



Commission on Health of the Public and Science 2024 Annual Report

Student and Resident Commission Members

Resident

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Class of 2017

Student

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The Commission on Health of the Public and Science (CHPS) is among the most active commissions of the AAFP, with a broad scope of work split into two subcommittees: Public Health Issues and Clinical Recommendations.

The Subcommittee on Public Health Issues (SPHI) develops, reviews, and revises position papers and policy statements regarding current events and public health needs.

The Subcommittee on Clinical Recommendations and Policies (SCRP) has overlapping responsibilities with SPHI but also reviews and develops stances on guidelines issued from other organizations (i.e. screening and care recommendations that are directly applicable to patient care and relevant for family physicians).

The whole commission meets twice a year at Winter and Summer Cluster meetings, though much of the work occurs asynchronously between meetings.

The scope of work for CHPS is as follows:

1. Develop, endorse, and disseminate evidence-based clinical guidelines and policies
2. Synthesize, evaluate, and disseminate clinical research and scientific discovery
3. Advocate for societal, regulatory, and environmental initiatives that improve health for all
4. Promote health equity and the elimination of disparities in care and health outcomes
5. Support the provision of culturally proficient, person-centered care

Activities & Achievements

Subcommittee on Public Health Issues (SPHI)

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Dhaliwal served on SPHI to revise two policy statements: Integrative Medicine and Child Abuse. Updates to the Integrative Medicine policy focused on the revision of language regarding complementary treatments and approaches to care. The Child Abuse policy was extensively revised to include thoughtful consideration regarding the consultation of Child Protective Services and acknowledgement of the ways that these organizations have been historically weaponized in marginalized communities (particularly Black and Indigenous communities) to separate parents and children. The Child Abuse policy was also revised to include a discussion of the importance of ACEs and screening tools that can be used when evaluating children in whom abuse is suspected.

Subcommittee on Clinical Recommendations and Policies (SCRP)

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Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving On
Resident Reflection: Dr. Pariser

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Student Reflection: Dhaliwal

Last year I had the privilege of serving as Student Delegate to Congress of Delegates, and it was my first-ever AAFP position. I was hooked from that point on, and also realized that my favorite thing wasn't necessarily giving my testimony on a public floor to others, but rather working in collaboration on revising the policies and guidelines that our Academy develops. I learned this while doing subcommittee work to develop a position paper on the role of family physicians in Rural Emergency designated Hospitals, which was an opportunity I had as part of my Delegate responsibilities.

When given the opportunity to apply for a new position last summer at National Conference, I knew I wanted to serve on a Commission, and I knew that Commission had to be CHPS. I distinctly remember being so inspired by the updates delivered by the student and resident commission members at my first National Conference. They talked about their roles developing policies regarding adolescent mental health and social media use, vaccination guidelines, and other public health initiatives.

I continue to be in awe of the ways that our non-specialty manages to touch so many aspects of patient's lives. CHPS has only expanded my awareness of the many facets of life and society that family medicine has a say in! I also remain infinitely grateful to the AAFP for giving students and residents a voice and a role to learn by doing - my favorite way to learn. I look forward to continuing to serve this incredible Academy on the state and national levels as a full-spectrum, rurally-trained resident, following in the footsteps of my late grandfather who was also a public servant to his Academies and a proud and present member of his community.

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