



## THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN AAFP HISTORY 1947 – 2020

- June 10, 1947:** The American Academy of General Practice (AAGP) was founded in Atlantic City, New Jersey at the Claridge Hotel. The first meeting was held in conjunction with the AMA meeting.
- November 8-9, 1947:** The first meeting of the AAGP Executive Committee and Board of Directors was held at the Palmer House in Chicago.
- January 1, 1948:** Attorney Mac F. Cahal, Executive Secretary and General Counsel of the American College of Radiology (ACR), started work as Executive Secretary of the AAGP. He worked on a part-time basis for the AAGP, operating out of ACR headquarters office in Chicago until March 1948.
- February 21, 1948:** Missouri became the first state to charter a constituent chapter with the AAGP, followed by 32 other states that same year.
- March 23, 1948:** The AAGP established its headquarters at the Plaza Theater Building in Kansas City, Missouri.
- June 21, 1948:** The first meeting of the AAGP Congress of Delegates was held just prior to the annual meeting of the AMA at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago. Delegates from 26 constituent state chapters met to conduct the official business of the Academy, including election of officers, extensive revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws, and resolutions from several state chapters. A banquet attended by 300 persons closed the session.
- March 7-9, 1949:** The First Scientific Assembly was held at the Netherland Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati with a total of 3,500 family physicians and 57 firms as technical exhibitors in attendance. According to a published report of the meeting in the *New York Times*, the “male frog pregnancy test” booth was crowded from morning until night with physicians eager to learn the techniques of this simple, reliable and practical office procedure. Hotel rooms ranged in price from \$3.00 for a single room at the Metropole to \$50.00 for a suite at the Netherland Plaza. Banquet attendees at the Assembly also received a specially designed vase of Rookwood Pottery, bearing the Academy seal. These vases were sold for \$1.75 plus tax to individuals who did not attend the banquet. Also during this Assembly, the AAGP Congress of Delegates approved the first basic definition

and policy on postgraduate study for AAGP members. The AAGP was the first major medical organization to require continuing medical education (CME) as a condition of membership. Members were required to document 150 hours of postgraduate study every three years in order to maintain active membership within the Academy.

- February 21, 1950:** The first State Officers' Conference (SOC) was held at the Hotel Statler in St. Louis, Missouri, with a total of 84 officers of state chapters in attendance for the luncheon meeting. This meeting was held in the Assembly city until 1956, when it moved to Kansas City.
- April 1950:** The first issue of *GP* (forerunner of *American Family Physician*) was published. The August 1950 issue contained a section entitled "Atomic Warfare." General practitioners in suburbs were warned that in the event of an atomic bomb, it would be prudent for them to know how to operate a bulldozer (if not own one), since ". . . most of the physicians in the city would be killed or incapacitated. It would then be up to the general practitioners in the suburbs and surrounding country to come in and help."
- March 19-22, 1951:** A sign of how things change: at the Academy's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in San Francisco, the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company hosted the evening entertainment, which included country singers Red Foley and Minnie Pearl. Promotional material indicated that "Residents, interns, students, technicians, nurses, and clergymen may register without paying the five-dollar fee required of other non-members." In 1951 (as well as 1959 and 1965), the city of San Francisco also planted a special floral display in Golden Gate Park which depicted the Academy's seal.
- March 22-25, 1954:** Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, attended the Scientific Assembly in Cleveland this year. Dr. Ulrich R. Bryner, 6th President of the Academy, was a personal acquaintance of his. Sir Alexander autographed and donated to the Academy a print of the original penicillin mold involved in his discovery, which is preserved in the Center for the History of Family Medicine.
- April 1955:** AAGP staff members were inundated with requests for lists of general practitioners after the article, "Family Doctor: Model 1955" was published in *Reader's Digest* in February.
- November 1955:** AAGP membership topped 20,000.
- January 1, 1956:** The AAGP raised membership dues to \$20.00 per year. Of that amount, \$5.00 was allocated for subscription to *GP*.
- March 19-22, 1956:** Then Vice President Richard M. Nixon made a surprise appearance at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held in Washington, DC that year. Also, for the first time at the Assembly, special events for children were

offered. The children toured the National Zoo, the FBI, the Smithsonian and the Washington Monument. Five ladies with the YW Wives Club of Washington (associated with the YWCA) acted as chaperones.

