



Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Program of Excellence Award Winners

Categorical Award, Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

University of South Carolina School of Medicine

FMIG Operation

Student leadership is at the heart of our FMIG. The executive board is primarily composed of second-year medical students whose classmates elected them based on statements of interest. In 2023-2024, we had two presidents and two vice presidents with general titles that allowed for role sharing and collaboration. Our FMIG is one of the more prominent interest groups on campus with annual events that students look forward to each year. For this reason, our leadership includes a very active faculty advisor as well as an M4 advisor with recent experience coordinating the signature FMIG events allowing for continuity across FMIG terms. In the 2023-2024 term, each FMIG executive took the lead on a signature event, designating supporting tasks to the other board members. We also each spearheaded a new initiative within an area of interest, including community outreach and innovations in family medicine. This division of roles allowed us to maintain the recognizable character of our group that our campus knows and loves, while also introducing fresh ideas based on our individual backgrounds and areas of interest. As we move into the 2024-2025 term, we decided to open up more positions on the executive board to respond to a growing interest in family medicine at our institution. These positions include president(s), vice president(s), secretary, M4 advisor(s), and M3 advisor(s). These changes allow for greater student participation and diversity in leadership that lends itself to continued organizational innovation into the future.

Goals

The FMIG at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville is committed to nurturing a deep understanding and appreciation of family medicine among our student members. Our mission is grounded in three pivotal areas: advancing health equity, enhancing community outreach, and broadening student exposure to the field.

We see health equity as an essential focus for training a rising generation of family physicians able to adapt care to a dynamic patient population. Family physicians are often a gateway to the larger medical system, and we hope to inspire our students to maximize their role as care coordinators to meet the individual needs of each patient. In pursuit of this goal, we held our first Black History Month event entitled "Reconsidering Race and Medical Algorithms" to expose students to the many ways systemic practices contribute to health disparities while empowering them to question the status quo and find power within their own voices.

We are grateful to be learners among family physicians that play an active role in our community via engagement with hunger relief organizations, community wellness initiatives, behavioral health programs, and more. Enlisting the help of community organizations helps our physicians care for the

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whole patient, and we hope to inspire this collaborative spirit within our students. As a new initiative, we partnered with a monthly community health fair called Root Cause where we discussed the importance of preventative care and connected patients without a primary care provider to a location near their home that accepted their insurance. Our volunteers observed how even the knowledge of where to go to find care could completely alter the course of a patient's life.

Finally, we hope to use our passion for family medicine to motivate other like-minded individuals to consider the field.

A well known event that we host every year is known as "Procedure Night" where family medicine faculty, residents, and M4s help to coach pre-clerkship students through the full spectrum of family medicine procedures to widen students' perspectives on who a family medicine physician is and what they do. Year after year, students leave surprised and intrigued by the variety of exciting hands-on opportunities this field presents and drawn in by the kindness and interest with which instructors interact with students.

Through all of our efforts, we have seen an increase in interest in family medicine from 5 students matching in the Class of 2024 to 15 students expressing intent in the Class of 2025. Although FMIG cannot take full credit, we would like to say that our consistent efforts are at least one of many factors contributing to this trend.

Faculty Advisor

Our FMIG thrives under the guidance and support of Dr., our faculty advisor. As a faculty advisor, she takes on many roles including mentor, clinical liaison, advocate, and resource allocation point. Dr. is an active participant in major FMIG planning meetings, and is never more than an email away. As a mentor, she would check in with our executive board, ease our anxieties, and suggest any scholarships or programs suited to our individual interests. As a clinical liaison, she would recruit family medicine faculty to participate in FMIG events specific to their expertise. As an advocate, she stood by us when we lost significant funds to predatory banking fees and supported us as we pursued reimbursement through other channels. While it was up to our students in leadership to ultimately plan logistics and host events, Dr. knowledge and connections were instrumental in shaping the direction and success of our events.

In addition to Dr., there is an extensive network of family physicians that are committed to the success of our FMIG students. Nearly every family physician affiliated with our institution is involved with students in some form, offering their time and talents in a way best suited to their own ability. Physicians like Dr. and Dr. met with pre-clinical students to provide mentorship and letters of recommendation to support applications into various scholarships and programs. Dr. hosts a networking event called "Chili and Chocolate" that allows students, residents, and faculty to engage in healthy competition while forming bonds across levels of training in a casual setting. Dr. also helps facilitate a "What is Family Medicine?" event each year, inviting a panel of family physicians with a diverse background and interests to demonstrate the full potential scope of practice. The best thing about our staff supporters is how they are incredibly approachable, whether you are a new M1 or an indecisive M4. Our staff supporters are here to serve and committed to student success.

Programs

Procedure Night

Family Medicine Interest Group hosts an annual Procedure Night for Prisma Health Family

Medicine Physicians and Residents to come to the medical school and demonstrate common family medicine procedures to medical students that students would not otherwise gain teaching on in their usual medical school curriculum. This year we have 33 students and 6 physicians and residents in attendance.

This event is aimed at increasing student interest in the field of family medicine through demonstration of the hands-on variety that the field has to offer. For proper immersive instruction the event requires SimLab reservation and 2 hours of free time for students, therefore it takes place at night after school hours from 6:00-8:00 PM. To ensure students have no barriers to attending, we provide a pizza dinner for all participants.

This event has been hosted for many years and always eagerly anticipated by students for the hands-on training it provides. This year, we added an additional procedure to allow more students to participate. The procedures included IUD insertion, circumcision, toenail removal, knee injections, and laceration repair. The event was run by the 4 executive board members with all students rotating through 4 of the 5 procedures in 20 minute intervals.

We received positive feedback from students, especially first year students who feel far from the clinical environment. Students asked that we even increase to two procedure nights per year so that they can gain even more practice. Multiple students expressed how this event opened their eyes to family medicine and increased their excitement towards rotating in this field in the future.

Reconsidering Race and Medical Algorithms

As a diverse field serving diverse patients, we felt that FMIG should deliver programming during Black History Month. We enlisted Dr. to speak on how race-based medicine has contributed to health disparities to show students what changes have taken place, and how they can continue to advocate for patients. This event was a lunch and learn where Dr. gave a presentation, and then encouraged an open discussion about how students have seen or heard race-based medicine impact care. We hope to continue this series with different installments into the future.