

# The VIRGINIA

FALL 2022

## *family physician*



**VAFP**

VIRGINIA'S FAMILY PHYSICIANS

**DAVID S. GREGORY, MD, FAAFP**  
INSTALLED AS 2022-2023 PRESIDENT DURING THE  
VAFP 2022 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION.

**SEE PAGE 12**



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## VAFP MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the VAFP is to empower its members to be physicians who provide high quality, accessible health care, dedicate themselves to the well-being of the people of Virginia, and are guided by the principle that the family physician remain the specialist of choice to guide lifelong health care.

## VAFP VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the VAFP is for Virginia to be the best place for our people to receive their health care and for family physicians to practice medicine.

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# VAFP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



David S. Gregory, MD, FAAFP

Our Annual VAFP Meeting in Roanoke this August was a wonderful success! For those who came, you were able to see things enjoyed regularly by Roanokers - mountains with tree shaded trails and beautiful views, rivers with tubing and kayaking, miles of greenway spaces, diverse brewpubs and restaurants, amazing music and visual arts - not to mention a tremendous lineup of useful CME, member activities and "Star Wars" themed, minor league baseball.

I want to thank all who contributed to making the meeting one that we will remember for many years. Thank you, each and all!

- Our presenters for sharing their expertise and perspectives, with take home thoughts and feelings

that will help each of us to be better for our patients, our communities and ourselves.

- Our attendees for cheerfully engaging in morning yoga, interactive KSA's, hands on joint injection training and well-being exercises.
- Our VAFP staff for out doing themselves, making us all feel warmly welcomed, updated and connected.

If you missed it, no fear! We have more upcoming, high-quality CME events at our Winter meeting at Wintergreen, and we will be back at Virginia Beach next Summer.

We hope to see you soon!"

## CALLING ALL PRECEPTORS OR THOSE INTERESTED IN PRECEPTING

The VAFP has been working with the clerkship directors at each of the six Virginia medical schools to help with the recruitment and retention of preceptors. Thank you to everyone that precepts our outstanding students. The clerkship directors are always looking for preceptors so if you do not precept and are interested in hosting students, please let us know via the survey QR code noted. If you currently precept, we would love your feedback on your experience as well via the QR code noted.



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# COVID-19'S CONTINUING IMPACT ON MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LITIGATION IN VIRGINIA

W. Davis Powell, Esq.,  
Byrne Canaan Law



On March 16, 2020, I called a physician client to make a request that would be all too familiar in coming years. Would it be ok, I sheepishly asked, if we could have a Zoom conference instead of the in-person meeting we had previously scheduled? I explained that my daughter's school had closed for two weeks due to the coronavirus. My client agreed to the Zoom and added ominously: "I think we'll be doing a lot of Zoom calls for more than 2 weeks."

As we now know, my client was more prescient than me. COVID-19 has come to dominate every facet of our lives, as Virginia's family physicians know all too well. While some things have returned to a "new normal," Virginia's legal system is still grappling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This article aims to provide information on the ways in which COVID-19 continues to impact medical malpractice litigation.

**Delay, Delay, Delay:** Before the pandemic, most medical malpractice cases had a lifespan between 12 and 18 months. Now, the earliest trial dates available in many jurisdictions are in mid to late 2024. The main reason for this dearth in courtroom availability is a backlog of jury trials still pending from 2020 and 2021. The Virginia Supreme Court declared a judicial emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia on March 17, 2020. Pursuant to the emergency order, jury trials in all cities and counties were halted until the Virginia Supreme Court approved the local court's plan for safely holding jury trials.

Most jurisdictions did not have their jury trial plans approved until fall 2020, but some jurisdictions' plans were not approved until 2021. This resulted in a considerable backlog of both criminal and civil cases lingering on dockets well into 2021. Furthermore, a number of cases were continued between November 2020 and January 2021 during the spike caused by the Delta variant. The overall result is that there are more trials to be set than courts can hear, and the backlogs and delays continue.

Litigation was already an exercise in patience before the pandemic, but it is even more so now. Physicians who find themselves as a defendant in a malpractice case have to gird themselves with fortitude as the case plays out. While the waits can be difficult, the positive takeaway is that defense counsel generally have ample time to research medicine, find experts, and prepare for trial.

**Few COVID-19 Cases:** There have been some positive developments related to COVID litigation. While we have seen a number of cases relating to care provided in the height of the pandemic, we have not seen a significant number of cases in Virginia alleging that physicians and other clinicians failed to either diagnose COVID or prevent its spread.

While these sorts of cases have been few and far between, there have been some. For instance, in *Webb v. Patrick Henry Hospital, Inc.*, a case filed in Newport News,

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the Plaintiff alleged that the defendant nursing home was negligent in failing to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from a staff member to a resident in April 2020. However, the case was dismissed early after the plaintiff failed to meet Virginia’s “expert certification” rule, which requires a plaintiff to have a medical malpractice case certified as meritorious by a qualified expert prior to initiating litigation. The plaintiff in the case argued that the expert certification requirement did not apply, as the case was not one of medical malpractice, but rather of simple negligence in failing to take reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of COVID. The Court disagreed and found that the case was one of medical malpractice, so the expert certification requirement applied.

The *Webb* case provides a helpful example for other cases in which plaintiffs might have alleged failure to prevent the spread of COVID. With Virginia’s two-year statute of limitations, it is now too mostly late for plaintiffs to file suits for cases revolving around care that arose in the earliest days of the pandemic. Virginia physicians should feel some comfort that failure to diagnose and failure to prevent the spread of COVID has not seemed to be fodder for significant legal action in the Commonwealth.

**Immunity Provisions:** Virginia law grants legal immunity under certain circumstances to physicians and other clinicians treating patients during a “declared disaster.” Governor Northam declared the COVID-19 pandemic a disaster on March 12, 2020, so the immunity statutes are at play for many cases dealing with care in the early months of the pandemic. For immunity to apply, the defendant provider must prove that he or she was unable to “provide requisite health care” as a result of the physician’s “voluntary or mandatory response to the disaster,” or that the “emergency and subsequent conditions caused a lack of resources attributable to the disaster” led to the event leading to the lawsuit.

While immunity undoubtedly offers a major advantage in some cases, it also creates difficult strategic questions in “borderline” cases where it is unclear if immunity will apply. Because proving immunity necessarily requires proof that the defendant physician (1) could not “provide requisite health care” or (2) that

a lack of resources caused a patient’s poor outcome, a defendant claiming immunity very well may have to admit early in the case that the standard of care was not met to claim immunity. This presents a number of collateral consequences for the case if the Court does not grant immunity. As such, defendants in pandemic-era malpractice cases must carefully weigh the facts at issue and the strength of their potential arguments before pursuing immunity under Virginia’s statutes.

Despite the changes in Virginia’s legal system brought on by COVID, one core truth still remains the same: a medical

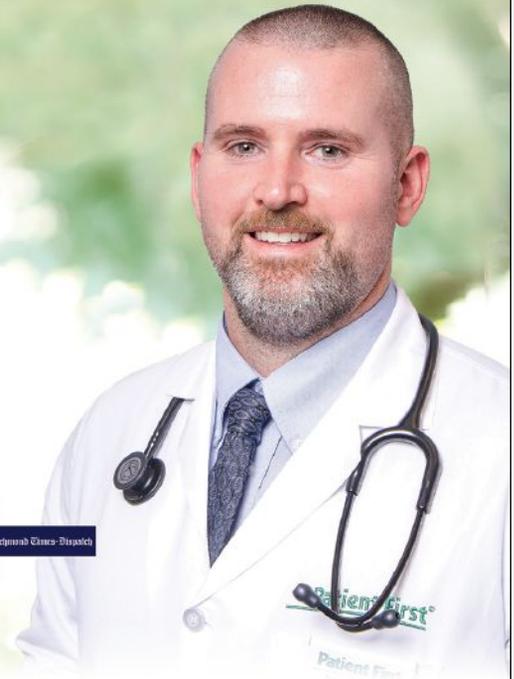
malpractice case can still be a taxing and difficult experience for a physician. Physicians who find themselves in litigation must exercise patience and work closely with their attorneys and professional liability insurers to reach a successful resolution to cases.

