

# COVID-19 TOWN HALL Q&A – April 14, 2021

QUESTION TOPIC INDEX	
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<p><b>Thank you for joining our informative discussion with Tanya Anim, MD, and Zita Magloire, MD.</b></p>	
MEMBER QUESTIONS	AAFP RESPONSES
HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC AND SCIENCE	
Are there studies that examined one or more ethnic groups of physicians applying different standards of care to patients of different ethnic backgrounds, or is the issue health care affordability?	Several studies examine the association between physician-patient concordance and health outcomes. A recent study, " <a href="#">Physician-patient racial concordance and disparities in birthing mortality for newborns</a> ," showed that when Black newborns are cared for by Black physicians, the mortality rate is halved compared to Black newborns cared for by white physicians.
What do the risk factors of racism look like in systems of health care delivery?	This question was answered live during the town hall session. Please see the response at the 32-minute mark in the <a href="#">video replay</a> .
There is a statistic about maternal-fetal mortality among Black women increasing with higher educational attainment of the mother. Can you tell us about that?	This question was answered live during the town hall session. Please see the response at the 38-minute mark in the <a href="#">video replay</a> .
How can we best address birth equity – other than with protocols. What is the best way to improve behavior?	This question was answered live during the town hall session. Please see the response at the 41-minute mark in the <a href="#">video replay</a> .
Do family physicians need training in cesarean sections due to limited obstetricians (OB) or general surgeons in rural areas?	This question was answered live during the town hall session. Please see the response at the 45-minute mark in the <a href="#">video replay</a> .
EDUCATION	
Can you address the importance of recruiting and retaining clinicians of color, especially in areas that serve patients of color (e.g., minority-majority areas)?	Data shows that patient outcomes are improved when the diversity of the physician workforce matches the race/ethnicity of the community. A primary goal of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) is to grow a diverse workforce. The AAFP seeks multiple ways to influence recruitment and retention of physicians of color, from pipeline and pathway community-focused premedical programs to medical student and resident experiences and understanding factors in practice environments.

<b>ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS</b>	
<p>What advocacy efforts are the AAFP taking to include obstetrical care in critical access hospital programs?</p>	<p>Critical access hospitals in rural areas often don't have the volume to support an OB floor or wing. The long-term solution is for Congress to change the way hospitals are reimbursed. This is one of the recommendations in our policy paper, "<a href="#">Keeping Physicians in Rural Practice</a>."</p> <p>To increase the number of physicians in rural settings, we are working with Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and John Barrasso (R-WY) to introduce a rural graduate medical education bill. Once the bill is introduced (expected soon), we'll launch a Speak Out campaign to garner as much support as possible.</p>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
<p>What is the OB Member Interest Group (MIG) doing, and why should members join that MIG?</p>	<p>This question was answered live during the town hall session. Please see the response at the 48-minute mark in the <a href="#">video replay</a>.</p>