

69th Congress of Delegates of the American Academy of Family Physicians

Report of the NHAFP Delegation to the NHAFP Board of Directors

The 69th Congress of Delegates of the American Academy of Family Physicians met in Orlando, Florida from September 19-21, 2016. Your New Hampshire delegation included delegates Polina Sayess, MD and Amy Schneider, MD, as well as alternate delegates Hilary Alvarez, M.D. and Douglas R. Dreffer, MD.

After several orientation sessions on Sunday, your delegates and alternates met with the Academy leaders running for national office in a Meet the Candidates Session. At the Annual Town Hall Meeting on Sunday evening, we heard from the leadership of the AAFP about several issues of importance to our members including reminder that SGR was repealed and gave an overview of MACRA, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. The law include requiring physicians participating in Medicare to choose between two new models/pathways for payment in the transition from the fee-for-service system to value-based payment systems. The two new value-based models are APM (Alternative Payment Model) and MIPS (merit-based incentive payment system), both of which are based on paying for value rather than paying for volume. Academy leaders fielded multiple questions from the audience about multitude of topics, including state Medicaid expansion, practice transformation, PCMH recognition, CCM, hospital-owned physician practices, ACO's, and family physicians' narrowing scope of practice.

The Congress of Delegates officially convened on Monday morning, with words of welcome and encouragement from Speaker Javette Orgain, M.D. She asked those in attendance to remain standing for the singing of the National Anthem by Dr. Marie -Elizabeth Ramas of Hollis, New Hampshire. As is the custom, we also heard addresses from AAFP leaders, including President-Elect John Meigs, M.D.; Board Chair Robert Wergin, M.D.; CEO/executive VP Douglas E. Henley, M.D.; and Speaker Javette Orgain, M.D.

The remainder of Monday was devoted to the five reference committees: Advocacy, Organization and Finance, Education, Practice Enhancement, and Health of the Public and Science. New Hampshire's own Amy Schneider, M.D. served on the Reference Committee on Health of the Public and Science. Other members of your New Hampshire team attended each of the committees and testified about issues important to family physicians in New Hampshire.

On Tuesday, the Congress received greetings from leaders of other medical organizations, including:

Professor Michael Kidd, from the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA)

Dr. Jennifer Hall, President of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)
David Barbe, M.D., President-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA)
Dr. Keith Stelter, President of the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM)
Dr. Evelyn Lewis & Clark, President of the AAFP Foundation (AAFP-F)
Todd Shaffer, M.D., Chair of the Council of Academic Family Medicine (CAFM)
Dr. Larry Anderson, President of American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
(ACOFP)
Randy Wexler, M.D., Chairman of the FamMedPAC
Joseph Zebley, M.D., Chair of the AAFP delegation to the AMA.

We also heard remarks from Richard Bruno, M.D., Resident Chair of the 2016 National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students; Kaci Larsen, Chair of the 2016 National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Dr. Gerry Tolbert, a Convener of 2016 National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL) about the success of their respective conferences this year.

NH delegation also sponsored a Northeast Caucus meeting, which was attended by delegates and alternates from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

Several prestigious AAFP awards were also presented during the AAFP Congress of Delegates meeting in Orlando, Florida:

Thomas W. Johnson Award for Career Contributions to Family Medicine Education: Dr. John Beasley, of Madison, Wisconsin.

Humanitarian Award: Dr. David P. Gaus of Madison, Wisconsin, a Founder and Executive Director of Andean Health and Development in Ecuador.

Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award: Dr. Patricia Tellez- Giron of Madison, Wisconsin.

Over the course of the meeting, your delegation had several opportunities to get to know all the candidates running for office in the AAFP. The Meet the Candidate Session on Sunday allowed us to speak one on one with candidates for President Elect and the Board of Directors and the Hospitality Suites on Monday evening allowed us to socialize. Candidates also delivered speeches to the Congress of Delegates and responded to audience questions in the Annual Candidate Forums. Ultimately, the Congress elected our new President-Elect, Speaker, Vice-Speaker, and members of the Board of Directors, as listed below:

President-Elect	Dr. Michael Munger	Kansas
Speaker	Javette Orgain, M.D.	Illinois
Vice-Speaker	Alan Schwartzstein, M.D.	Wisconsin

Director	Dr. Robert F. Raspa	Florida
Director	Dr. Leonard Reeves	Georgia
Director	Dr. Ada Stewart	South Carolina
New Physician Director	Dr. Matthew Burke	Virginia
Resident Director	Dr. Stewart Decker	Oregon
Student Director	Ms. Lauren Abdul-Majeed	Illinois

The majority of the work of the Congress of Delegates occurred in the Reference Committees and on the floor of the Congress, where we considered 62 resolutions from state chapters and other constituencies, 7 Board reports, and 3 Committee reports, most of which were contained in the 430 page handbook we reviewed before leaving for Orlando! The complete Summary of Actions of the 2016 Congress of Delegates can be found on the AAFP website:

http://www.aafp.org/content/dam/AAFP/documents/about_us/congress/restricted/2016/SummaryofActions2016.pdf

The Congress of Delegates presents a unique opportunity to learn how policy is made within the AAFP, to meet the leaders of our Academy, to witness passion for our profession, and to get to know delegates from our state as well as from around our country. We wholeheartedly thank you for the generous gift it is to represent you all. If anyone is interested in learning about becoming a delegate or alternate delegate to next year's Congress of Delegates, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas on September 10-13, 2017, please talk to any of us in the delegation.

Respectfully submitted,

Polina Sayess, MD

Amy Schneider, MD

Hilary Alvarez, M.D.

Douglas R. Dreffer, MD