*Thank you to Mr. Powell for presenting his lecture titled Medical Legal Updates for 2022 at this year’s annual meeting in Roanoke. This article is an overview of one of the topics included in that lecture.*

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**AUGUST 4**

- Approved a motion to accept all items under the Consent Agenda to include Minutes from the April 20 VAFP Board of Directors virtual meeting; Report from the VAFP CME Committee; Report from the VAFP Legislative Committee; Report from VAFP Representatives to the MSV Specialty Advisory; Report from the VAFP Resident, Student & Faculty Committee; Report from VAFP Practice Enhancement and Quality Committee; Report from VAFP Foundation; and Report from the Nominating Committee.
- Reviewed informational items to include 2022 VAFP Annual Report; 2022 AAFP Congress of Delegates Delegation; AAFP Commission Call

for Nominations; Reports from Members Serving on AAFP Commissions; CIGNA Reimbursement Policy Update; and the Benchmarking Telehealth Usage in Virginia Survey Results.

- Heard report from VAFP Executive/Finance Chair Charlie Frazier, MD on the meeting held on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> regarding the VAFP Cash Reserves.
- Reviewed the Annual Business Meeting items for member approval.
- Held discussion on options for the 2024 VAFP CME Event locations and dates.
- Heard report from VAFP Legislative Committee Chair Jesus Lizarzaburu, MD and VAFP General Counsel Hunter Jamerson, JD on the current scope battles that will return next year in the General Assembly, the continued reimbursement pushes for increases in the Medicaid program and potential legislation on “gold carding” as it relates to prior authorizations.
- Heard report from Resident, Student & Faculty Committee Co-Chair Denee Moore, MD on the discussions around the combination of the 2023 VAFP Scholarly Symposium and a Choose Virginia event.
- Heard comments from VAFP Resident and Student Representatives – Drs. Maybee (Fairfax) & Varys (St. Francis) and Erika Coleman (VTC).

- Reviewed the VAFP Well-being Task Force final recommendations as submitted and discussed the positive direction of the committee, how best to determine the needs of our members, and the importance of these resources for members. Board supportive of the creation of a standing Well-being Committee.
- Held discussion related to VAFP Secretary Robin Anderson’s agenda item related to the increasing cost of medications and the recommendation to support AAFP lobbying efforts to keep medication costs down.
- Highlighted request for participation in Senator Kaine’s Focus Group on Long COVID.

**AUGUST 7**

- Participated in Board Orientation activities.
- Approved a motion to change the word citizen to people in the VAFP’s mission, vision, and core beliefs.
- Heard report from VAFP CME Chair Mitch Miller, MD on the feedback from the 2022 VAFP Annual Meeting & Exposition and final attendance numbers.
- Held discussion on ways to continue to increase attendance at VAFP CME events including the solicitation of feedback from residents and students on needs/wants as it relates to attendance at VAFP CME events.

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The Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) is a statewide initiative that helps health care providers take better care of children and adolescents with mental health conditions through provider education and increasing access to child psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and care navigators.

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The VAFP 2022 Annual Meeting & Exposition was held at The Hotel Roanoke Hotel in Roanoke, Virginia. Over 130 family physicians and other healthcare professionals attended and enjoyed a variety of CME!  
Some comments from the meeting!

- Thanks for having live meeting...great to get away and refresh!
- Excellent program. VAFP does amazing job of arranging CME programs at very reasonable cost
- Loved the hotel, loved the speakers, loved the food, loved the ballgame
- Really well organized! I had a wonderful time.
- The VAFP staff is awesome. Keep up the good work. Another wonderful annual meeting!
- I loved Roanoke! Have never been and would love to come back
- Excellent CME as always!
- Great conference as usual!
- Excellent meeting, excellent food, nice venue. excellent speakers
- Great conference! Great venue, good food, positive atmosphere! Lectures were top shelf.
- This was my first meeting, and it was wonderful! Look forward to next year.
- An excellent conference! Very well done!
- Enjoyed the conference. Great speakers and topics!
- Wonderful meeting. Great to see everyone and the content was really good.
- Roanoke was one of the best meeting locations I've attended
- Meeting was well organized. Staff were very helpful. Topics and speakers high quality and timely.
- Love this meeting!
- This was a great meeting in a new venue. Would go again if held here in the future!
- I am pleased and encouraged by the progressive topics presented at this conference like PrEP/PEP and gender affirming care. This is the future of Family Medicine practice and I'm glad it's being represented at this conference.





# DAVID S. GREGORY, MD, FAAFP, ROANOKE, INSTALLED AS THE 2022-2023 VAFP PRESIDENT



Sterling N. Ransone, Jr., MD, FAAFP, VAFP Past President & AAFP President installs David S. Gregory, MD, FAAFP, into office as 2022-2023 VAFP President.

David S. Gregory, MD, FAAFP, Roanoke, was installed as the 76th President of the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians on Friday evening, August 5th during the VAFP 2022 Annual Meeting & Exposition. The VAFP 2022 Annual Meeting & Exposition was held August 4-7 in Roanoke, Virginia. Sterling N. Ransone, Jr., MD, FAAFP, VAFP Past President & AAFP President had the privilege of installing Dr. Gregory.

Congratulations Dr. Gregory!

## Newly installed VAFP Board of Directors –

The VAFP 2022-2023 Board of Directors was installed by VAFP Past President and AAFP President Sterling N. Ransone, Jr, MD, FAAFP during the VAFP 2022 Annual Meeting and Exposition. Pictured left to right are President-Elect Denee J. Moore, MD, FAAFP, North Dinwiddie; Director Amanda L. Russell, MD, Carson; Director Verneeta L. Williams, MD, FAAFP, Williamsburg; AAFP Delegate Jesus L. Lizarzaburu, MD, FAAFP, Yorktown; VAFP Past President & AAFP President Sterling N. Ransone, Jr., MD, FAAFP, Deltaville; First Vice- President Timothy J. Yu, MD, FAAFP, Fairfax; Secretary Robin N. Anderson, MD, FAAFP, Virginia Beach; AAFP Alternate Delegate Emmeline C. Gasink, MD, FAAFP, Newport News; Director Yasir Abdul-Rahman, DO, Woodbridge.



## VAFP Past Presidents that were in attendance and the newly installed President.

Sterling N. Ransone, Jr., MD, FAAFP, Deltaville; David S. Gregory, MD, FAAFP, Roanoke; Neeta Goel, MD, Ashburn; Jesus L. Lizarzaburu, MD, FAAFP, Yorktown; E. Mark Watts, MD, FAAFP, Vinton; Roger A. Hofford, MD, FAAFP, Roanoke; Emmeline S. Gasink, MD, FAAFP, Newport News; Robert I Elliott, MD, FAAFP, Hurt; Delmas J. Bolin, MD, PhD, FAAFP, Salem; Kent E. Willyard, MD, FAAFP, Newport News; Mitchell B. Miller, MD, FAAFP, Virginia Beach; Mark H. Greenawald, MD, FAAFP, Roanoke; Kurtis S. Elward, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Charlottesville

## 2022 VAFP Annual Meeting

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# 2022 VAFP ACADEMY AWARDS

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The awards were presented on Friday, August 5, during the 2022 VAFP Annual Meeting at the Installation of Officers and Directors & Academy Awards Dinner at The Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia.

### FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTED TO M. NORMAN OLIVER, MD, MA

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA was named the 2022 recipient of the Family Physician of the Year Award. The award is presented annually to a VAFP member who provides his/her community with compassionate, comprehensive and caring medical service on a continuing basis; who is directly and effectively involved in community affairs and activities that enhance the quality of life of his/her home area; who provides



VAFP 2021-2022 President Neeta Goel, MD, presents the award to M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA

a credible role model as a healer and human being to his/her community, and as a professional in the science and art of medicine to colleagues, other health professionals and especially, to young physicians in training and to medical students; and who is in good standing in his/her medical community.

Dr. Oliver's award reads: "In recognition and appreciation of your service to the Commonwealth of Virginia as State Health Commissioner from 2018-2022. Your unwavering work to guide Virginia through the COVID-19 pandemic, to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities, and to improve population health in vulnerable communities are indicative of a truly outstanding leader and physician. Your exceptional and unparalleled commitment to bettering the care and health of the people of Virginia reflect great credit on you and the Specialty of Family Medicine."

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**EMILY K. MULLET, MD  
WAS NAMED THE JAMES P.  
CHARLTON, MD TEACHER  
OF THE YEAR IN FAMILY  
MEDICINE**

Dr. Mullet was unable to attend the awards ceremony in Roanoke. The award will be presented to her during the VAFP 2023 Winter Family Medicine Weekend in January at Wintergreen Resort.

