

2011 AAFP National Conference Resident Congress Report

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Hello Fellow Family Medicine Residents!

At the end of July, I had the privilege and honor of serving as your Illinois delegate to the National Congress of Family Medicine Residents in Kansas City, Mo. This was my first trip to the National Conference and my first time participating in the Congress, and I was AMAZED!

The Congress of Resident Members was created over 35 years ago as the official voices of residents in the AAFP. Through these forums, residents elect their national officers and advocate for a wide variety of issues. Many of the initiatives launched by the resident Congress are now AAFP policy.

It was not only nice to get a short break from the chaos of residency, but also awe-inspiring to see so many family medicine enthusiasts in one place. The AAFP hosted 3,147 registrants, including 798 medical students and 1,026 family medicine residents, during its National Conference of Family Medicine.

A major part of Congress is learning how a small idea can be made into a resolution that then can potentially be made into AAFP policy.

The hottest topic debated in Congress was a resolution that addressed the lack of primary care representation in the AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee. This specific resolution was not adopted; however, it is an issue that we all need to think about because it will affect all of us in the near future.

Below is a list of just some of the discussed resolutions from the Resident Congress.

For more details on these resolutions, go to:

<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/cme/aafpcourses/conferences/nc/2009resolutions.html>

- Family medicine residents asked the Academy to work with state pharmacy boards to incorporate changes in vaccine policy when pharmacists administer patient vaccinations
- Residents called for the AAFP to explore the feasibility of a federal primary care interest rate reduction program.
- Assess the impact of recent resident duty hour changes on residents' educational experience and the potential impact of these changes on small and rural family medicine residencies
- Support the "Reach Out and Read" program, a national initiative that promotes early literacy by including books and reading as part of pediatric well-child visits
- Explore curricular content for the 2012 National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students that would address inclusion of transient populations in the patient-centered medical home model of care
- Explore content that would address the meaningful use of electronic health records in improving continuity of care for such transient populations as homeless persons, migrant workers and other underserved mobile populations
- Explore the development of an annual run/walk to be held in conjunction with the student and resident conference
- Enable the conference to sponsor a video contest to promote family medicine for resident and student members
- Develop a maintenance of certification introductory program/lecture for residents and students
- Support civil marriage equality for same-gender couples to contribute to overall health and longevity, improve family stability and benefit children raised in families with gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual parents.

Elections for our national representatives were also held during Congress session. Congratulations to our recently elected resident representatives!

AAFP Board of Directors resident Board member: Brent Smith, M.D., of Brandon, Miss.

Chairs of the 2012 National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students: Kevin Bernstein, M.D., of Pensacola, Fla.

Alternate resident delegates to the 2011 AAFP Congress of Delegates: Megan Guffey, M.D., of Tucson, Ariz. and Nathan Krug, M.D., of BelAire, Kan.

Resident representative to the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors Board of Directors: Sneha Chacko, M.D., of Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

Resident representative to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Board of Directors: Sarah Tully Marks, M.D., of Shorewood, Wis., is staying on as resident representative.

When I was not in Congress, I attended some workshops on various topics, meeting some of the exhibitors from other Illinois Family Medicine programs, chatting and selling family medicine to medical students, and eating lots of great seafood – yes, in the middle of Kansas City! Overall, it was an awesome experience, and I encourage everyone to try to attend National Conference in the future. I hope you decide to become more involved in the IAFP this year!

Thanks to all who completed the IAFP Resident Member Survey. The results were very interesting and helpful! I hope you will look at the results as well. And don't forget an IAFP representative can come to your program to present what IAFP and AAFP can do for you!

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