- September 1, 1956:** The Volker Building located at Volker Boulevard and Brookside in Kansas City, Missouri, was dedicated as the new national headquarters of the AAGP. It was the first building constructed by the AAGP to serve as its headquarters. The cost of construction for the new building was \$650,000.
- March 1957:** Mary E. Johnston, MD., of Tazewell, Virginia, was elected the first woman on the AAGP Board of Directors. She served until 1960.
- March 23, 1958:** The AAGP Congress of Delegates endorsed a proposal for establishing “an educational and research foundation for the support of research on medical and economic aspects of general practice.” This foundation was named the AAGP Foundation (now called the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation).
- March 24-27, 1958:** At this year’s Scientific Assembly in Dallas, the Academy’s *Daily News* reported that: “Something new has been added to each technical exhibit booth this year – a small house broom, compliments of the Academy. The brooms are part of a plan to speed evening clean-up and build good will with our best friends, the technical exhibitors...The brooms...bear a label reading: ‘Don’t let the dust gather under your feet - make a clean sweep of the general practice market with the American Academy of General Practice!’”
- November 18, 1958:** Charter issued to AAGP Foundation. AAGP Executive Director Mac Cahal was named Secretary-Treasurer. He and Helen Cobb acted as staff for the Foundation.
- March 21-24, 1960:** During the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held in Philadelphia this year, one of the sessions featured was entitled “Fall In or Fall Out” and discussed “Critical Targets for Thermonuclear attack: seventy areas including 92 cities. Experts predict 13.5 million casualties. Some 9,000 surviving Academy members would lead in getting care to survivors.” In addition to the scientific exhibits, the Sears Roebuck Foundation also exhibited a model office building containing 2,112 square feet of office space.
- April 15, 1961:** The Commission on Education reported that a pilot program to provide continuing medical education via open-circuit television was being finalized with NBC television, to air weekly on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. The first program aired the following day, April 16, 1961.
- April 17-20, 1961:** At the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Miami Beach, the Academy celebrated the final payment on the mortgage for the Volker Building headquarters at a special “mortgage-burning” luncheon.

- July 1961:** A new publication was unveiled by the Academy, entitled *Family Physician*. It was sent free of charge to nonmember general practitioners and part-time specialists under age sixty-five. It was intended as a marketing tool to help advertise *GP* as well as the AAGP.
- June 1962:** The word “American” was added to the title of the nonmember publication *Family Physician*. This publication merged with *GP* in January 1970 and the name *American Family Physician* became the official title of the Academy’s journal.
- March 31, 1963:** An amendment to the AAGP Constitution and By-Laws was approved by the Congress of Delegates to include a “Life Membership” classification. Once approved, any member of the Academy who had been a member for ten years and was age 70 could apply to the Board of Directors of his/her state chapter to be classified as a Life member. Life members were not required to fulfill continuation study requirements or to pay annual membership dues, but continued to pay the regular membership fee for the official journal.
- July 1964:** Programmed instruction became a feature in *GP*. The first program was “Primary Arterial Hypertension.” Members who completed a six-month programmed learning course received six hours of postgraduate study credit.
- April 1965:** The AAGP Congress of Delegates passed Resolution No. 11 “To Extend Equal Rights for AAGP Membership.” The resolution stated the Academy was “unalterably opposed to the denial of membership in county and state chapters of our Academy to any duly licensed physician in the family practice of medicine because of race, color, religion, ethnic affiliation, or national origin.”
- June 1965:** In conjunction with the United States Public Health Service, the Academy began participating in a Cervical Cancer Detection program. Designed to encourage routine, periodic Pap smears, the program lasted for five years until federal funding was eliminated. In that time, over 1.5 million women had been examined, with members in 45 chapters involved.
- October 10-13, 1966:** The title of one notable roundtable session held at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Boston was “The Angry Adolescent.” Also at the 1966 Assembly, the film *Someone You Can Trust – Someone You Can Be* premiered. Produced for the AAGP by Smith Kline & French Laboratories, the film’s purpose was to alleviate the critical doctor shortage by encouraging high school students to consider a career in medicine.
- 1968:** To provide assistance to family physicians in private practice, the Academy’s Committee on Medical Economics developed an advisory manual “Organization and Management of Family Practice.” The manual went through several revisions over the next few decades.
- November 17-23, 1968:** The AAGP sponsored a National Family Health Week to focus national

