

2010 AAFP National Conference Student Congress Report
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Elected Positions

AAFP Student Rep to the Board of Directors: Kevin Bernstein (Pennsylvania)
Student Chair of the National Conference: Andrew Lutzkanin (Pennsylvania)
Alternate Delegates: Courtney Huhn (Connecticut), Jessica Johnson (Kansas)
National FMIG Coordinator: Alyson Lewis (Florida)

Resolutions

Here is a full list of the resolutions that were adopted by the student congress:

1. Recommendation Commending Dr. Amy McGaha, AAFP assistant director of medical education.
2. Expand national conference chair eligibility: allow SNMA liaison, AAFP rep to AMA medical student section, or regional FMIG coordinator to satisfy the required 1-year national experience necessary to run for the position.
3. Offer sessions at future national AAFP conferences related to the topics of student and resident wellness, balance, and avoidance of burnout.
4. Creation of an online searchable database of the recommendations and actions of past student congresses.
5. AAFP investigation of whether outstanding service obligations in State Loan Repayment programs, Scholarship Programs, or a condition of medical school enrollment, pose a conflict to National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program eligibility, specifically when the two commitments can be concurrently fulfilled. Be it further that the AAFP advocate for eliminating any such conflict.
6. AAFP collaboration with the National Center for Medical Legal Partnerships with the goal of creating a medical legal partnership in every family medicine residency within a decade.
7. AAFP support legislation that seeks to curb Mountaintop Removal coal mining and its devastating effects on public and community health.
8. Recommend that all family medicine residencies provided education, both academic and practical, on social determinant of homelessness and the care of homeless patients.
9. AAFP becomes a member of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.
10. AAFP consider revision of the policy on "Health Education in Schools" to include specific examples that define "healthy eating," such as portion control, reading food labels, cooking education, and meal planning.

Some resolutions that generated great interest to the student congress included ending the AAFP consumer alliance with the Coca Cola Company, as well as regulating junk food advertising aimed at youth. Though these proposals sparked much debate, they lacked sufficient support by a very narrow margin.

I came prepared with resolution topics in the area of mental health care, but was ultimately advised that my ideas were better suited for the AMA or AMSA. Participants asserted that attitudes toward mental health are held by physicians of all specialties, and thus a broader organization should be addressed rather than the AAFP.

Seminars

1. **The Patient Centered Medical Home:** This seminar explained the basic principles of PCMH as well as highlighted the criteria it takes to achieve PCMH recognition. The presenters outlined how they restructured their family medicine programs to fit this model and the benefits that they

are seeing both in the residents and the patients. Central to PCMH is using all health care staff involved such that nurses, social workers, physician assistants, and other ancillary staff in patient care to the fullest extent of their training. Students and residents were encouraged to ask future employers and residency programs what their level of participation is and will be in the PCMH model.

2. Health disparity was the subject of Dr. Denise Rodgers' keynote address on Friday morning. She highlighted many barriers both attitudinal and structural that contribute to differences in health care delivery and access. Poor health literacy and general illiteracy were identified as key obstacles to patient compliance. Thus she impressed upon physicians how important it is to find out at what level patients are reading, despite the resistance of some patients to admit their weaknesses in this area. She also discussed how important it is for us to explore our patients' hesitancy for particular procedures or treatment methods. She described how many of her African American patients were hesitant towards biopsies because there was a commonly held thought in black culture that opening a biopsy wound to air causes cancer to spread. If we do not take time to explore our patients' fears, we cannot clear up commonly accepted myths about different medical procedures - nor emphasize their benefits.

3. Dr. Norman Kahn, Jr., executive vice president and CEO of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, emphasized the importance of professionalism and ethics in medicine. He reviewed all of the policies set out by various professional organizations that define the ethics guidance surrounding pharmaceutical-physician relationships.

4. A physician panel on applying to residency was very helpful in understanding the process from an admissions perspective. The resume, personal statement, and interview were described not as a way to look impressive but as a way for the programs to get to know the applicant. This point was stressed repeatedly over the 90-minute session. This new perspective really helped reframe residency applications for a lot of participants.

Congratulations to our National Conference Scholarship Recipients from Illinois

Nathan Kittle – Student Community Outreach Award

Carolyn Quigley- First-time student attendee award

Maria Wusu—Minority scholarship program for medical students

Each student was awarded \$600 to attend the conference.