been expanded to an approved Service Learning Program and the department provides all preparation and planning support and a post-event reflection session. FMIG provides faculty and administrative support for the event. The FMIG Faculty Advisor offers a mandatory preparation meeting as well as a post-reflection meeting with all students.

In 2020 the event had to be cancelled due to the state-wide shut down due to COVID-19. In 2021, the student leaders transformed the in-person event to a virtual event hosted on the Albany Medical Center youtube channel. The virtual event was an extraordinary undertaking, involving film and production work with over 10 medical student specialty-interest groups and seven hospital departments and staff. The resulting health education vignettes paired with a related teddy bear craft were uploaded to a dedicated webpage for the public. Additionally, a "feature film" was created following the story of a teddy bear (medical student in bear costume) as he is injured, life-flighted to AMC, received into the peds ED, followed to radiology, the peds floor and PT and finally to a local Ronald McDonald House. That is also available on the web page and highlights the staff and actual equipment and procedures children would encounter at AMC.