attention on the role of the family doctor in the nation's health care structure. Promotional posters were placed in 30,000 drugstores throughout the country.

- February 8, 1969:** Family Practice was approved as American medicine's twentieth specialty. (It later was ranked as the 19<sup>th</sup> specialty when the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, formerly part of the American Board of Surgery, was approved separately as a certifying board in 1971.) The first certifying exam was held February 28-March 1, 1970.
- September 30, 1969:** A hotel strike that occurred on the third day of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Philadelphia paralyzed the city and wreaked havoc for Assembly attendees. And, another sign of the times: One session during the Assembly this year was entitled "Drugs and Teens."
- October 13-14, 1969:** A Workshop for Consultants in Family Practice was held in Kansas City, attended by 44 physicians. This workshop later evolved into the Annual Workshop for Directors of Family Practice Residencies (also known as Program Directors' Workshop).
- January 1970:** A new merged publication of *AFP/GP* was sent to family physicians, general practitioners, internists and prescribing osteopaths. Later in the same year, *GP* was dropped from the title and the publication became simply *American Family Physician*.
- October 3, 1971:** The American Academy of General Practice officially changed its name to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Also on this date, the Congress of Delegates approved a "Fellow" membership classification. It required completion of 600 hours of approved postgraduate study or attainment of diplomate status in the American Board of Family Practice.
- October 4, 1971:** In the first of three appearances at Assembly events, actor Robert Young (who portrayed Marcus Welby, MD on the ABC television show of that name) was keynote speaker at the Academy's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Miami Beach. Other appearances by Mr. Young were in 1974 and 1984.
- October 8, 1971:** Mac F. Cahal, JD, retired after serving 24 years as Executive Director of the Academy, and was replaced by Roger Tusken. Mr. Tusken joined the AAGP in 1957, serving in various positions such as field assistant, director of membership services, director of communications division, and since 1968, as assistant executive director.
- June 10, 1972:** The Academy celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by presenting a plaque to the Claridge Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, to commemorate the founding of the American Academy of General Practice. Also part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration were a set of medallions in precious metals and bronze.

- September 26, 1972:** The AAFP held its first fellowship convocation in New York City, with 10,000 attendees and 4,000 degrees conferred. AAFP publications noted that the continuing education program that brought the charter fellows to the convocation was a supreme example of the AAFP's reputation as an innovator in medicine.
- April 15, 1973:** The AAFP dedicated a new headquarters building located at 1740 West 92<sup>nd</sup> Street in Kansas City, Missouri. The purchase price was \$2,250,000. The staff moved into the building on June 29, 1973.
- August 1973:** President Richard Nixon vetoed the HEW appropriations bill which would have provided \$15 million for family practice residencies under provisions of the Health Manpower Training Act.
- April 5-7, 1974:** An informal meeting of the ad hoc group of residents in family practice was held in Kansas City. Thirty-five residents from 27 individual family practice programs responded to a request from the Academy for a resident representative from each state to attend the meeting. This group developed the organizational structure that is now known as the National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students. (Student members were included in 1975.)
- October 13, 1974:** The Congress of Delegates approved amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws which allowed seating of delegates to represent residents, students, and Uniformed Services members.
- September 15, 1975:** A press release announced a grant of \$172,623 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to the Family Health Foundation of America (FHFA) to help fund the Residency Assistance Program (RAP). RAP (now known as RPI, or Residency Program Solutions) was a new joint project designed to aid family practice residencies in monitoring and improving their educational quality. Four family practice organizations cooperated on this venture: ABFP, STFM, AAFP, and FHFA. By 1979, the first RAP Workshop was held and the first edition of Criteria for Excellence in a Family Practice Residency Program was printed.
- October 5, 1975:** The Congress of Delegates approved the Academy's first official definition of primary care: *Primary Care is a type of medical delivery which emphasizes first contact care and assumes ongoing responsibility for the patient in both health maintenance and therapy of illness. It is personal care involving a unique interaction and communication between the patient and the physician. It is comprehensive in scope and includes the overall coordination of the care of the patient's health problems, be they biological, behavioral or social. The appropriate use of consultants and community resources is an important part of effective primary care.*
- October 6-9, 1975:** At the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held in Chicago this year, President Gerald R. Ford's personal physician and AAFP member Rear Admiral William M. Lukash, MC, USN, received the AAFP President's Award.

