

building methodology; hosting a Family Medicine Education POCUS Summit; developing and piloting curriculum and assessment tools; collaborating within family medicine and other specialties; and evaluating curriculum effectiveness, faculty confidence, and resident competency.

The Task Force looks forward to collaboration within family medicine to strengthen POCUS training in residencies. There will be opportunities to provide input on curriculum and assessment resources during the pilot phase of the initiative, as well as disseminating final tools after the pilot. Implementation of the curriculum will be important to ensure family medicine educators have the POCUS teaching expertise needed to train all family medicine residents in these important clinical diagnostic skills. If your residency program is interested in piloting curriculum and assessment tools or you would like to provide any input, please contact Ryan Paulus (ryan_paulus@med.unc.edu) or April Davies (adavies@stfm.org).

Ryan Paulus, DO, University of North Carolina School of Medicine & Department of Family Medicine, April Davies, MPH, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

For additional information on STFM's POCUS activities, visit <https://www.stfm.org/about/keyinitiatives/pocus/>

Project FOCUS Task Force Members: Ryan Paulus, DO, University of North Carolina, Task Force Chair; Juana Nicoll Capizzano, MD, University of Michigan, Curriculum Workgroup Lead; Pujja Dalal, MD, Novant Health, Summit Workgroup Lead; Nicholas LeFevre, MD, MS, University of Missouri, Research Workgroup Lead; Hiten Patel, MD, The Ohio State University, Competency Assessment Workgroup Lead; William Hui, MD, Stanford University; Natalie Nguyen, DO, Kaiser Permanente; Anthony Recidoro, DO, Naval Hospital Jacksonville; Varshaben Songara, MD, Harnett Health; Joy Shen-Wagner, MD, University of South Carolina; Johnny Tenegra, MD, Southern Illinois University; Ryan Trantham, MD, Waco Family Medicine

References

1. Carrera KG, Hassen G, Camacho-Leon GP, Rossitto F, Martinez F, Debele TK. The benefits and barriers of using point-of-care ultrasound in primary health-care in the United States. *Cureus*. 2022;14(8):e28373. doi:[10.7759/cureus.28373](https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.28373)
2. Ferre RM, Russell FM, Peterson D, et al. Piloting a graduate medical education point-of-care ultrasound curriculum. *Cureus*. 2022;14(7):e27173. doi:[10.7759/cureus.27173](https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.27173)
3. ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Family Medicine. Accessed Aug 5, 2024. https://www.acgme.org/globalassets/pfassets/programrequirements/2024-prs/120_familymedicine_2024.pdf
4. Hall JWW, Holman H, Barreto TW, et al. Point-of-care ultrasound in family medicine residencies 5-year update: a CERA study. *Fam Med*. 2020;52(7):505-511. doi:[10.22454/FamMed.2020.223648](https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2020.223648)



Ann Fam Med 2025;23:174-175. <https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.250098>

SUPPORT FOR THE WHO RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

The North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) is dedicated to advancing the World Health Organization's (WHO) Resolution on Social Participation for Universal Health Coverage, Health, and Well-Being. This groundbreaking resolution, approved by the WHO on June 1, 2024, emphasizes how essential it is to involve individuals, families, and communities in shaping health decisions—something NAPCRG has championed for years. At NAPCRG, we're all about nurturing researchers and advancing people-centered, equitable health care. The WHO resolution reinforces why our work matters and why we must continue amplifying the voices of underrepresented and marginalized groups in health research. It's a call to action for us to keep pushing forward.

This reflects our ongoing commitment to participatory research, promoting health equity, and building strong collaborative networks. These aren't new ideas for us—they're woven into the fabric of NAPCRG. But this resolution gives us a renewed opportunity to align our efforts with a global movement toward universal health coverage. Recently, NAPCRG drafted a statement of support for the resolution. The NAPCRG Board of Directors approved the statement of support on February 7, 2025 and it can be found at the following link: <https://napcr.org/aboutus/bylawspolicies/statements/>.