**2022 PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

The President's award was presented to the VAFP Staff.

Kristie P. Duncan, Hunter W. Jamerson, Cheryl L. Modesto, Kristi W. Reynolds, Matthew B. Schulte, Mary Lindsay White

The award reads: "In sincere appreciation for and in recognition of the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians staff. Their dedication to the over 3,000 family physician, family medicine resident, and medical student members in the Academy is to be applauded and commended. The "above and beyond" attitude and work ethic does not go unnoticed and impacts not only the family physicians in Virginia but also the patients served. Thank you!"

**AMERICAN ACADEMY  
OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
DEGREE OF FELLOW**

The Degree of Fellow recognizes AAFP members who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues, as well as in their communities, by their service to Family Medicine, by their advancement of health care to the American people and by their professional development through medical education and research.

Fellows of the AAFP are recognized as Champions of Family Medicine. They are the physicians who make family medicine the premier specialty in service to their community and profession. From a personal perspective, being a Fellow signifies not only 'tenure' but one's additional work in your

community, within organized medicine, within teaching, and a greater commitment to continuing professional development and/or research.

Congratulations to the following VAFP members!

Robin N. Anderson, MD, FAAFP  
Lori H. Landes, MD, PhD, FAAFP  
Lianna R. Lawson, DO, FAAFP



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## Primary Care Opportunities available throughout the Richmond, Virginia Market

We are currently recruiting for practices that are HCA employed and for our private practices throughout the Richmond Market.

### Qualified Candidates:

- Must be board eligible or board certified in their specialty
- Board eligible candidates still in training must be scheduled for their boards
- Must be energetic and motivated
- Virginia licensure or ability to obtain
- Must have excellent interpersonal skills to communicate clearly and concisely with all levels of nursing, physicians and administration

### Incentive/Benefits Package:

- Strong initial patient base
- State-of-the Art facilities
- Competitive salary
- Comprehensive benefits package including paid occurrence-based malpractice
- Flexible call and hours available
- Sign-On Bonus

Experience a positive, professional work environment in a top tier facility located in one of the most livable cities in America. Richmond is a wonderful place to practice medicine and raise a family. With a metropolitan area population of over one million, Richmond offers a great balance of big city excitement and small-town charm. The area abounds with parks, nationally recognized school systems, and innumerable recreation and cultural activities. Richmond is within a two-hour drive of the Atlantic Ocean, the Blue Ridge Mountains and Washington, DC. The cost of living is very reasonable. Traffic congestion is minimal.

### If interested, please contact:

Sherry Chenault, FASPR  
Richmond Recruitment Market Manager  
**Sherry.Chenault@hcahealthcare.com | 804-237-7771**

# ADULT PREVENTIVE SERVICES NOW COVERED FOR ALL MEDICAID MEMBERS

Virginia Medicaid members now have access to preventive services, such as screenings, check-ups, and counseling to support positive health outcomes under a new policy that took effect July 1, 2022. Medicaid and FAMIS children already receive comprehensive preventive services, and preventive coverage is now available to the adult Medicaid population. The new coverage helps generate improvements in health outcomes and includes the following services at no cost to members:

- Adult wellness exams
- Individual and group smoking cessation and alcohol counseling
- Recommended vaccines, including tetanus and diphtheria, shingles, hepatitis A and B, influenza, and human papillomavirus
- Mammography, prostate and other cancer screenings
- Sexually transmitted disease screenings
- Depression screenings
- Type 2 diabetes screenings
- Blood pressure and cholesterol screenings



These preventive services are similar to commercial insurance policies and align with recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Some adult Medicaid members may have received coverage for preventive services if they became a member due to the eligibility expansion in 2019, or if they received coverage as an enhanced benefit from their Medicaid managed care health plan. The new Virginia state budget that took effect July 1, 2022, establishes preventive services as a standard Medicaid benefit, ensuring that all adult Medicaid members have access to the same services.

## VAFP BOARD APPROVES CREATION OF WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

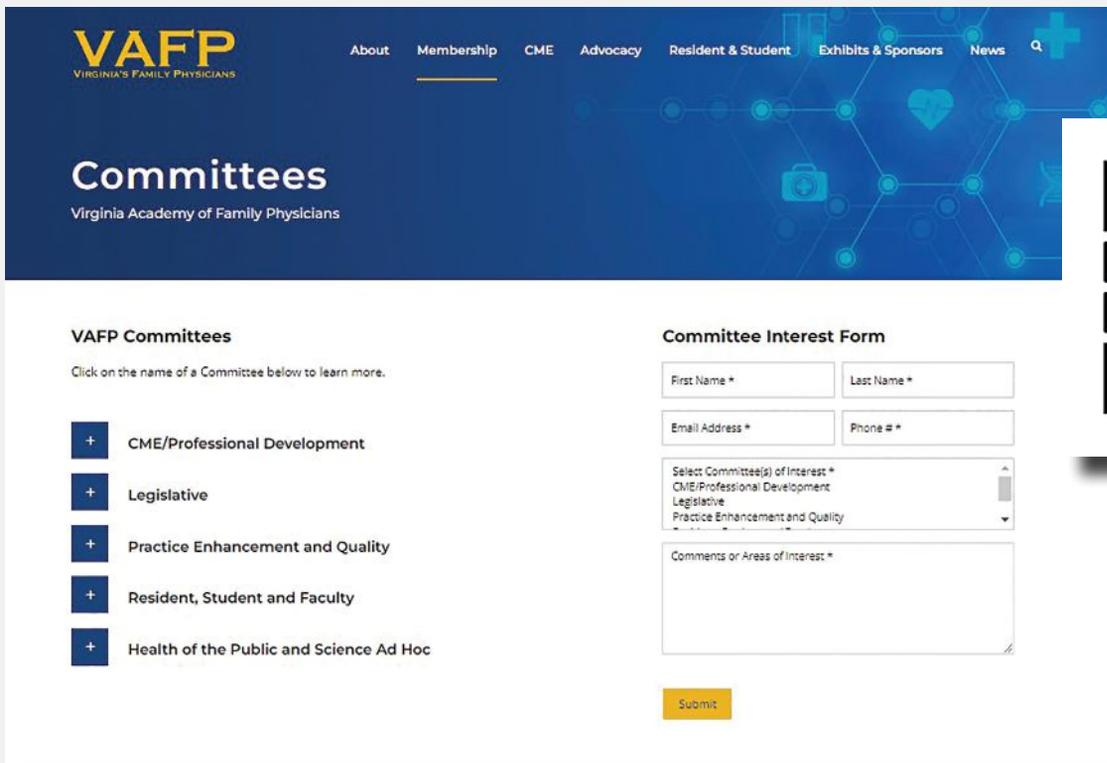
During the August meeting of the VAFP Board of Directors, 2021-2022 President Neeta Goel, MD reviewed with the Board the recommendations from the VAFP Well-Being Task Force Chaired by Past President Mark Greenawald, MD. The five-person task force recommended that the Board create a standing VAFP Well-being Committee to address physician well-being and help coordinate processes and resources for members with specific committee focus areas as noted below.

- Perform a member needs assessment for what is needed to advance well-being.
- Create a running “top 5 pain points” list.
- Promote well-being resources, programs, and opportunities.
- Promote well-being through VAFP conferences and the website.
- Form a network of family physician well-being champions within Virginia.

Thank you to those VAFP members that served on the task force: Mark Greenawald, MD, Chair, Terri Babineau, MD, Tasha Gage, MD, Ghada Ibrahim, MD and Neeta Goel, MD. Of note, Drs. Gage and Ibrahim were in the first cohort of the AAFP Leading Physician Well-being program.

We will soon share more information about the committee’s work. If you have thoughts or ideas you would like to share about improving physician well-being, please submit them to ML White at the VAFP ([mlwhite@vafp.org](mailto:mlwhite@vafp.org)).

# GET INVOLVED WITH THE VAFP! JOIN A COMMITTEE!



The screenshot shows the VAFP website's 'Committees' page. The header includes the VAFP logo and navigation links: About, Membership, CME, Advocacy, Resident & Student, Exhibits & Sponsors, and News. The main heading is 'Committees' with the subtitle 'Virginia Academy of Family Physicians'. Below this, there is a section titled 'VAFP Committees' with a note: 'Click on the name of a Committee below to learn more.' A list of committees is shown with expandable icons: CME/Professional Development, Legislative, Practice Enhancement and Quality, Resident, Student and Faculty, and Health of the Public and Science Ad Hoc. To the right is a 'Committee Interest Form' with fields for First Name, Last Name, Email Address, and Phone #. It also has a dropdown menu for 'Select Committee(s) of Interest' and a text area for 'Comments or Areas of Interest'. A yellow 'Submit' button is at the bottom.



