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50 YEARS OF NAPCRG: A NURTURING HOME FOR PRIMARY CARE RESEARCHERS

Nurturing

This is one of the most ubiquitous words brought forth by members to describe the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG). People at NAPCRG's Annual Meetings often recount a common story about the joy they felt upon attending their first meeting and finding "their people." They share the familiar feeling of returning yearly to an electric atmosphere, full of enthusiasm, and feel recharged and motivated to develop solutions in primary care research and practice moving forward.

Home

The culture of inquiry and compassion at NAPCRG creates a warm, friendly environment where budding researchers can take root and be cultivated into the scientist they wish to become. This was true when founded in 1972 and is one of the most enduring sentiments over the 50-year history of the organization. As we reflect on the last half century of homecomings, we turn an eye toward the future.

Presently, NAPCRG's trainee committee is a group of international trainees, with diverse academic backgrounds from academic family medicine to computer science or health services research, all with a shared passion for primary care research and who now call NAPCRG their academic home. Many of us on the trainee committee were introduced to NAPCRG by a mentor or peer with a profound love for NAPCRG and a strong passion for improving the health of individuals, families, and communities around the world. We share this passion with others at the trainee pre-conference, held annually the day before NAPCRG's meeting.

Most of our first impressions of NAPCRG were developed at the trainee pre-conference. Those first impressions were built from experiencing a strong community of peers and mentors who come together to support one another. The trainee pre-conference started as an idea, brought forth by the supporting staff and made reality through sheer excitement. This pre-conference has blossomed into a vibrant gathering of the future leaders of NAPCRG. For many of us the NAPCRG trainee pre-conference has been a bridge to a community where new primary care researchers have formed close academic connections, mentors, and friends. We cannot help but feel the magnetic pull of returning year over year as we grow from mentee to mentor. It was from the fertile soil of the pre-conference that NAPCRG's Trainee Committee was formed, petitioning the Board for a permanent banding

together of trainees. We continue to come back to NAPCRG for its nurturing community of peers, leaders, and patients who all participate in the field of primary care research and inspire us to be the best researchers we can be.

As an emerging cohort of primary care researchers and NAPCRG members, it is imperative that we thoughtfully consider the future of NAPCRG, while reflecting on 50 years of momentum, growth, and leadership. Whilst embracing the NAPCRG heritage and ethos, we see its future as an ever-evolving space of nurturing, partnership, and inclusivity with a strengthened commitment to health equity and interdisciplinarity. We also recognize creative thinking and adaptability will be imperative. When the pandemic forced a stop to in-person events including the NAPCRG Annual Meeting, the Trainee Committee explored new opportunities to come together virtually several times a year for peer support, sharing research and experiences, and forming academic bonds outside our home institutions, and even countries. This is the NAPCRG of the future—diverse in thought, nationality, and background, yet united by a shared passion for accessible, equitable, and affordable health care.

Drawing on our previously published "call to action" (Chisholm et al, 2022), and continuing to offer virtual programming, we will strive for a more diverse and accessible membership base and outreach that fosters flexible and rigorous research methods necessary to tackle complex primary health care issues. We are committed to ensuring NAPCRG provides a network of support and mentorship that seeks innovative solutions to health disparities and primary care challenges, through a collective and diverse voice. To help reach these ambitious yet necessary goals, we will continue to advocate for the trainee voice and representation in NAPCRG leadership, while building capacity for an inclusive trainee network and community that is nurturing and feels like home. Inspired, energized, and resilient, the future of NAPCRG is bright.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of NAPCRG, we are proud to call this organization our home. We are grateful for how its members continuously give back and nurture the next generation of primary care researchers. We enjoyed seeing new and returning trainee members in person once again at our annual *Rising Stars in Research* pre-conference day in Phoenix, Arizona.

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References

1. Chisholm A, Wang J, Bonnell LN, et al. From NAPCRG: primary care research through the lens of NAPCRG's trainee committee: a year of reflection in a pandemic and a call to action. *Ann Fam Med*. 2022;20(1):98-99.



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AAFP MAKES WEBSITE, MOBILE APP ENHANCEMENTS

Members already know that [AAFP.org](https://www.aafp.org) has the best collection of up-to-date resources family physicians need for education, patient care, practice tools, and more. Although feedback on the website, which was refreshed in August 2020, has been largely positive, we identified improvements that make accessing the tools and resources members need even easier. These include:

Improved Search Functionality

A new, improved site search helps AAFP members be more successful when looking for specific content on the website. The new search uses machine learning to present results that are most relevant to each individual searcher. Searchers can also take advantage of more robust filtering options to zero in on specific CME, publications, news, and clinical recommendations.

Improved CME Reporting

The same machine learning that powers the new site search also allows a better overall experience for reporting CME. Within CME Reporter, if members have unreported CME for courses purchased from the AAFP, they will be prompted to report those courses first. For other courses, members can simply use the new search tool on the page to find the courses they need to report. In addition to an option to search and report, there are tabs to report CME from AAFP journals and publications as well as self-directed activities. It's also easier and faster to manually report CME not accredited by the AAFP, such as hospital grand rounds.

My Account Enhancements

An important change to note regarding CME Reporter is that member transcripts and reelection summaries will no longer live natively within this section of the website. Although members can still access this information from CME Reporter, transcripts and reelection summaries are now hosted and available in the My Account section of the website, along with member profiles and purchase/transaction histories. This change allows members to access all personal information from a single location on [AAFP.org](https://www.aafp.org).

Streamlined Residency Directory

Students can search for residency programs by program title, hospital, or location, as well as filter results even further by community setting or program type. Details for each residency program can be found by clicking on the title of the residency program in the search results.

Redesigned Journals and Publications

The journals and publications members rely on—*American Family Physician*, *FPM*, and *FP Essentials*—now have a refreshed look. *FP Essentials* has also been redesigned for ease of navigation.

Improved Mobile App Functionality

Finally, members also have additional functionality within the AAFP mobile app. Although members already had the ability to access monthly editions of *AFP*, *FPM*, and *FP Essentials* on the app, the update allows for completion and submission of publication quizzes for CME credit via the app. Members can even complete quizzes while offline and submit answers when reconnected to the Internet. Those who take advantage of the AAFP's audio products in the mobile app can now pause the audio or close the mobile app without hesitation. The next time they return to the audio product, they can pick up right where they left off.

The AAFP website and mobile app continue to be an important source of information and resources for members, and the Academy will continue to invest in improving the member experience on those channels.

News Staff
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