

MAFP Year in Review

During our annual business meeting on March 21st, I presented MAFP accomplishments for the past year - and there were many. We have launched a new Instagram and Facebook page with new postings on them almost weekly. Go check them out if you haven't yet. Our Communications Committee co-chairs Lydia Thorpe, MD and Jessica Faraci MD, FAAFP have done a tremendous job adding relevant content. We have also been reorganizing our website to ensure it provides up to date, helpful information that is easy to find. Look out for more changes in the next few months and share any feedback you have. We made an effort this past year to focus more on our residents and medical students by sponsoring 3 events for Tufts and UNE medical students, 1 event for the CMMC residents, 1 event for the Northern Light residents, and 3 events for high school students around the state interested in entering a healthcare field. A special thank you to Isabella Taylor DO and Katie Adams MD, FAAFP for conducting the residency events.

We also held our annual Advocacy Day February 18-19 where more than 20 family physicians, residents, and medical students gathered at the Maine State House in Augusta. We were also quite active advocating for family medicine and for all Mainers. We testified on bills to promote immunizations, protect rural maternity care, increase investment in primary care, and help Mainers pay for health insurance. Our advocacy committee co-chair, Brendan Prast, MD, co-authored two letters to the editor with the Maine chapter of AAP promoting immunization for measles and protecting the current vaccination schedule. We signed an amicus brief to the US Court of Appeals with the Maine Medical Association to protect access to reproductive health care in Maine and were part of a press release with other physician organizations in Maine opposing CDC's decision to change their immunization schedule.

I'm especially proud of our new Rural Maternity Care Taskforce that we created and that has been meeting every two months. Their mission is to support family doctors practicing obstetrics and to advocate to maintain maternity care in rural communities - thank you Florence Dasrath, MD and Marya Goettsche-Spurling, MD, FAAFP for leading this task force. I'm grateful to lead this board with so many board members passionate about family medicine. They willingly volunteer so much time to advance our specialty and to support you -- our MAFP members.

Marco Cornelio, MD

MAFP President