## Family Medicine Physicians Needed in SC and NC Near Myrtle Beach, Florence, Southern Pines

Scotland Health Care is a community owned, not-for-profit system. Our partnership with Atrium Health, one of the largest and most innovative health care organizations in the country, also provides us with the leading-edge technologies and the collective knowledge of the most advanced minds in medicine.

- Outpatient-only position with group practice located in Bennettsville, SC or Laurinburg, NC.
- Candidates available to start practice in 2022 and 2023 will be considered.
- Substantial student loan assistance is available.
- Competitive compensation includes sign on advance and bonus opportunities.

For more information, please contact:

**Melisa Ciarrocca, Director**

office: 800-764-7497

mobile: 910-280-1337

[melisa.ciarrocca@scotlandhealth.org](mailto:melisa.ciarrocca@scotlandhealth.org) | [www.scotlandhealth.org](http://www.scotlandhealth.org)

## STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT!



# Resident & Student Corner

## AAFP NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS

The AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students was held July 27-30, 2022 in Kansas City, MO. The National Conference is a place for residents and medical students to learn more about family medicine, explore residency programs, and connect with potential employers. Workshops, procedural skills courses, and sessions about applying to residency are held during the conference. Attendees may participate in the National Congress of Family Medicine Residents or National Congress of Student Members and help shape the specialty.

The following Virginia Residency Programs were represented at the conference:

- Carilion Clinic - VTC Family Medicine Residency
- EVMS
- Lynchburg Family Medicine Residency
- University of Virginia Family Medicine Residency
- VCU - Inova Fairfax Family Medicine Residency
- VCU - Riverside Family Medicine
- VCU - Shenandoah Family Medicine Residency
- HCA - Lewis Gale Family and Community Medicine

VAFP Resident Board Members Camilla M. Maybee, MD, Inova Fairfax Family Medicine Residency and Michaela O. Varys, MD, St. Francis Family Medicine Residency attended along with VAFP Student Board Member Allison Smith - Liberty University School of Medicine and Student Member Raymond Uymatiao, VT Carilion School of Medicine.



## VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS 2022 SCHOLARLY SYMPOSIUM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022 VIRTUAL

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### CALL FOR SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians is seeking submissions for the VAFP Scholarly Symposium to be held on Saturday, October 8, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. virtual via Zoom.

### Criteria/Who Can Participate:

Submissions from medical students, residents, and fellows. \$15 fee.

### Guidelines:

Scholarly activity may be presented in poster format or as an oral presentation.

- Type of scholarly activity may be clinical or population health research, medical education research, literature review, case reports, QI/PI projects, clinical successes, patient stories, or educational projects.
- Topic should be relevant to family medicine/primary care.
- Submissions must be of original work not yet published or presented at regional or national meetings (except institutional symposiums).
- Submission may be a work in progress or completed.
- Collaborative work is welcome.
- Concurrent (2022) submissions to other conferences such as the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) and Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) are encouraged.
- Medical student projects previously presented at medical schools are accepted/encouraged.

### Meeting Format:

All participants will pre-record their presentations - oral presentations limited to 5 minutes and poster presentations limited to 2-3 minutes. The preliminary

schedule of events will be based on the number of submissions received/selected.

Submissions from each category by registrant type (medical students, residents, and fellows) will be included. The pre-recorded presentations (oral – 5 minutes and poster – 2-3 minutes) will be followed by a question-and-answer session facilitated by the moderator.

#### Feedback on Submitted Research:

All projects will be reviewed and provided written feedback by a minimum of two judges. Review will focus on the following:

- Quality of research/QI methodology and appropriate use
- Validity of conclusions or anticipated results
- Clarity and cohesive message during presentation
- Relevance of and/or impact on family medicine
- Innovation of research or quality improvement
- Organization/understandability of poster/presentation

For presentations and posters in which the above criteria do not apply, reviewers will seek to evaluate the extent to which the submitted presentation is of interest to family physicians.

**How to Submit Your Project:**  
Complete the application form via this QR Code.



If you have multiple submissions, one application form should be completed for each submission. You are only required to pay the \$15 fee once regardless of the number of submissions.

#### Submission Deadlines:

Submit application including abstract (250 words or less) no later than September 23, 2022.

Submit your prerecorded voice over PowerPoint file(s) no later than September 26, 2022.

Questions: Please call Cheryl Modesto at 804-968-5200 or e-mail [cmodesto@vafp.org](mailto:cmodesto@vafp.org).

## Primary Care Opportunities

# IN THE SHENANDOAH, ROANOKE, AND NEW RIVER VALLEYS

Carilion Clinic, a community-based, integrated health system, is an organization where innovation happens, collaboration is expected and ideas are valued. Our mission-driven organization is built on progress and academic partnerships. Our courageous team is always learning, never discouraged and forever curious.

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**AMY MARSH, PHYSICIAN RECRUITER**  
[amsilcox@carilionclinic.org](mailto:amsilcox@carilionclinic.org)  
540-224-5197

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**Student Loan  
Repayment Available**

## TARGETED ADVERTISING FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

Contact **Nancy Montgomery**  
at **501-725-3781**  
[nmontgomery@pcipublishing.com](mailto:nmontgomery@pcipublishing.com)

Continued from page 13



## CHOOSE VIRGINIA SCHOLARSHIPS

### “Choose Virginia” Scholarships for Graduating Medical Students and Family Medicine Residents

The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians (VAFP) Foundation is delighted to offer a medical student scholarship and a resident scholarship for assistance with education loan repayment. Many medical students and family medicine residents in Virginia have expressed an interest in staying in Virginia after their graduation to complete a family medicine residency or to practice in a medically underserved area. Over the past few years the VAFP Foundation has received donations to support this effort to keep our own.

***This year the Foundation will offer one graduating Virginia medical student a \$1,500 scholarship.***

The successful candidate will meet the following criteria:

- 1) Graduating Virginia medical student in good academic standing

- 2) Entering a Virginia family medicine residency program. A letter from the program director is required.
- 3) Will have completed the PGY-1 year successfully and be entering into the PGY-2 year at that program. A letter from the program director is required in order to receive the scholarship check for loan repayment at that time.
- 4) Must submit a 250-500 word letter explaining why he/she wants to practice family medicine in Virginia as a resident and as a family physician.

***In addition, we are offering one \$2,000 scholarship for a graduating PGY-3 Virginia family medicine resident who wishes to practice in an underserved area of Virginia.***

The requirements for this scholarship are as follows:

- 1) Graduating as a PGY-3 Virginia family medicine resident
- 2) Have an up-to-date Virginia medical license
- 3) Practicing family medicine in an underserved medical area after graduation as designated by United States Human Resource Service Administration (HRSA) and/or Virginia Department of Health. A letter verifying this is required.
- 4) Must submit a 250-500-word letter explaining why they he/

- she wants to practice in an underserved area of Virginia
- 5) Practicing at the underserved site for one year. Documentation is necessary to receive the scholarship check for loan repayment after one year of practice in an underserved area.

**Application letters may be sent to Mrs. Mary Lindsay White at [mlwhite@vafp.org](mailto:mlwhite@vafp.org) or to Dr. Roger Hofford at [rahofford@carilionclinic.org](mailto:rahofford@carilionclinic.org). The deadline for application letters is June 30.**

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – VAFP BOARD RESIDENT AND STUDENT DIRECTORS FOR 2022-2023

The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians (VAFP) is accepting nominations for the 2022-2023 elected Resident and Student Director positions on the VAFP Board of Directors. The VAFP Board of Directors is the governing body of the VAFP and is comprised of physicians across the Commonwealth from many different practice types and geographic regions. The elected Resident and Student Directors are voting members of the Board, funded to attend required meetings, and serve a one-year term beginning in November 2022.

Duties/Responsibilities

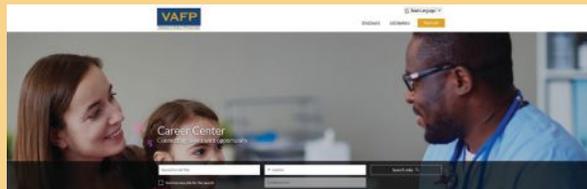
- Be a member of the VAFP.

