The Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors continues to operationalize its strategic plan, several new initiatives, and ongoing projects -- all based on the organization’s mission and current environmental needs.

The 2017-2019 Strategic Plan is focused in five areas: Professional Development and Education; Residency Program Quality Improvement; Advocacy and Collaboration; Communications; and Infrastructure.

Program Director Development

◆ The National Institute for Program Director Development (NIPDD) Academic Council commenced its 27th year of the NIPDD program in September 2018. 60 Fellows will complete the required elements including three projects: a financial spreadsheet including the revenue, GME funding, and expenses for the residency and practice; an academic project; and an annual program report using financial data and other benchmarks to demonstrate the state of the residency. The NIPDD Academic Council members are Alan Douglass, Blake Fagan, Grant Hoekzema, Shannon Pittman Moore, Steve Ratcliffe, Amy Stevens, Karen Weaver, and Raj Woolever. Clark Denniston continues to serve as Academic Council Chair. The 2018-19 NIPDD cohort will meet again in January and April of 2019.

◆ The Program Director Recognition Awards program consists of three levels (bronze, silver and gold) based on completion of increasingly substantial accomplishments in each category. 12 program directors were nominated and received awards in 2018. The application process for the 2019 awards runs from November 26, 2018 through January 25, 2019.

◆ In 2019 AFMRD will be contracting with the National Research Network to conduct a program director tenure study. The study will focus on departing program directors as well as program directors with a longer than average tenure. The primary goal of the project is to gain understanding about the factors that lead to attrition as well as longevity.

Residency Program Quality Improvement

◆ The Family Medicine Residency Curriculum Resource, a joint project of STFM and AFMRD, continues to have steady sales and an 75% renewal rate. Currently we have 175 subscribers. The content includes 172 topics, with more in development. The editorial staff was restructured to reduce its size and improve consistency in the product. The editors are
currently exploring new content to augment the current delivery methods in the curriculum.

In response to discussions at previous Working Party meetings, AFMRD formed a collaborative (“Clinic First”) with the UCSF Center for Excellence in Primary Care (CEPC). The collaborative kicked off in February 2018 with a one and a half day long face-to-face meeting followed by 6 interactive Webinars. Strategies and implementation principles for the Building Blocks for High Performing Teaching Clinics have been presented throughout the year. 18 volunteer family medicine residency programs participated. Details of this collaborative will be presented at the AAFP Program Director’s Workshop in April 2019. A second cohort in the Clinic First collaborative will convene on February 11 and 12, 2019 and will consist of 15 volunteer programs following the same paradigm as the 2018 collaborative.

The response to the National Resident Graduate Survey exceeded last year’s response. Reports were distributed to residency programs in early 2018. The Graduate Survey Task Force, led by AFMRD Treasurer, Dr. Steve Brown, will continue to seek feedback from program directors and work with the ABFM to annually monitor the performance of the survey, the usefulness of the data for residencies, and to determine if any changes are needed in the questions. The Graduate Survey Task Force meets yearly during the PDW workshop and recently selected four new members to replace members lost through attrition. There are efforts by CERA and others to engage in research with the ABFM, using the graduate survey data. Some of the data in the survey that relates to scope of practice is causing some concern among family medicine organizations that are a focus of discussion.

AFMRD is in the process of identifying a representative to the Length of Training Pilot Steering Committee to replace Dr. Karen Mitchell.

The Program Director Toolbox Committee spent significant time in 2018 reviewing and reorganizing the Toolbox content. The Committee will start its efforts to augment this resource for family medicine residencies in early 2019.

Family Medicine National Innovations in Continuity Clinic Experience (FM-NICCE): In 2018 AFMRD facilitated a group waiver request to the ABFM on behalf of 25 family medicine residency programs. The approval request allows for continuity clinic scheduling innovation that may impact residents being in the family medicine office for less than the required 40 weeks during each year of training. AFMRD continues to work with seven of the 25 program directors involved with this initiative to monitor and collect the following measures) FMP visit per resident per year, 2) FMP sessions per resident per year, 3) continuity of care 4) resident satisfaction, and 5) patient satisfaction. FM-NICCE will cover a total of five years with reporting required to the ABFM after three years and at its conclusion.

Following the presentation and discussion at the August 2018 Working Party meeting regarding program closures, the AFMRD Board of Directors voted to develop a Program
Closure Task Force. The task force charter has been approved and meetings are being scheduled. The task force will have the following responsibilities 1) develop resources and tools that programs can use to proactively demonstrate the value of a family medicine residency program, 2) develop tools to help programs navigate a closure, and 3) partner with AAFP to develop a procedure to responding to notices of programs under threat of closure.

At its fall Board of Directors meeting the AFMRD Board voted to develop a Diversity and Health Equity Task Force. The task force charter is currently in development. The task force will begin meeting in early 2019.

In September 2018 the AFMRD Board of Directors voted to seek the opportunity to fund a position in the AAFP Health Equity Fellowship, which began on November 2, 2018. This fellowship was developed by the AAFP Center for Diversity and Health Equity to recognize family physicians who are making promising contributions in the area of health equity and provide them an opportunity to grow as a family physician health equity leader. Dr. Paul Ravenna, Association Program Director at Northwestern McGaw Family Medicine Residency Program, is the AFMRD recipient. Dr. Ravenna will participate in the fellowship and will sit on the AFMRD Diversity and Health Equity Task Force.

Advocacy and Collaboration

The AFMRD sponsored 10 scholarships for residents and 3 for AFMRD members to attend the 2018 AAFP Family Medicine Advocacy Summit. New this year, AFMRD will scholarship 11 residents, 3 AFMRD members and one of the current NIPDD fellows for the 2019 summit. The individual scholarship award amount will be increased in 2019 to account of increased costs associated with travel.

Dr. Michael Tuggy continues to serve as the AFMRD’s representative on the Family Medicine for America’s Health Board and is a member of the Workforce Tactic Team.

The AFMRD continues to support Hope Wittenberg’s position and her work on behalf of CAFM and its members.

The AFMRD is represented by the following liaisons: AAFP Commission on Education (Dr. Sherri Morgan); AAFP Congress of Delegates (Dr. Fred Miser); Annals of Family Medicine Board of Directors (Dr. Robert Langan); Center for History of Family Medicine (Dr. Kelly Ussery-Kronhaus); CAFM Education Research Alliance (Dr. Wendy Barr); PDW and RPS Residency Education Symposium Planning Committee (Dr. Fred Miser); Academic Family Medicine Advocacy Committee (Drs. James Jarvis, Fred Miser and Gretchen Irwin), Building Research Capacity Steering Committee (Dr. Sherri Morgan); Building Research Capacity Curriculum Committee (Dr. Paul Crawford); STFM representative to the Council of Faculty & Academic Societies (Dr. Linda Montgomery); 25 x 2030 Steering Committee (Dr. James
Dr. Deborah Clements will be the AFMRD representative to the Milestones 2.0 project.

Communications

- The AFMRD Board of Directors continues to contribute articles on important and timely subjects to each issue of the Annals of Family Medicine.
- The AFMRD continues to develop its online communities, however, the AFMRD member discussion forum remains the most active, robust and valued community.

Infrastructure

- As the number of accredited programs increases (642 as of December 1, 2018), AFMRD has seen an increase in membership. We will continue to focus on supporting new and developing programs through our programming and resources.
- In March of 2018 Deanne St. George assumed the role of AFMRD Executive Director succeeding Vickie Greenwood as she retired. Deanne is an AAFP employee, her position includes 50% AAFP GME department manager and 50% Executive Director for AFMRD.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Miser, MD
AFMRD President