



## News and Updates

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## Upcoming Events

### **March 27-31**

PDW and RPS Residency Education Symposium

## Upcoming Deadlines

### **January 30**

AFMRD Program Director Recognition Awards

### **January 31**

AFMRD Residency Performance Index (RPI) Survey

### **February 6**

AFMRD Board of Directors Nominations

## Message from the AFMRD President

In alignment with our mission to inspire and empower family medicine residency directors to achieve excellence in family medicine residency training, the AFMRD is reaching out to assist our program director colleagues in the AOA community as they move toward ACGME accreditation.



There are currently approximately 240 AOA programs; nearly 100 of them are dually accredited. The AFMRD has been working with the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) to determine the best ways for our organizations to work together as family medicine graduate medical education merges into a single accreditation system. The AFMRD leaders have been invited by the ACOFP to participate in upcoming meetings to engage in needs analysis and collaborative efforts that will assist AOA-only programs and their directors.

Our organization is poised to provide the directors of these programs with the resources and support that will enable them to comply with ACGME rules and regulations in order to obtain and maintain ACGME accreditation, thereby maximizing the number and quality of family

**February 26**

CERA Survey Proposals

**February 28**

AFMRD Salary Survey

**March 1**

Exemplary Teaching Award

Thomas W. Johnson Award

**March 2**

Family Medicine Cares Resident Service Award

**March 15**

Resident Research Grants

**March 31**

History of Family Medicine Fellowship Award

**April 10**

National Conference Posters

**May 1**

Family Medicine Leads National Conference Scholarship

**News from Other Family Medicine Organizations**

**2015 PDW and RPS Residency Education Symposium**

medicine graduates across the country.

Just as importantly, we look forward to learning from the AOA programs about their areas of expertise and expanding educational opportunities for all family medicine residents and faculty.

We also look forward to welcoming emerging ACGME-accredited programs as AFMRD members. This growth in our membership will offer increased opportunities for networking and collaboration among the members as well as greater contributions to AFMRD projects such as the Residency Performance Index, the Salary Survey, the Toolbox, and the Residency Curriculum Resource.

Over the next few years, the AFMRD will do its part in the transition to a unified family medicine accreditation system, continuing our commitment to increasing program quality for the benefit of residents and for the health of the public.



Todd D. Shaffer, MD, MBA, FAAFP  
President, AFMRD

**Last Chance to Apply!**

**BRONZE SILVER GOLD**  
Program Director Recognition Awards

Deadline: January 30  
Details: [Visit the website.](#)

**Have You Submitted Your RPI Survey?**

Gain information, solutions, and inspiration at the **PDW and RPS Residency Education Symposium**, March 27 through 31 in Kansas City, Missouri. This year RPS is Friday through Monday. PDW is Saturday through Tuesday.

Register for RPS (Friday, March 27 through Monday, March 30) or PDW (Saturday, March 28 through Tuesday, March 31) separately. Save \$100 when you register for both.

## CERA Seeks Survey Proposals

CERA, the CAFM Educational Research Alliance, is now accepting proposals for surveys of Family Medicine Residency Directors. The surveys will collect demographic information in addition to submitted questions. Priority will be given to proposals that are likely to result in high-quality, peer-reviewed publications. Questions about the recent changes in graduate medical education will also be given preference.

Deadline: February 26  
Details: [Visit the website](#)

## Residency Programs Awarded Grants

The AAFP recently awarded its first "**Healthy Interventions: Tobacco and Nicotine**" mini-grants to chapters and family medicine residency programs. The \$4,000 grants were given to innovative tobacco prevention and control projects at the state and local levels.

Residency program recipients include Escambia Community Clinics, Inc. FQHC (Pensacola, FL), Inspira

One of AFMRD's Most Popular Member Benefits

# Residency Performance Index

The Residency Performance Index (RPI) is an AFMRD tool for family medicine residency program improvement. It is available at no cost for use by individual programs to gauge and improve their performance in the metrics measured.

Deadline: January 31  
Details: [Visit the website](#).

## Become a Board Member



The AFMRD is currently accepting nominations for seats on its Board of Directors.

The election of Board members will be conducted during the AFMRD Annual Business Meeting, held in conjunction with the PDW and RPS Residency Education Symposium on Saturday, March 28. At this year's meeting, the membership will vote for the president-elect, treasurer, and two members-at-large.

Deadline: February 6  
Details: [Visit the website](#).

## New and Expanded Salary Survey

The AFMRD is once again conducting an expanded Salary Survey. This survey has been designed to obtain data that will provide a snapshot of the current compensation within family medicine residency programs across the nation.

Family Medicine Center (Woodbury, NJ), and Shasta Community Health Center Family Medicine Residency Program (Redding, CA).