## CAREER CENTER CHOOSE VIRGINIA

**POST YOUR RESUME AT [CAREERCENTER.VAFP.ORG](http://CAREERCENTER.VAFP.ORG)**

The premier resource for you to explore employment opportunities in Virginia.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the VAFP at 804-968-5200 or email Matt Schulte at [mschulte@vafp.org](mailto:mschulte@vafp.org)



## Live CME Sessions and Live Streaming Webinars for Primary Care Physicians



- Review meeting agenda and supporting materials prior to each Board meeting.
- Intent to attend VAFP Board of Directors Meetings. (4 per year)
- Attend the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students scheduled **July 27 - 29, 2023**, in Kansas City, Missouri and serve as the Virginia Delegate.
- Represent the views and interests of residents/students within the Commonwealth.
- Provide brief oral and/or written report at each Board meeting on resident/medical student activities within the Commonwealth
- Support from program director/medical school for participation.
- Follow-up communications to fellow residents/students regarding any Board actions that impact students

For more information and/or to submit your nomination details, please visit the links below:

Residents  
Students



Questions? Please contact Matt



Schulte (mschulte@vafp.org – 804-968-5200).

### PROVIDING EVIDENCE-BASED CME SINCE 1986!

**Jan 30 - Feb 2, 2023**

**Hospital and Internal Medicine**

Lido Beach Resort - Sarasota, FL

**Feb 6 - 9, 2023**

**Emergency Medicine**

Zota Beach Resort - Longboat Key, FL

**Feb 13 - 16, 2023**

**Geriatrics, Rheumatology, And Endocrinology**

Lido Beach Resort - Sarasota, FL

**Feb 20 - 23, 2023**

**Emergency Medicine**

Lido Beach Resort- Sarasota, FL

**Feb 27 - Mar 2, 2023**

**Pediatric Emergency Medicine**

Art Ovation - Sarasota, FL

**Mar 6 - 9, 2023**

**Family Medicine and Internal Medicine**

Lido Beach Resort - Sarasota, FL

**Mar 13 - 16, 2023**

**Emergency Medicine in Primary Care**

Lido Beach Resort- Sarasota, FL

**Mar 20 - 23, 2023**

**Infectious Diseases**

Lido Beach Resort - Sarasota, FL

**Mar 27 - 30, 2023**

**Pediatric Emergency Medicine**

Lido Beach Resort - Sarasota, FL

**Apr 3 - 6, 2023**

**Radiology**

Art Ovation - Sarasota, FL

For more conferences and to register visit our website

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Courses have been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*.

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CONTACT  
SEE PAGE 30**



# VAFP MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



The VAFP is pleased to provide as a membership benefit a free subscription to Daily POEMs from Essential Evidence Plus.

Daily POEMs (Patient Oriented

Evidence that Matters) alerts and 3,000+ archived POEMs help you stay abreast of the latest and most relevant medical literature.

Delivered directly to you by e-mail every Monday through Friday,

Daily POEMs identify the most valid, relevant research that

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compiled and sent for additional summary review. Ongoing since 1996, their editors now review more than 1,200 studies monthly from more than 100 medical journals, presenting only the best and most relevant as POEMs. The acclaimed POEMs process applies specific criteria for validity and relevance to clinical practice. If you want to subscribe, please e-mail the VAFP at [cmodesto@vafp.org](mailto:cmodesto@vafp.org) so your e-mail address can be added to the distribution list.

Please enjoy this complimentary VAFP membership benefit.

## THE VAFP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

### ACTIVE

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Mohammad Atif MD  
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Jerod W. Bachman DO  
Amy Baker MBBS  
Aneesa Batool MD  
Dawit Bezabih MD  
Himani Bhasin MD  
Huma N. Bhatti MBBS  
Akta P. Bhukhan MD  
John Brinjak DO  
Dana B. Brown MD  
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Cedric H. Campbell MD  
Glenn B. Cheshire MD  
Robert S. Childers MD  
Sean K. Closs MD  
Courtney A. Conklin MD  
Jarrod P. Couch DO  
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Emma F. Daymond MD  
Anne L. de Geus MD  
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Shantrese Dupart DO  
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Lindsey W. Engel MD  
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salma khan DO

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Mateen Manshadi MD  
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Delmar Martin MD  
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Kyle Wessells MD

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Anthony Wu DO  
Valeriya Yabluchanska MD  
Dokyoun Yoon MD, PhD, MPH  
Amy Zimmerman DO

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Bency Abraham DO  
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Iffat Adeel DO  
Zemar Ahadzada DO  
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Mark Anderson MD  
Marvi I. Baloch MD  
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Nathan S. Wong MD  
Pratika Yerneni MD  
Claire Young DO  
Sharon Zhao DO

### STUDENT

Anna R. Abbott  
Nelly Amini  
John Arnold  
Emma Brown  
Rahile A. Caushaj  
Keaira Clark  
Sean Crites  
Maymona Dulli  
Karelys S. Guerra  
Sravva Gundapaneni  
Abigail Hillan  
Derek Hodges  
Madison Hutson  
Hannah James  
Durga Kumar  
Jenna Langbein  
Rira Lee BSN  
Evan S. Leung  
Casey Lim  
Rebecca P. Liu  
Ian Mandybur  
Shayla McCall  
John M. McGinn  
Broc D. Miller  
Kimberly Ngo  
Najayah Niami  
Akua Nyarko-Odoom  
Obinna Obuekwe  
Aman Octain  
Garrett J. Peak  
Alekhya Peruri  
Glynn Renou  
Delia Rios  
Christian Schmidt  
Michaela Schreyer  
George Sherman IV  
Cerena Stinogel MBA  
Kassie Tulenko  
Raymond P. Uymatiao  
Abigail Williams  
James Worfolk  
Nancy Wu

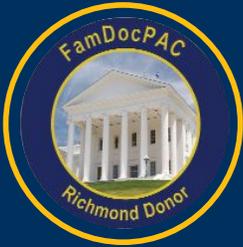
*Donate now to FamDocPAC, the Political Action Committee of Virginia's Family Physicians!!*

# FamDocPAC

**The Political Action Committee of Virginia's Family Physicians**

"FamDocPAC puts family doctors at the table when health care decisions are made."

FamDocPAC is the political action committee through which you can support the election or re-election of those candidates for state office who share your commitment to family medicine.



**Richmond Donor**  
\$250+



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\$175 to \$249



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\$100 to \$174



**Jamestown Donor**  
\$50 to \$99

To donate please visit [www.famdoepac.org](http://www.famdoepac.org). You will receive a commemorative lapel pin in recognition of your donation.

FamDocPAC

1503 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 207, Richmond, Virginia 23229 Phone: 804-968-5200 Fax: 804-968-4418

## VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION SUPPORT FAMILY MEDICINE

For more information on the VAFP Foundation, please visit [www.vafpf.org](http://www.vafpf.org) or call 1-800-THE-VAFP. Secure donations can be made online at [www.vafpf.org](http://www.vafpf.org) or checks can be mailed to the VAFP office.



## BCME CALENDAR

### 2022

**Hypertension KSA**  
Saturday, November 19  
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Virtual

**Care of Children KSA**  
Saturday, November 19  
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Virtual

### 2023

**2023 Winter Family Medicine Weekend**  
January 26-29, 2023  
Wintergreen Resort

**2023 Annual Meeting & Exposition**  
July 13-16, 2023  
Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront

*For more information, visit [www.vafpf.org](http://www.vafpf.org)*



# 2022 VAFP ANNUAL REPORT

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEETA GOEL, MD, ASHBURN

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the 75th President of the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians (VAFP) for the last year. The year started in the middle of the pandemic with a first-ever hybrid CME offering by the VAFP, providing a much-needed opportunity to those ready to join in-person events after being away from them for more than a year but also ensuring the needs of those not ready to attend in-person events were met. Thanks to the VAFP CME committee, led by Dr. Mitch Miller, and the VAFP staff, we are gathered here again in person. I am confident that you will have a great time here in Roanoke.

A lot has transpired over the last year. The Virginia Family Physicians continue to fight the fight against the COVID pandemic, which has prepared them to address many healthcare challenges, such as the newly emerging public health emergency due to monkeypox. The VAFP has supported its members in addressing these healthcare crises in multiple ways, including collaborating with the Virginia Department of Health to offer educational programs and arrange the distribution of free PPE to physicians and working with Virginia legislators to ensure the laws related to the safety of physicians and patients of Commonwealth are in place. Similar efforts to protect the practice of family physicians will continue under the leadership of incoming VAFP President Dr. David Gregory.