- July 6, 1977:** The first Family Doctor of the Year Award was given to Robert Boyer, MD, of Kingman, Kansas. President Jimmy Carter greeted Dr. Boyer and AAFP President B. Leslie Huffman, MD, at the White House. The award was renamed Family Physician of the Year in 1996.
- October 9, 1977:** The Board of Directors directed the Committee on Continuing Medical Education to develop a plan for the AAFP Core Curriculum Self-Assessment Program. This program, later renamed the Home Study Self-Assessment (HSSA) Program, was designed to expose subscribers to all components of the core curriculum of family practice over a period of six years. The first learning package was scheduled for completion in the fall of 1978.
- December 29, 1977:** A meeting of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee for Liaison Conference of Family Practice Organizations was held in Phoenix, Arizona, by invitation of the FHFA. This group evolved into the Family Practice Working Party, which held its first meeting in March 1979.
- September 25-28, 1978:** A new display board for the Clinical Seminars Registration was initiated at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held this year in San Francisco, greatly simplifying the process of registering for these courses.
- October 4-9, 1980:** WONCA's 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Family Medicine was held in conjunction with the AAFP Scientific Assembly for the first time. The meeting in New Orleans drew over 11,000 registrants.
- December 31, 1980:** AAFP membership topped 50,000.
- August 14, 1982:** The Herb L. Huffington, MD, Memorial Library was dedicated, in honor of the 1975-1976 President-Elect of the Academy. Operated initially by the AAFP Foundation, it was transferred to the AAFP in 1995.
- October 1-4, 1982:** The first annual AAFP/Parke-Davis Family 6K Distance Run was held at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held this year in San Francisco.
- February 1983:** The Board of Directors approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Task Force on Women in Family Medicine.
- September 1983:** The AAFP's Video CME program was initiated. Originally known as the AAFP Home Video Program, participants could select from ten videotapes on an individual selection basis.
- July 30, 1984:** Roger Tusken resigned as AAFP Executive Vice President. R. Michael Miller, JD, was named Acting Executive Vice President. Before being named Acting EVP, Miller had served as the Academy's general counsel and as vice president for socioeconomic and legal affairs.
- October 9, 1985:** The Resident Observer to the Board of Directors was given full voting privileges on the Board by approval of the Congress of Delegates. The

first Resident Board Member was Richard M. Hays, MD, of Tampa, Florida.

**October 10-13, 1985:** At the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Anaheim, California, Assembly participants were treated to a Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway play for the keynote presentation. The play, *'night, Mother*, was a stark drama of a suicidal daughter and her mother, who desperately tried to prevent her suicide. The original Broadway cast presented the play, with actress Kathy Bates playing the daughter.

**October 13, 1985:** Robert Graham, MD took the helm as the AAFP's new Executive Vice President. He was the first Academy member and physician to fill that position. Formerly administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Graham had previously served the Academy as assistant director of the AAFP Division of Education from 1973- 1976.