## AAFP Exemplary Teaching Awards

The American Academy of Family Physicians is accepting nominations for the 2015 Exemplary Teaching Awards.

These awards were developed by the Commission on Education in conjunction with the Commission on Membership and Member Services Subcommittee on Chapter Affairs to acknowledge Academy members who deserve recognition for excellence in teaching, as well as individuals who have implemented outstanding educational programs and/or developed innovative teaching models.

Deadline: March 1  
Details: [Visit the website.](#)

## AAFP Thomas W. Johnson Award for Career Contributions to Family Medicine Education

The Thomas W. Johnson Award for Career Contributions to Family Medicine Education, which was first presented in 1973, will continue to be presented annually to an Academy member who has made outstanding contributions to education for family medicine in undergraduate, graduate and continuing education spheres. This award will be presented at the 2015 Congress of Delegates, September 30, in Denver, CO.

Deadline: March 1

If all programs reply by the deadline, we will have the aggregate results available for presentation during the 2015 AFMRD Annual Business Meeting, March 28 in Kansas City.

Deadline: February 28  
Details: [Visit the website.](#)



# ADVOCACY UPDATE

by Hope R. Wittenberg  
Director of Government Relations

for the Council of Academic  
Family Medicine (CAFM)

The 114th Congress began work immediately upon new members and senators taking the oath of office on January 6. Non-health issues such as immigration reform and the Keystone Pipeline are taking center stage in the news and the big elephant in the room regarding health care is the potential for repeal or de-funding of the Affordable Care Act (ACA.) There are several other health care related issues, however, that will have an impact on family medicine, and, while not in the mainstream news media, are currently in play. Here are just some of the key issues we will be actively engaged in.

A budget battle looms with sequestration rearing its head again. The Budget Control Act of 2011 set up a system such that if Congress doesn't produce budgets in keeping with the maximum levels established in the bill, sequestration -- the automatic across-the-board spending cuts -- is automatically imposed on broad categories of spending, such as discretionary defense and nondefense spending. This process was avoided in the last two years, due to passage of the Budget Control Act of 2013, which set up spending targets for Congress for two years, which Congress adhered to. With the expiration of that legislation, Congress must either produce a new budget with specific targets, or sequestration will occur. In addition to across the board cuts, sequestration would impose a 2% cut on all Medicare spending - affecting clinical reimbursement as well as graduate medical education funding. Even with the passage of a budget, the level of funding is lower than in the past, causing concern for some of our major programs and agencies, such as Title VII primary care training and enhancement and funding for the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.

Two major issues come to the fore in March. The debt ceiling is expected to be reached and the patch to protect Medicare physician

Details: [Visit the website.](#)

## 2015 Fellowship in the History of Family Medicine

The Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM) provides a fellowship award of up to \$2,000 to support expenses related to research about the history of general practice, family practice, or family medicine in the United States. Applications are open to any interested scholar. One award will be given in 2015.

Deadline: March 31

Details: [Visit the website.](#)

## National Conference Scholarship

Family Medicine Leads Scholarship will provide more than 200 residents and students with the opportunity to attend the 2015 AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students.

Please share this information with your residents and encourage them to apply for the \$600 scholarship, which is intended to offset out-of-pocket travel expenses.

Deadline: May 1

Details: [Visit the website.](#)

reimbursement under the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) expires. Legislation to raise the debt ceiling and to fix the SGR will both be targets for additional amendments on all sorts of financial (deficit reduction) and social issues.

We have already begun our work to support some of our key health issues. CAFM and the AAFP submitted a joint letter responding to a request from leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives on the topic of graduate medical education reform. Our response to the seven broad questions outlines many of the problems with the current GME payment system, including lack of accountability of academic health centers for the almost \$9 billion they receive annually. The current system does not produce the appropriate numbers of physicians by specialty or distribution to meet the needs of the US population, and instead trains physicians where very little of the nation's health care is provided. Instead, the AAFP & CAFM response proposes that GME funds more effectively support community based training and include measures that demonstrate the institution's actual production of primary care physicians, while providing incentives to produce more primary care, and especially family medicine, physicians.

The President has announced that he will release his budget on February 2, which would be much earlier than he has in previous years. That will mark the beginning of this year's (Fiscal Year 2016) budget process. We will see activity on our appropriations issues, as well as action concerning the reauthorization of key programs such as the Teaching Health Center graduate medical education (THCGME). It will be a busy year, with many new players in the halls of Congress and a new republican majority in the Senate. Leaders on both sides of the aisle and the President will begin a new dance; we'll soon be getting a sense for whether they are able to work together to produce legislation or if the recent lack of Congressional progress will continue. Stay tuned.