After becoming President, I led the VAFP team to collaborate with the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the ACS Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) to find a solution to eliminate the out-of-pocket cost to patients for colonoscopy required after a positive stool-based colorectal cancer (CRC) screening test. I am pleased to see the significant progress made in this area since starting our efforts, with the announcement from the Tri-Agencies (Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services, Treasury) to direct private insurance plans to cover, without cost-sharing, follow-up colonoscopy after a positive stool test beginning on or after May 31, 2022. Not imposing a cost-share to patients for the follow-up colonoscopy after a positive stool test, an integral part of the preventive screening process, is critical to allow for timely screening of colorectal cancer to save lives.

Last year, I represented VAFP members at many state and national forums, including the AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD), held virtually, the Annual Chapter Leadership Forum (ACLF) organized in Kansas City, and the AAFP State Legislative Conference in Washington DC. In my interaction with the family physicians from across the country, I learned that the issues faced by physicians in other states are very similar to ours. The family physicians

continue to deliver excellent quality care to their patients amid many challenges, including the healthcare workforce shortage, lack of support for the mental health services for their patients, administrative burdens related to documentation and prior authorizations, and many more. I want to assure you that the VAFP legislative team, under the leadership of Dr. Jesus Lizarzaburu and Hunter Jamerson, J.D., not only constantly seeks new ideas to improve the lives of patients and family physicians but is extremely vigilant in monitoring the bills brought to the General Assembly impacting the same. I also want to emphasize the valuable role you play as practicing physicians in supporting the Academy's efforts in advocating for you. I encourage you to get involved with your Academy and contribute any way you can – share your practice and patient care-related concerns directly with the Virginia legislators, volunteer your time for the Advocacy days, and donate to FamDocPac, the Political Action Committee of Virginia's Family Physicians, led by Dr. Sean Reed. The Academy truly appreciates your support!

The VAFP is highly invested in ensuring the family medicine residents and medical students excel in their lives as young physicians. We value the residents and students serving as the voting members on the VAFP Board to represent the views and interests of all Virginia residents and students. The interaction with the residents and students on the Board, during the annual and winter meetings, and as part of the VAFP Resident, Student & Faculty Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Denee Moore and Dr. Dan McCarter, helps us design many programs to support the residents and students in Commonwealth. We love to see more family medicine residents making Virginia their permanent home!

As my year comes to a close, I want to thank my fellow VAFP team members. I am proud to have served an Academy comprised of an extremely caring team of Directors, Officers, and staff focused on fiercely advocating for the best interest of all family physicians in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A special thanks to VAFP President-elect Dr. David Gregory, the Executive Vice President Mary Lindsay White, and the General Counsel Hunter Jamerson for always being on my side throughout my Presidential year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you!

With tremendous respect and gratitude,

Neeta Goel, MD



## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAVID S. GREGORY, MD, FAAFP, ROANOKE

As this coming year's incoming VAFP President, I have been anxious about what is next for the VAFP. To prepare for these challenges, I have taken a hard look at the strengths and weaknesses of myself and our organization, by listening more and speaking less. Although I am no closer to knowing what the coming year will hold for the VAFP, I am more certain than ever that whatever the challenge, our members have what is needed to create and enact solutions. In this, my first message to you, I hope to specify how your active involvement with the VAFP can help to keep "family" in Family Medicine.

Like all of us in medical school, I was considering how to choose my specialty. Not having many physician mentors, I was heavily swayed by the opinions and advice of my peers. Each rotation seemed like my favorite, making my decision harder with every month. What made my decision easy was when I realized it was not the perceptions of my peers, the mechanics of any rotation, the content of the field, the chemistry of the team nor the charisma of the attending that I was seeking. I was looking for purpose for my career. It was during my family medicine rotation when I felt invited into the family of others to help address their needs in a manner that they valued. I found my purpose - keeping "family" in Family Medicine.

The past years in Virginia, however, have made it harder for many of us to keep "family" in Family Medicine. The political and social conflicts our nation has experienced has risked pulling Virginian families apart. The finances of Virginian families are more stretched, especially from the complex and arbitrary business of health care. We risk being more distracted by insurance driven matters from our patients' needs.

I hope we can agree that our members have many great characteristics useful in the challenge to keep "family" in family medicine, including:

- A "growth mindset", motivated by the challenges and things that cause growth and improvement
- Hands-on experience in dealing with changing, comprehensive systems to find and solve problems with limited resources
- Focus on people and their values in a manner that is graciously accepting
- Interest in helping the individual while also improving their community

It is not by chance that family physicians remain among the most trusted source for personal health information for individuals in Virginia and the VAFP is among the most respected sources for health policy advice for our elected officials. With our own patients, we know to share a mutual interest in their overall health, while respecting their family dynamic and values. We forget, however, that our elected officials simply need us to act in the same manner in a different scale to be collectively effective in our efforts. This coming year is going to have challenges, but within the VAFP lies talents, experience, and characteristics to be in the lead and keep our relationships strong.

So what is left for you as a VAFP member to do?

The VAFP needs each member to be:

- Available - to provide feedback, to serve and/or lead
- Engaged - to make conferences, calls and/or committees more productive
- Creative - to offer new perspectives that perhaps only you have considered
- Professional - to strengthen our trusted relationships, remaining evidence-based and patient-centered
- Personal - to share real-life stories that allow others to understand you and your patients' experience
- Patient - to allow your elected officials - like your patients - to see opportunities for healthy change
- Unified - to organize our message into one voice

I ask for your active involvement with the VAFP in these ways in the coming year and that together we can keep "family" in Family Medicine.

Looking forward to continuing to listen more but also to speaking up for the VAFP

Dave Gregory

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Hunter Jamerson, JD, MBA, General Counsel & Legislative Consultant*

The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians completed another successful General Assembly session with the enactment of new legislation on July 1st. The 2022 General Assembly brought significant political gridlock with Republican control of the Governor's office and House of Delegates and Democratic control of the Senate of Virginia. Despite this challenging dynamic, VAFP enjoyed several significant legislative successes both advancing family medicine priorities and defending against significant threats.

Significant items from the 2022 General Assembly include:

### **Scope of Practice**

#### *Nurse Practitioners*

House Bill 1245 proposed to reduce the years of full-time clinical experience required for a nurse practitioner (NP) to practice independently from 5 years to 2. At VAFP's urging, Senator Newman succeeded amending the legislation to instead maintain the 5-year requirement for independent practice and allow autonomous nurse practitioners granted autonomy through 2 years of experience under the Governor's public health emergency Executive Order to be grandfathered-in and maintain their autonomy.

A legislative conference committee was unable to resolve the House and Senate positions on this bill, after VAFP advocated for the Senate to hold firm in its position. As a result, the bill failed for the year and the scope of practice of medicine was defended once again!

Another nurse practitioner scope of practice bill, HB 896, proposed to allow NPs to lead a patient care team in lieu of a team care physician. Through the testimony of family physicians, this provision was successfully removed from the bill. A physician remains the leader of the patient care team.

#### *Pharmacists*

VAFP successfully defeated House Bill 1323, legislation which would have dramatically expanded pharmacist scope of practice. As proposed, this legislation would have authorized pharmacists to initiate treatment after reviewing CLIA-waived test results. This concerning trend of pharmacists seeking prescriptive authority is likely to continue through future legislative sessions. VAFP remains vigilant to protect the scope of practice of medicine and ensure prescriptive authority is limited to qualified practitioners.

#### *Physician Postgraduate Requirements*

As proposed, House Bill 243 would have increased the duration of postgraduate training required prior to issuance of a medical license from 12 months to 36 months. After significant advocacy by the House of Medicine, the bill was defeated.

### **Physician Reimbursement**

The Budget Bill, House Bill 30, enacted on July 1st increases Medicaid primary care code reimbursement rates to 80% of the Medicare rate. This is an increase from 70%. VAFP continues to work diligently to increase physician reimbursement and to prioritize the Commonwealth's investment into primary care.

### **Medical Malpractice**

Senate Bill 599 proposed to circumvent Virginia's medical malpractice cap in instances of "bodily impairment or other specified injury." VAFP has vigilantly defended Virginia's medical malpractice graduated cap since its inception. Yet again, VAFP was successful in defending the malpractice cap as this legislation was defeated.