**May 1986:** The AAFP produced a special coloring book in cooperation with Hallmark Properties and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports called *The Rainbow Brite "I'm a Fit Kid" Coloring Book*. It was designed to help youngsters stay fit through the early promotion of healthy physical fitness habits. Approximately 1.5 million copies of the coloring book were distributed to schools and family physicians' offices throughout the United States.

**June 9, 1986:** In *Bowen, Secretary of Health and Human Services, et al. v. Michigan Academy of Family Physicians*, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Medicare's dual fee system that paid family physicians less than other specialists for conducting the same procedures. The AAFP provided a great majority of the funding for the Michigan Academy as it pursued this case through the court system. Mike Miller, AAFP Deputy Executive Vice President and General Counsel, noted: "In my opinion, this result is one of the most important and tangible victories the Academy has ever achieved for family physicians."

**July 1986:** Results of the Annual Survey of Family Practice Residency Programs showed that total graduates of three-year family practice residencies since January 1, 1970 topped 20,000.

**September 24, 1986:** The Academy launched a highly-successful advertising campaign targeted to the public, entitled "Ever Wish You Had A Doctor Who Specialized In You?" as part of the *Family Physicians Care for America* program. The AAFP and the ABFP each pledged \$1.5 million over a three-year period for this program.

**1987:** The first volume of *Facts About Family Practice* was published by the AAFP. Designed as a compilation of studies from the AAFP and other organizations related to primary care, the *Facts* volume became an important source of statistics about all aspects of the specialty and

primary care.

- January 1987:** The first episode of *Family Medicine Update* aired on Lifetime Medical Television, with Robert Rakel, MD, as host. Six half-hour shows appeared during 1987. The show aired until 1993.
- June 10, 1987:** The AAFP celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Academy hosted a celebration, complete with balloon release, at its headquarters in Kansas City that coincided with the Annual Workshop for Directors of Family Practice Residencies. Founding member Stanley R. Truman, MD was a special guest. The celebration included the planting of a plane tree from the Greek state of Kos to represent the birthplace of medicine and the reading of a proclamation from the mayor of Kansas City.
- October 1987:** The AAFP Stop Smoking Kit, developed by the Committee on Health Education, publicly debuted. The development of this kit made the AAFP the only medical organization with an ongoing program to teach physicians a systematic approach to help patients stop smoking. Efforts by the Academy to support anti-tobacco programs began when the 1985 Congress of Delegates adopted several tough anti-tobacco resolutions.
- April 24, 1988:** The AAFP dedicated its new headquarters at 8880 Ward Parkway in Kansas City. The building had been purchased the previous August for \$11,750,000 through a bankruptcy proceeding.
- June 9, 1988:** The AAFP initiated the Student Interest Initiative with the first meeting of the Subcommittee on Student Interest. This group eventually became the Student Interest Task Force. Purposes of this project were to identify major issues affecting student interest in the specialty and to review and prioritize strategies to enhance student interest for organized implementation within a five-year plan.
- October 3, 1988:** The AAFP Congress of Delegates adopted a resolution allowing members up to 20 hours per year of CME credit for teaching medical students and residents the art and science of family practice.
- December 31, 1988:** AAFP student membership reached 9,666.
- January 1, 1989:** The AAFP began requiring residency completion as a condition for active membership.
- August 8, 1989:** Prompted by an article in *USA Today*, the AAFP captured extensive media attention with its opposition to the mandatory substitution of generic drugs for critical patients, drugs, and diseases.
- September 17, 1989:** The AAFP committed itself to ensuring “that every American will be assured of having access to a broad range of essential health care services.” After an outpouring of testimony, the Congress of Delegates approved the Board- recommended “AAFP Position Statement on Access to Health

Care for the Uninsured,” making the Academy the first medical organization to make access to health care a focused priority.

