



Commission on Education 2024 Annual Report

Student and Resident Representatives to the Commission on Education

Resident

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The Commission on Education (COE) aims to develop policy and disseminate expertise related to the education and professional development of family physicians up to the end of residency training. It focuses on building a diverse and robust family medicine workforce, promoting student interest in family medicine, and supporting student and resident well-being and leadership. The COE also emphasizes innovation in residency training, collaborates with the academic community to provide guidance in graduate curricula, assists with the planning of the National Conference, and recognizes outstanding educators in family medicine. Through these efforts, the COE strives to strengthen the pathway of family physician development.

Activities & Achievements

The COE had two meetings in the last year, taking place during Winter Cluster from Jan 19-21st, 2024 in Kansas City, MO and virtually during Summer Cluster on June 1st, 2024.

During Winter Cluster, the COE made several recommendations to the Board of Directors on issues such as increasing transparency in visa sponsorship during residency and fellowship application, student and resident leadership, and obstetrics in primary care. Other discussion addressing multiple resolutions from National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL) and National Congress of Family Medicine Residents (NCFMR) on topics such as expanding obesity medicine education, LGBTQIA+ healthcare in family medicine training, increasing access to palliative cares, and anti-racism and health equity training during residency. The commission also had presentation from the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) representing the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) on family medicine application and interview system (FMAIS), making recommendations on signaling process in the upcoming application season to the Council of Academic Family Medicine (CAFAM) organizations. The COE also heard report from the ABFM (American Board of Family Medicine) on the progress and challenges of residency redesign across the nation in light of recent update in the residency requirements and the transition and challenges of competency based medical education.

During the Summer Cluster, the COE heard reports and approved several policy updates from its subcommittees, including the definition of family medicine, family medicine interest groups, medical schools service to populations historically and intentionally excluded, minoritized, and under-resourced in medicine. There were robust discussions on student choice based on the AAFP member surveys and on resident wellbeing based on wellness and burnout survey.

Subcommittee Work

The Subcommittee on Resident & Student Issues (SRSI) convened multiple times this year, both in person and virtually. In addition to establishing work groups and updating the language of the aforementioned policies, the SRSI received a report from the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Network. Meanwhile, the Subcommittee on Graduate Curriculum (SGC) reviewed various policies related to procedural skills and dual board certification, approving updates to several graduate curricula (GCs), including Women's Health and Gynecologic Care and Pregnancy-Related Care (formerly Maternity Care). As the application for a new round of graduate curriculum update coming to a close, the SGC members are gearing up to review a new set of GCs in the coming months. Additionally, the Subcommittee on National Conference Planning (SNCP) is overseeing the planning of the fiftieth AAFP Student and Resident National Conference, including the selection of presentations, mainstage speakers, and other key components of the event.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on COE

Kate: Serving on the COE has been an inspiring experience. This role has given me the time and space to reflect on my journey to family medicine and my training amidst significant changes in residency applications and curriculum. The COE consists of a variety of voices, from lifelong medical educators to representatives and liaisons from organizations, and this diversity makes every conversation invigorating and enlightening. During my time in this role, I learned to embrace my voice and experiences, becoming comfortable with speaking up when my perspective differs from the majority. I feel fortunate to be surrounded by leaders and role models who have dedicated their careers to advocating for the future of family medicine and who welcome the perspectives of residents and students on this commission. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on this commission!

Ryan:

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