### **Wrapping up the 2022 General Assembly Session**

Beyond these highlights, VAFP defeated numerous bills attacking the physician-patient relationship. VAFP also successfully advocated for legislation speeding physician credentialing. Additionally, VAFP secured the right for third parties to report regulatory violations by insurance carriers to the Bureau of Insurance. Finally, VAFP continued to advocate for reasonable telemedicine laws maintaining access and reimbursement while balancing the need for an in-person physician patient relationship.

The VAFP Legislative Committee, under the leadership of its Chair, Jesus Lizarzaburu, M.D., continues to advocate for the best interests of family medicine. Your support of the FamDocPAC and service as a Key Contact is very much appreciated!

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians continues its tradition of offering first class, affordable continuing medical education conferences for Academy members.

Each year, the Academy sponsors two major CME activities. The Wintergreen Winter Family Medicine Weekend is held over four days in the winter months of January or February annually. After the 2021 event was held virtually due to COVID-19, this year's conference was back as a hybrid event offering both in person and virtual attendance options over the dates of January 27-30. It drew over 165 family physicians, residents, medical students, and other health care professionals. The exhibit portion of the conference

was held in person only, and 27 organizations supported the meeting.

The Academy's Annual Meeting & Exposition is held each summer in mid-July or early August. This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 4-7, 2022, at the Hotel Roanoke. The meeting will be comprised of two full days and two half days of general CME sessions and workshops worth up to 20.00 credits of live CME. Sessions will be in-person at the Hotel Roanoke.

The VAFP sponsored five group learning sessions to assist VAFP members with the completion of their ABFM Family Medicine Certification Process requirements. Knowledge Self-Assessment (KSA) programs were held during 2021 and the first half of 2022 virtually and an in-person and a hybrid model Family Medicine Certification KSA will be held in conjunction with the VAFP 2022 Annual Meeting. These sessions drew maximum attendance and continue to be evaluated very highly. The facilitation of the KSA's virtually has truly been a great member benefit as it allows members to feel as though they are in person without having to travel.

Continued in 2022, the VAFP offered at each major CME event an opportunity to attend a pain management continuing medical education session. Physicians who attend these sessions satisfy the Board of Medicine requirements for continuing education in pain management, proper prescribing of controlled substances, and the diagnosis and management of addiction. The Board requires all prescribers licensed by the Board of Medicine to obtain 2 hours of education in the 24 months prior to their next biennial renewal.

The Academy also provided members CME opportunities via multiple webinar offerings in the 2021-22 year including Monoclonal Antibody Therapy and Covid-19 Point of Care Testing; Current Status of COVID-19 Vaccines, Recommended Third Doses, and the Possibility of Booster Doses; and COVID-19 Vaccines for 6-Month Through 5-Years Population. All were very well received and attended by over 100 VAFP members.

The Academy expresses its deep appreciation to the Chair of the Continuing Medical Education Committee, Mitchell B. Miller, MD, FAAFP, and his committee members Joe Fields-Johnson, DO, Alison Huffstetler, MD, Tamara Spriggs, MD, MPH, Emily Young, DO, MA, MPH, and Tim Yu, MD, FAAFP for their outstanding work in creating superb CME for VAFP members and to Kurtis S. Elward, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Mark H. Greenawald, MD, FAAFP, Tarin Schmidt-Dalton, MD, FAAFP and Mary Beth Sweet, MD, for their exceptional work as Family Medicine Certification session presenters.

The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians membership has rebounded in the active and resident membership categories post COVID-19. As of May 2022, total VAFP membership stood at 3,217 with Active membership totaling 1,853, resident membership at 348 and student membership at 654. Four additional categories including Life membership totaled 327.

The VAFP continues to offer multiple member benefits including access to the Daily POEMS, the VAFP Career Center and legal resources for employment contract negotiations, regulatory and administrative issues.

Daily POEMs (Patient Oriented Evidence that Matters) from Essential Evidence Plus provide members with complimentary daily alerts and over 3,000 archived POEMs to help members stay abreast of the latest and most relevant medical literature. Delivered directly to by e-mail every Monday through Friday, Daily POEMs identify the most valid, relevant research that may change the way physicians' practice. Since 1996, POEMs editors review more than 1,200 studies monthly from more than 100 medical journals, presenting only the best and most relevant as POEMs. The acclaimed POEMs process applies specific criteria for validity and relevance to clinical practice.

The VAFP Career Center is housed on the VAFP website and is the career hub for physician employment opportunities in Virginia. The VAFP Career Center is the premier resource for you to explore employment opportunities in Virginia or to recruit for open positions within your practice. The VAFP has discounted member rates for those that want to advertise open positions within the VAFP Career Center. See page 28 for additional information on this great membership benefit.

The VAFP's General Counsel, Hunter Jamerson, JD, MBA, continues to partner with the VAFP to provide a legal resource for flat fee physician employment contract review and negotiations. This service was developed in 2016 by the VAFP's General Counsel K. Marshall Cook, JD and is invaluable to those physicians that are beginning their practice of family medicine after residency completion or those members that are changing employers or hiring partner physicians.

For information on all the member benefits, please contact the VAFP at [admin@vafp.org](mailto:admin@vafp.org) or 1-800-THE-VAFP.

## CAREER CENTER

The VAFP Career Center is the hub for physician employment opportunities in Virginia and is the premier member resource to explore employment opportunities in Virginia or to recruit for open positions within your practice. The VAFP has discounted rates for members that want to advertise open positions within the Career Center.

To access the Career Center, visit [vafp.careerwebsite.com](http://vafp.careerwebsite.com). The VAFP Career Center will provide the opportunity to:

**Manage Your Career** - search and apply to multiple family medicine positions that are all located in Virginia, upload your anonymous resume, and allow employers to contact you through the Career Center's messaging system, set up job alerts specifying your skills, interests, and preferred location(s) to receive email notifications when a job is posted that matches your criteria.

**Recruit for Open Positions** - promote your jobs directly to VAFP members via the exclusive Career Center email system, search the anonymous resume database to find qualified candidates, manage your posted jobs and applicant activity easily on this user-friendly site.

One of the goals at the VAFP is to provide members with training and tools to advance their career development. Please utilize the VAFP Career Center to find or fill a job in the future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the VAFP at 1-800-THE-VAFP or e-mail Matt Schulte at [mschulte@vafp.org](mailto:mschulte@vafp.org).

## RESIDENTS & STUDENTS

The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors has two elected resident representatives and two elected medical student representatives who serve a one-year term on the Board beginning in the fall. Representatives are funded to attend all VAFP Board Meetings as well as the AAFP's National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students held annually in July.

The process for election of the Resident Representative is facilitated by each Virginia residency program nominating one resident to run as a candidate. Candidates complete an on-line nomination form, and each Virginia family medicine residency program is entitled to cast two votes for residents nominated for Resident Director on the VAFP Board of Directors. Only one vote may be for the resident from their respective program for the ballot to be valid.

The process for election of the Student Representative is facilitated by each Virginia medical school nominating one student to run as a candidate. Student candidates complete an on-line nomination form, and each medical school must vote for two candidates for the ballot to be valid, of which only one of these votes may go to a student from their school if one is nominated.

The VAFP provides complimentary housing for students and residents to attend the VAFP Winter Family Medicine Weekend held annually at Wintergreen Resort. At the 2022 VAFP Winter Family Medicine Weekend, 11 Family Medicine Residents and 26 medical students were in attendance. Continued from previous years, was a resident panel discussion that offered students the opportunity to ask questions of residents and get a good feel for what it is like to be a family medicine resident. At the conclusion of the research and panel discussion, the residents and students enjoyed a pizza dinner with families and networking opportunities.

The VAFP also supports residents with discounted employment contract review by the VAFP's General Counsel and a Career Center that houses multiple job offerings in the Commonwealth. The VAFP supports the Family Medicine Interest Group's at each of the six Virginia medical schools with \$500.00 in funding to develop programs that promote Family Medicine.

The VAFP Foundation offers a graduating medical student that attends a Virginia Residency Program a \$1,500 scholarship as well as a Virginia PGY-3 Graduating Resident a \$2,000 scholarship that chooses to practice in an underserved area of Virginia. The Foundation awarded its first scholarships in 2017.

