



From the Association
of Family Medicine Residency Directors

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FRONTLINE: DIABETES AND FRONTLINE: BETTER BONES—IMPLEMENTING THE CORE COMPETENCIES THROUGH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

As previously announced, the Board of Directors of the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) is launching a project that combines resident education and research. Frontline: Diabetes is a project that offers residents a novel, integrated approach to the prevention and treatment of diabetes. Participants will learn about current standards of diabetes care, nutritional counseling, educational needs and relevant referral resources.

Frontline: Diabetes has been modeled after the successful Frontline: Better Bones project, which is focused on teaching residents about the newest information available on the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis.

In addition to attending either of the workshops, residents will also be asked to participate in the research component of the project to determine the effectiveness of this educational format. The participating residents will be asked to complete pre- and post-tests as well as conduct a limited chart review before and after attending the workshop.

Finally, participants will be provided instruction regarding the principles of quality improvement and its integration into their medical practice. As an introduction to quality improvement, participants will be asked to complete an interactive CD/Web site (Quality Improvement and Beyond: Achieving Excellence in Health Care).

Overall, the Frontline: Diabetes and Frontline: Better Bones projects will assist family medicine program directors as they incorporate the core competencies of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education into their residency programs. Besides the acquisition of medical knowledge regarding diabetes mellitus and osteoporosis, residents will participate in activities that promote practice-based learning and improvement and system-based learning.

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From the North American
Primary Care Research Group

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NAPCRG ACTION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF FAMILY MEDICINE

The North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) has been an active partner in the Future of Family Medicine (FFM) project and is committed to moving the FFM recommendations forward. To this end, NAPCRG has created a task force to develop strategies and provide oversight for accomplishing its work of the NAPCRG FFM action plan. This brief report summarizes the work of the task force to date and sets out the work plan for the task force and NAPCRG.

The task force has been guided by some basic assumptions: NAPCRG's vision is that the generation of new knowledge needs to be infused into nearly all components of the FFM plan and needs to become part of the fabric of what it means to be a family physician. NAPCRG is therefore eager to partner with other organizations and individuals to help meet the aims of all 10 recommendations. The NAPCRG Board agrees to take the leadership role in accomplishing the FFM recommendation on enhancing the science of family medicine, with the American Academy of Family Physicians and Association of Departments of Family Medicine serving as collaborators. We invite others to be proactive in working with us to advance the research infrastructure and science base of family medicine.

As leader of this recommendation, NAPCRG will take responsibility for the following:

1. Creating an overarching framework (including processes for outcomes measurement) by which to approach the work that needs to be done to accomplish the recommendation
2. Developing specific strategies for accomplishing the recommendation
3. Inviting appropriate partners to participate in the planning and accomplishment of the strategies
4. Providing follow-up to help ensure that the work committed to is accomplished
5. Providing staff to help plan and coordinate activities
6. Providing financial support for accomplishing the NAPCRG FFM action plan, as approved by the NAPCRG Board

Progress to Date

The task force's first accomplishment has been in creating a framework for achieving the FFM recommendation of enhancing the science of family medicine.