- August 24-26, 1990:** The first National Conference of Women, Minority, and New Physicians (NCWMNP) was held in Overland Park, Kansas, to provide an opportunity for members of those special groups to have direct input into Academy policy discussions. In 1997, this conference started being held in conjunction with the Academy Leadership Forum (ALF). In 2000, it was renamed the National Conference of Special Constituencies (NCSC), and in 2015 became the National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL).
- October 29, 1990:** The Academy’s Washington Office was moved into an AAFP-owned, renovated townhouse to ensure a higher profile for the AAFP’s ambitious and growing lobbying efforts on behalf of members and the public.
- January 1991:** The results of a 1989 Gallup Poll were reported in the 1990 *Annual Review*, showing that out of 100,052 households, 75 percent of U.S. household used family physicians.
- The Academy launched the Practice Support Initiative (PSI). The first group of products and services included a free monograph on “Coding for Physician Reimbursement.”
- October 1991:** The first AAFP catalog was published with more than 300 offerings, including large sections on Practice Management, Patient Education and Public Health, and Continuing Medical Education. The catalog contained materials ranging from manuals to brochures to items reflecting the AAFP seal and family practice symbol.
- April 8, 1992:** The AAFP issued “Rx for Health: The Family Physicians’ Access Plan,” calling for, among other things, universal health coverage for all Americans. The plan was unveiled at a press conference at The National Press Club in Washington, DC.
- April 15, 1992:** The Guam Academy of Family Physicians was chartered, bringing to 55 the total number of AAFP constituent chapters.
- 1993:** The Academy endorsed Tar Wars, a pro-health tobacco-free education program for fifth graders, as a national program. Tar Wars became an extremely popular and effective tool for reaching children about living tobacco-free lives. Since its inception, the program has been implemented in all 50 states and has reached over 10 million children worldwide.
- June 1, 1993:** The AAFP acquired the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) Program from the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Practice. In the first year with the AAFP, the two-day ALSO course helped more than 600 health care providers expand and refresh their understanding of emergencies related to pregnancy.

- October 1993:** The first issue of *Family Practice Management* was published. The 150-page inaugural issue was packaged with *AFP* and included articles on topics such as health care reform, managed care negotiations, colposcopy in family practice, and electronic claims filing.
- October 6, 1993:** Women, minority and new physician delegates were seated in the Congress of Delegates. For the first time, slotted seats were approved for these constituencies for a period of five years, in order to allow these groups' voices to be adequately heard when establishing AAFP policy.
- The Congress of Delegates voted unanimously to reopen a pathway to AAFP membership for residency-trained osteopathic physicians.
- October 10, 1993:** The first Physicians With Heart airlift, carrying \$5 million in medical supplies, equipment and medication, was shipped to St. Petersburg, Russia as a joint project of the AAFP, AAFP/F, and Heart to Heart International. The airlift transported 26 tons of materials to Russia. The final Physicians With Heart trip was made to Kyrgyzstan in 2011.
- December 31, 1994:** AAFP student membership topped 20,000.
- January 1, 1995:** The Academy joined forces with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) to develop a new schedule for childhood immunizations, replacing three separate schedules previously recommended by the organizations.
- March 19-21, 1995:** The Residency Assistance Program (RAP) observed its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the RAP Workshop. By September, the 800<sup>th</sup> consultation had been conducted.
- January 1996:** Family practice became the first specialty in American medicine with residency programs in all 50 states, when the Residency Review Committee for Family Practice accredited Alaska's first family practice residency.
- May 16, 1996:** The AAFP launched its website ([www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)) with the goal of enhancing the scientific and professional basis of family practice. The website contained more than 4,500 pages of information.
- October 3, 1996:** The Congress of Delegates adopted a resolution that the AAFP should begin to approve CME credit for computer literacy training and medical informatics courses.
- May 2-3, 1997:** The name of the State Officers' Conference (SOC) was changed to the Academy Leadership Forum (ALF) to reflect the meeting's broader focus. ALF combined the former SOC and the Leadership Skills Development Conference. In 2015, the name was changed again to Annual Chapter Leader Forum (ACLF).