Again, in the fall of 2021, the VAFP hosted a Scholarly Symposium for residents, medical students, and fellows. This one-day event showcased scholarly work in the areas of clinical or population health research, medical education research, literature review, case reports, QI/PI projects, clinical successes, patient stories, or educational projects. Nine residents and seven students presented research during the virtual event. Concluding the event was the Keynote Address from Jacob Prunuske, MD, MSPH, Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Assistant Dean for Clinical Learning at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The symposium was highly attended by not only student and resident presenters but other family physicians from across the Commonwealth that were interested in learning about future family physicians' research. The event for 2022 is slated for Saturday, October 8th virtually from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Resident Board Representatives continued to solicit and publish the Residency SpotLights via e-mail to members in each of the Academy's quarterly magazines. Each month, the VAFP featured unique happenings from the Family Medicine Residency Programs across the Commonwealth. The VAFP

hopes these SpotLights will encourage residents to learn from each other and show our student members how amazing it is to be a Family Medicine Resident in Virginia! To access the SpotLight's visit [www.vafp.org/resident-spotlight](http://www.vafp.org/resident-spotlight).

Academy dues are paid by the VAFP for resident members in their first year of residency and all medical student dues are complimentary.

## FINANCES

The Virginia Academy of Family Physicians continues its tradition of operating under sound financial leadership. This effort is led by VAFP Treasurer Charles Frazier, MD, and the members of the VAFP Executive/Finance Committee. The committee meets each year to develop an operating budget that meets the needs of the Academy yet is very mindful of the fiscal responsibility to the Academy. During the meeting, the committee also reviews the Academy's Financial Reserve Policy and Statement of Cash.

The Academy was fortunate to maintain sound financial footing despite the uncertainties of COVID-19. In 2021, pivoting our Winter CME meeting to a virtual event and hosting, albeit smaller, the Annual Meeting as a hybrid model afforded the Academy to generate some non-dues revenue to help solidify the bottom line.

Currently, the VAFP's dues are the second lowest in the country as compared to other AAFP Chapters with an active membership of similar size. In the last 30 years, the Academy has only had three dues increases. The Executive/Finance Committee discussed at length the future of the Academy's finances and specifically the uncertainty of non-dues revenue sources. To that end, the Board is recommending a one-time dues increase in the active member category of \$20.00 beginning in fiscal year 2023. Even with the \$20.00 recommended dues increase, Virginia moves up just one spot into the third lowest in the country for chapters of similar size.

Net income for fiscal year 2021 was \$121,661. This is significant given the continued financial impact of COVID-19. Like in 2020, 2021 saw a negative impact on the income of the Academy related to non-dues revenue but also a decrease in expenses resulting from limitations on member travel to national events. These offsetting increases/decreases allowed the Academy to again stay on sound financial footing during the pandemic. The VAFP held steady and ended fiscal year 2021 with Net Assets of just over \$2,176,000.

**Finances — Statement of Financial Position & Activities  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021**

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Membership dues	\$ 566,488
Annual Meeting	\$ 106,290
CME seminars	\$ 81,570
Career Center	\$ 4,165
General Grants	\$ 62,621*
Interest income	\$ 31,540
Total support and revenue	\$ 852,674

\* The Academy received a PPP Loan of \$61,621 that has been forgiven.

## EXPENSES

Program	
Education	\$ 427,594
Advocacy	\$ 159,849
Supporting services	
General and administrative	\$ 143,570
Total expenses	\$ 731,013

Unrestricted Net Assets, beginning of year	\$2,055,182
Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$ 121,661
Unrestricted Net Assets, end of year	\$2,176,843

## PRACTICE ENHANCEMENT & QUALITY

### Committee Service

Interested in Quality and Practice Enhancement? VAFP President Neeta Goel, MD is the Chair of the VAFP's Committee on Quality and Practice Enhancement. Dr. Goel is excited to work with VAFP members that have an interest in this strategic focus area's goal which is to continue to promote, encourage, and educate our members on effective models of care and care delivery.

The VAFP Quality and Practice Committee will focus its work to support the VAFP Legislative Committee and Board of Directors in the areas of:

- Health care delivery
- Performance measurement
- Practice redesign/quality improvement
- Health information technology
- Practice management
- Physician payment
- Practice environments

If you are interested in serving as a member of this committee or would like additional information, please contact the Headquarters office.

### Win for Quality of Care for Patients

In the fall of 2021 and winter of 2022, VAFP worked with the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the ACS Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) on the elimination of the patient cost share for colorectal cancer (CRC) follow-up colonoscopy screenings.

*Continued on page 30*

VAFP members voiced concern for their patients noting that some health insurers in Virginia apply cost sharing to colonoscopies that follow a positive stool test on the grounds that the insurers consider a follow-up colonoscopy to be a diagnostic procedure rather than a preventive screening test. As of July 2022, CMS is proposing that a follow-up colonoscopy to an at-home test be considered a preventive service, which means that cost sharing would be waived for people with Medicare. Additionally, Medicare is proposing to cover the service for individuals 45 years of age and above, in line with the newly lowered age recommendation (down from 50) from the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

Thank you to VAFP members Drs. Alex Krist, Jesus Lizarzaburu, and Tim Yu and staff Mary Lindsay White and Hunter Jamerson for working on this issue with VAFP President Neeta Goel and the ACS.

### **Family Physicians Serving on Statewide Commissions and Task Forces**

#### Task Force on Primary Care

The Task Force on Primary Care was created in the summer of 2020 by then Governor Northam in partnership with the Virginia Center for Health Innovation (VCHI) to address the stresses that the COVID pandemic caused to primary care and a need to better ensure the long-term sustainability of and access to primary care services for the Commonwealth's patients. The task force continues its work in 2022 addressing four main areas of focus: Development of Primary Care Spend Data Reporting, Review of the Infrastructure Support Needs for Primary Care, Creation of a Standard Patient Centered Primary Care Measure and "What Matters" Index, and Payment Reform/Value Based Payment Models in the Virginia Medicaid Program. There are several VAFP members serving on the task force and its subcommittees. Family physicians who serve on the task force and on one of the subcommittees are: Drs. John Brady, Neeta Goel, Gordon Moore, Jesus Lizarzaburu, Katherine Neuhausen, Andrew Bazemore, Daniel McCarter, Charles Frazier, Scott Strayer, Alex Krist, Mark Watts, and Mitchell Miller. In addition, Gordon Moore, MD serves on the Board of VCHI, and Drs. Neeta Goel, David Ellington, and Lindsey Vaughn serve on the VCHI Leadership Council.

VAFP is well represented in the house of medicine in Virginia including the positions and committees noted below.

All Payer Claims Data Base and Advisory Committee -  
Alex Krist, MD

Medicaid Managed Care Physician Liaison Committee -  
Robert Elliott, MD

Medical Society of Virginia Board of Directors -  
Larry Mitchell, MD, Secretary-Treasurer;  
Timothy Raines, MD, 1st District Director,  
James Dudley, MD, 1st District Associate Director,  
Lisa Kennedy, MD, 2nd District Director,  
Samuel Caughron, MD, 7th District Director, Mark  
Kleiner, MD, 6th District Director,  
Brenda Stokes, MD, 6th District Associate Director  
and Salimah Navaz Gangji, 9th District Associate  
Director.

Medical Society of Virginia Delegates to the AMA -  
Thomas Eppes, MD and Cynthia Romero, MD

Virginia Board of Medicine -  
Jacob Miller, DO

Thank you to all who are serving to represent the specialty of Family Medicine.

## **BECOME A VAFP LEGISLATIVE KEY CONTACT**

### **Make Your Legislative Voice for Family Medicine Heard in the Virginia General Assembly**

Become a VAFP Key Contact to actively advocate for the specialty of family medicine. A Key Contact is a VAFP member who is interested in legislative issues who has an established working relationship with a state and/or federal lawmaker or is interested in nurturing one. Key contacts are asked to be active on legislative issues, including sending letters/e-mails, and/or testifying before legislative committees. They play an important role in the Academy's legislative and advocacy processes.

The VAFP maintains a list of "Key Contacts" each year to readily reach out to during legislative sessions for their input on issues. It is very important for family physicians to have personal relationships with legislators so the family physician becomes that legislators trusted source of information as it relates to how they vote on health-related bills.

Would you like to be a Key Contact for your legislator on family medicine issues? If yes, please contact Mary Lindsay White (mlwhite@vafp.org) or complete the short interest form via this QR code.





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Resources for Physicians**

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**FAMILY  
PRACTICE**

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**A Family Physician's Introduction to  
Lifestyle Medicine** supplement.

 **AAFP**  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Use the American Academy of  
Family Physicians' **Lifestyle  
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**Full Plate**  
**LIVING**

Prescribe free **plant slanted  
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online on demand.

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