

2019 Report
ADFM Liaison
to the
Center for the History of Family Medicine

The mission of the CHFM is to “serve as the principal resource center for the collection, conservation, study, exhibition and dissemination of materials relating to the evolving history of the specialty of Family Medicine in the United States.”

The CHFM is the official repository devoted to preserving the history of family medicine; the CHFM is *the* collective memory of our specialty. As such, it serves three roles: it is an archive, a historical research library, and a museum. It is a repository of books, historical documents and other materials that are important to the ongoing development of family medicine.

If you visit the CHFM (and I hope you will), you *will not see* manicured exhibits of old medical equipment or bottles of snake oil. Rather, you will see boxes of organized historical documents, photographs, artifacts, DVDs and other audio-visual materials, oral histories, books, and personal and professional papers of family physician leaders. You might also see a family physician or non-family physician scholar digging into the boxes.

Anyone who loves libraries, museums, archives, and history will love the CHFM!

Academic medicine has a disproportionately large archival presence in the CHFM. Information is catalogued on the development of all of the organizations that currently comprise the Family of Family Medicine (ADFM, as well as the AAFP, AAFP Foundation, STFM, ABFM, AFMRD, NAPCRG and the ACOFP). Collections on academic leaders of family medicine are among the holdings.

The CHFM is housed on the fourth floor of the AAFP headquarters building in Leawood, Kansas and is administered by the AAFP Foundation. Don Ivey is the manager of the Center. Don is an expert curator. The CHFM has an online presence at <http://www.aafpfoundation.org/foundation/chfm.html>.

The ADFM is one of eight organizations that contribute financially to the development of an endowment to support the activities of the CHFM. Currently, the ADFM contributes \$1000 a year to the endowment.

The annual in-person meeting of the CHFM Board of Curators occurred on November 16, 2019 in Leawood, Kansas. Several items of note to ADFM members were discussed at the meeting. First, many departments and residency programs are having 50th anniversary celebrations and are putting together histories and accumulating archival information on their programs. Many departments have extant written histories and other important documents about their departments and residency programs as well as papers from some of the formative leaders of family medicine that should be conserved and made available to researchers at the CHFM. The CHFM would be interested in receiving copies of these materials. Second, the CHFM offers a History of Family Medicine Fellowship that offers a small stipend if you have a faculty interested in pursuing research on history pertinent to our specialty. Kate Rowland MD, MD is the current fellow. <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/foundation/chfm/about/news.html>. Third, the CHFM is within striking distance of having its annual expenses covered through an endowed fund. It is estimated that the point of cross-over when interest from the endowment exceeds operational expenses will occur in 5 – 8 years.

I have three recommendations to the ADFM and its members.

Recommendation #1: the ADFM set up a link to the Center for the History of Family Medicine on the ADFM website.

Recommendation #2: ADFM member departments, chairs and other faculty make a personal tax-deductible financial contribution to the CHFM Endowment. For more information, please visit: <http://www.aafpfoundation.org/foundation/get-involved/give/ways-to-donate.html>. You must specifically request that your donation go to the CHFM.

Recommendation #3: ADFM member departments of family medicine make material donations to the CHFM of historical documents pertinent to the history and development of their departments, residency programs and family medicine.

You can mail this material to Don Ivey, Center for the History of Family Medicine, 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 440, Leawood, KS 66211-2672. E-mail Mr. Ivey at divey@aafp.org if you have questions about the document in your possession.

I appreciate the ADFM's confidence in appointing me to serve as the ADFM organizational liaison to the Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM).

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