Considering this resolution, NAPCRG reaffirms its dedication to the following goals:

Advancing Participatory Research

We will continue to support research methodologies that actively engage women and all those in vulnerable and/or marginalized situations (eg, persons with disabilities and Indigenous peoples) as active core participants, ensuring that their insights and experiences inform person-centered health care practices and policies.

Promoting Health Equity

Our initiatives will focus on reducing health disparities by engaging the whole of society including: not-for-profit, non-governmental, or charitable organizations, local communities, patients, health care clinicians and care workers in the health sector, youth and volunteers in the research process, thereby ensuring that health interventions are co-created and accessible so that they are developed with cultural humility, gender equity, and spiritual humility.

Enhancing Collaborative Networks

We aim to build upon and strengthen our partnerships with international health organizations, health care practitioners, policy makers, and communities to promote social participation as a cornerstone of health system development.

Global problems need global teamwork. NAPCRG's partnerships with international health organizations, policy makers, and communities are crucial for advancing social participation in health. By working together, we share ideas, learn from each other, and find innovative solutions to common challenges. By embracing the principles outlined in the WHO resolution, NAPCRG is committed to contributing to the global movement towards health systems that are inclusive, participatory, and respond to the needs of all people.

T.C. (Tim) olde Hartman, MD, GP/FP, PbD and Tom Vansagbi, PbD



Ann Fam Med 2025;23:175-176. <https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.250096>

ADDRESSING RESEARCH PATHWAY GAPS: INSIGHTS FROM A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AT THE AAFP FUTURE CONFERENCE

The pursuit of a career in family medicine presents medical students and residents with a myriad of opportunities for professional development. One such avenue is to incorporate research into their careers, a road that can not only sharpen critical thinking but also enrich clinical practice.¹⁻² The journey into research can often appear daunting, however, characterized by perceived barriers such as lack of mentorship and protected time, unclear pathways, inadequate resources, and insufficient practical guidance.³⁻⁶ In response to these challenges, and in service of the new National Strategic Plan for Family Medicine Research which targets addressing some of these barriers, our team conducted a needs assessment survey at the 2024 AAFP FUTURE Conference which is focused on and attended by medical students interested in residency training in family medicine. This survey was comprised of 6 questions focusing on the role of research within medical education and career advancement in family medicine (questionnaire available on request).⁷

Survey Results: Quantitative Insights Into Research Interests and Needs

The needs assessment survey collected responses from 62 medical students from across the United States and abroad. The online survey was distributed by way of a QR code introduced at the conference by a faculty member to participants selected by convenience. Here are the key findings:

First Impressions of Research are Diverse

When asked about their first word association with "research," responses varied widely, with "Lab," "Data," "Innovation," and "Publications" being among the most common (Figure 1). However, terms like "Hard," "Intimidating," "Stress," and "Difficult" also featured prominently, indicating mixed perceptions and potential apprehension about engaging in research.

Interest in Research Careers is Substantial

A full one-third of respondents (34.4%, n = 21) expressed definite interest in pursuing research as part of their future career. Another one-half (52.5%, n = 32) remained unsure and 13.1% (n = 8) were uninterested, indicating a need to address the barriers and misconceptions that may be influencing these perspectives.

Awareness of ACGME Scholarship Requirements is Low

It is common for medical students to be unaware of the ACGME scholarship requirements during their early training, as reflected by 77.4% of respondents (n = 48) who indicated a lack of awareness. This finding presents an opportunity to introduce educational initiatives designed to familiarize students with the broad array of scholarly activities recognized by ACGME, such as original research, evidence synthesis, quality improvement projects, and educational material

Figure 1. Word Cloud Representation of Survey Responses



This word cloud visualizes the most frequently mentioned words from participant responses to "What is the first word that pops into your head when hearing the word research?" (61 respondents providing 67 words), with the size of each word reflecting its frequency of occurrence. Larger words indicate a higher frequency, capturing key themes and perceptions associated with the concept of research among survey participants.