- June 10, 1997:** The AAFP celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special events and products were offered throughout the year, including a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, a free poster, anniversary apparel and gift items, and videos to highlight the specialty and the history of the organization. At the Scientific Assembly in Chicago that year, a “birthday party” served as the All Member Event, and a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Room contained displays of materials highlighting the history of the Academy.
- September 17, 1997:** The Congress of Delegates approved a Board of Directors recommendation to launch a \$7.7 million, 5-year research initiative called the “AAFP Plan to Enhance Family Practice Research.”
- September 17-21, 1997:** The AAFP launched the first Annual Clinical Focus (ACF) for 1998 on “Prevention and Management of Cardiovascular Disease” in cooperation with the American Heart Association. The objective of the ACF campaign was to give the AAFP and family medicine leadership and visibility in a series of clinical areas; to provide the AAFP with an opportunity to bring its members up to speed in specific clinical areas; and to generate revenue for the AAFP. Grants committed for core elements in the first year totaled \$1,200,000. The ACF initiative lasted through 2005 with the final one focused on Genomics.
- February 10, 1998:** The U.S. Senate confirmed AAFP member David Satcher, MD, PhD as Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary of Health. He was sworn in February 13, 1998, and was the first family physician to fill that position. He served until 2002.
- June 1998:** Academy member Nancy Dickey, MD was elected the first female AMA president.
- June 8, 1999:** The Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care was established to provide a family physician perspective to policy deliberations in Washington, DC, and also to conduct research to support the development of and advocacy for AAFP policies. The following year, the Center was named in honor of retired AAFP Executive Vice President Robert Graham, MD.
- September 15, 1999:** Hurricane Floyd caused the Scientific Assembly in Orlando to shut down for one day for the first time in its 50-year history.
- October 5, 1999:** The AAFP moved into its new headquarters building located at 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway in Leawood, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City. The building was dedicated on November 4, 1999. The cost of construction was \$28 million.
- April 1, 2000:** *AFP* celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication.
- August 1, 2000:** Douglas E. Henley, MD, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, became the new AAFP Executive Vice President. Dr. Henley was the first practicing family

physician to fill that role. He had served as AAFP President from 1995-1996 and served two terms as AAFP Board Chair.

- October 4-8, 2000:** The Keystone III meeting was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. With a theme of “The Role of Family Practice in a Changing Health Care Environment,” this family practice think-tank involved representatives from the then-seven sponsoring organizations that were part of the Family Practice Working Party.
- March 21-24, 2001:** The first convocation of the AAFP’s National Network for Family Practice and Primary Care Research met with an aim of encouraging at least 10% of AAFP active members to be involved in research.
- September 11, 2001:** Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City resulted in the deaths of two family physicians: Frederick Rimmele, MD, of Marblehead, Massachusetts, and Paul Ambrose, MD, MPH, of Washington, DC.
- October 2001:** Warren Jones, MD of Potomac, Maryland, a captain in the Navy, was installed as the first African-American president of the AAFP.
- January 2002:** The Future of Family Medicine project was launched to develop a strategy to transform and renew family practice. This project was a result of discussions at Keystone III in 2000. A final report was issued in 2004 in a supplement to the *Annals of Family Medicine*.
- October 2002:** Cynthia Romero, MD, was approved as the first member of the AAFP Board of Directors to represent new physicians (those in practice up to 7 years).
- May/June 2003:** The *Annals of Family Medicine*, a new peer-reviewed research journal, debuted as a collaborative effort of six organizations: AAFP, ABFP, STFM, ADFM, AFPRD, and NAPCRG.
- September 12, 2003:** The AAFP Board of Directors approved the creation of a Center for Health Information Technology (CHIT). CHIT’s mission was to promote and facilitate the adoption of health information technology by AAFP members and other office-based clinicians. This program was renamed Alliance for E-Health Innovation in 2014.
- October 1-5, 2003:** Americans in Motion (AIM) kicked off at the Scientific Assembly. This ten-year initiative was developed to address the increase in overweight and obesity levels among children and adults.
- October 2004:** Mary Frank, MD, of Mill Valley, California, became the first female president of the AAFP.
- January 17, 2005:** The METRIC program went live. This program, whose acronym meant Measuring, Evaluating and Translating Research Into Care, was a new AAFP practice performance program that offered CME credit for

completing practice- based performance measurement projects.

