

The 74th Congress of Delegates of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians was held May 21-22 as both a live and virtual event. The live meeting was held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany.

The following members were elected to the board and other offices:

President	Andrew Symons, MD*
President-Elect	Heather Paladine, MD
Vice President	Rachelle Brilliant, DO, FAAFP
Secretary	Ani Bodoutchian, MD, FAAFP
Treasurer	Dan Young, MD
Delegate to AAFP (downstate)	Ray Ebarb, MD
Alt. Delegate to AAFP (downstate)	Barbara Keber, MD
Speaker – COD	Christine Doucet, MD, FAAFP
Vice Speaker – COD	Thomas Molnar, MD, FAAFP
Three Directors (3)	Lily Eisenberg, MD Jane Simpson, DO Wayne Strouse, MD
Student Representative Upstate	Sarah Theiner
Alt. Student Representative Upstate	Alicia Ciringione
Student Representative Downstate	Naveed Nikpour
Alt. Student Rep. Downstate	Jacqueline Liu
Student Delegate Upstate to COD	Valentina Sedlacek
Alt. Upstate Student Del. to COD	Caehla McGeady
Student Del. Downstate to COD	Nabilah Z Nishat
Alt. Student Del. Downstate to COD	Samantha Calpo
Del. to AAFP National Student Congress	Paige Cobb
Alt. Del. AAFP National Student Congress	Cameron Clarke
Winter Weekend Student Rep(s)	Srishty Amarnani and Megan Cavanaugh
Resident Representative Upstate	Eric Burdge, MD
Alternate Resident Representative Upstate	Terence Meehan, MD
Resident Representative Downstate	Aerial Petty, DO
Alt. Resident Representative Downstate	Lewis Wong, MD
Delegate to AAFP National Conference	Eda Akyar, MD
Winter Weekend Resident Rep(s)	Moses Syldort, MD and Izi Fenimigho, MD

As always there was robust discussion about a broad range of resolutions. Resolutions typically address issues of importance to your patients, to your professional life, to the running of your practice. Many of these resolutions address continuing issues in the practice of family medicine and some address the cutting-edge challenges family physicians face.

Below we have bolded the general category this year's resolutions fall into for your easy reference.

Delegates acted on several resolutions to address **NYSAFP governance issues**. Two Bylaws amendments were adopted. One would establish geographic location as a criterion in electing the president-elect and the delegates and alternates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates. The intent is to assure geographic balance in the election of members to fill these offices. The procedures of the COD were also amended to provide the opportunity for the maker of a resolution to have the last word in testifying about the resolution during reference committee hearings.

Resolutions addressing **health care system reform** were also adopted. A resolution was approved to oppose the Accountable Care Organizations-Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (ACO-REACH) program because vendors in this program are permitted to retain 40% of payments as profits. Furthermore, this program establishes additional layers of bureaucracy and administrative requirements which exacerbates administrative burden for physicians. Delegates passed another pro-single payer resolution to require the AAFP to denounce the multi-payer system and advocate more vigorously for health care system reform to produce a system that is Universal, Simple and Affordable (USA). Another resolution adopted requires NYSAFP to poll members regarding support for single payer. A resolution will also be introduced at the AAFP COD in September to require the AAFP to poll its members regarding single payer.

Several resolutions provide for **insurance coverage reforms**. One requires NYSAFP to seek and support legislation or regulations to require plans to provide timely and affordable access to lab services and that the State assist plans in doing so by providing access to the State lab and/or commercial labs which the State may contract with to perform such tests. It also requires NYSAFP to oppose designation of selected labs as preferred and to prohibit plans from designating lab(s) as preferred and limiting patient access only to such preferred labs. Delegates also adopted a resolution to require Medicare Part B coverage of all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended vaccinations including when given in the physician's office.

Climate change and health was the subject of two resolutions adopted. One requires NYSAFP to support public policies in New York that protect current and future generations and public policies and programs to protect the communities that are affected most by the changing climate. Delegates also adopted a resolution to encourage every New York State family medicine residency program and medical school to educate current and future physicians on the impact of climate change on human health and their role in addressing the topic with their patients.

There were resolutions regarding **reproductive health care**. One endorsed approval of over-the-counter oral contraceptives. Another supported laws to protect physicians who provide abortion services across state lines. Delegates also approved a resolution opposing restrictions on access to FDA approved medications or which would criminalize prescribing medications for abortion or treatment of patients undergoing gender transformation. This resolution was in response to enactment of laws in several states which criminalize abortion or gender transformation care and attempt to prohibit out-of-state physicians from prescribing medication abortion or medication to support gender transformation to patients within that state.

A resolution supporting **increased funding for safety net hospitals** was passed. It requires NYSAFP to advocate for prioritization of safety net hospitals in the distribution of Indigent Care Pool and Disproportionate Share Hospital funding by states.

Residency training was addressed in a resolution to oppose residency program collaboration with Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs). This resolution also opposed use of federal funds to support CPCs.

Delegates adopted a resolution to address **equity in coverage**. It opposes segregation of patients on the basis of health insurance status by hospitals and other providers.

A resolution endorses the principal that **telehealth services** provided by a primary care physician to an established primary care patient should be reimbursable and legally allowed regardless of where the patient is located as long as the physician has a license in the state in which the physician is located.

The COD is the policy making body of the NYSAFP. All members are welcome to participate, to introduce resolutions and to comment on resolutions. To submit an idea for a resolution contact your county delegate or email our EVP and CEO, Vito Grasso, MPA, CAE at vito@nysafp.org.