- June 2005:** FamMedPAC, a new federal political action committee, was launched. It was formed to advance the interest of family physicians in government policy.
- September 29, 2005:** TransforMED, a new AAFP subsidiary, announced the hiring of a CEO. This project provided consultation and support to primary care practices looking to adopt the new model of care outlined in the Future of Family Medicine report. The initial offering of products and services was targeted for 2006.
- September 30, 2005:** AAFP president Larry Fields, MD, announced the launch of the AAFP President's Challenge: Physician Disaster Assistance Program, in cooperation with the AAFP Foundation. This relief effort was a direct result of the effects of Hurricane Katrina on family physicians and their practices in the hurricane- affected areas. By November 2005, over \$200,000 had been raised by AAFP members and staff.
- April 3, 2006:** TransforMED announced the launch of a national demonstration project designed to test an innovative practice model using 18 family medicine practices as test cases.
- September 27, 2006:** Family medicine leaders and practicing family physicians converged on Capitol Hill for a rally called Vote for America's Health, to emphasize to lawmakers the urgent need for health system reform.
- January 2007:** An AAFP-led coalition of ten medical associations urged Congress to enact health system reform based on "Principles for Reform of the U.S. Health Care System." This coalition was first convened in November 2004 at the behest of the AAFP.
- February 15, 2007:** Preparing the Personal Physician for Practice (P<sup>4</sup>) named programs in its national demonstration project. P<sup>4</sup> was a six-year project overseen by TransforMED to lay the groundwork for restructuring family medicine residency training.
- May 10, 2007:** AAFP President Rick Kellerman, MD, testified before the House Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Health to encourage Congress to adopt a Medicare physician payment system that reimburses physician practices for providing a patient-centered medical home to manage and coordinate care.
- June 10, 2007:** The AAFP celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- October 3, 2007:** The Academy kicked off a \$5.3 million strategic advertising campaign to highlight the specialty's importance in system reform. The campaign asserted a patient-centered approach to health care. As part of this campaign, the AAFP developed a new "bold champion" seal and a tagline, "Strong Medicine for America."

- July 2009:** AAFP member Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA, was appointed by President Barack Obama as the 18<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General and served until 2013.
- August 2012:** The AAFP developed “Pain Management and Opioid Abuse: A Public Health Concern,” a position paper that outlined strategies toward countering opioid abuse and improving pain management.
- 2013:** Family Medicine for America’s Health (FMAHealth) was launched to revisit the role of family medicine in view of changes resulting from the Future of Family Medicine Project and to position family medicine with new strategic and communication plans to create better health, better health care, and lower cost for patients and communities (the Triple Aim). Like FFM, FMAHealth was a cooperative venture between 8 family medicine organizations (the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians joined the effort).
- April 7, 2015:** In a joint editorial published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the Academy, seven medical associations, and the American Bar Association advocated a series of measures aimed at reducing the public health consequences of firearms.
- October 2016:** After months of advocating for concerns of family physicians, the AAFP responded positively to HHS’s release of the final rule to implement the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA).
- March 31, 2017:** The Academy announced the formation of the Center for Diversity and Health Equity, which was established to address the social determinants of health.
- July 30 – August 1, 2020:** For the first time, the National Conference of Family Medicine Resident and Medical Students, was 100% virtual due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- August 1, 2020:** Shawn Martin took the helm as the AAFP’s new Executive Vice President. Formerly AAFP’s senior vice president, advocacy, practice advancement and policy, Martin had over20+ years of experience with health care organizations, both with the AAFP and the American Osteopathic Association.
- October 13-17, 2020** The Academy hosted FMX virtually for the first time due to due to COVID-19 pandemic.