

How to get help from your colleagues in ADFM

One of the real strengths of our organization is that our Department Chairs and Administrators are very willing to help their colleagues by sharing advice, resources, etc. Most often that happens through questions to the Chairs' or Administrators' listservs or by formal or informal networking at the Annual Conference. We encourage the use of these modes of help because most questions are often not unique to individual institutions and the answers shared in these for a can be useful for the whole group. We also enjoy a culture of "being a phone call away." Our Chairs and Administrators are very receptive to calls from one another just to talk over a problem or challenge.

What if you feel you need more tailored advice or consultation for your Department? Below, we list some options.

New Chair Advising

Every new chair in the organization is provided the opportunity to be assigned an advisor. These advisors not only introduce you to ADFM, but can provide some limited one-on-one advice as needed. Remember that all of us are busy, so have a candid discussion with your advisor about how much time they can devote to this and be willing to seek help through other means if your advisor cannot provide what you need. If you would like to be paired with an advisor, please contact Amanda Weidner (aweidner@adfm.org).

Interim Chair Hotline

The ADFM Leadership Development Committee has a "hotline" service for those who have been asked to become interim chairs in the near future or have been in the interim chair role a short time and have not yet been connected with an advisor, but have immediate questions related to the chair job. If you would like to be connected to someone for immediate questions related to taking a chair position or to being interim chair, please contact Amanda Weidner (aweidner@adfm.org).

New Administrator Mentorship

Every new Administrator participating in ADFM is provided the opportunity to be connected with a mentor from among the other Administrators whose department is similar in size and structure. Application forms and more information about the program and mentor/mentee roles [are available here](#).

Leadership & Management Dilemma Sessions at the Winter Meeting

This session occurs yearly at the Annual Conference. Several individuals present specific dilemmas from their institutions to the audience in a relaxed and private dinner format. Presenters will be solicited before the conference through the listservs.

Other informal connections at the Annual Conference

Our annual in-person conference is a great place to network and get informal advice from your peers – individually or in groups (by geography, gender, etc.). Take advantage of the time together to reach out to your colleagues to touch base about your ideas and your challenges.

Formal Peer Consultations

While ADFM does not have the resources to offer a formal consultation service, we can help facilitate such a consultation by helping you find the right peer(s) to help you. Your department or institution will be responsible for the cost of the consultation - travel expenses and usually some sort of honorarium. To best prepare for the consultation, you should have a few specific questions to be answered, any relevant background documentation on these questions (history, agreements, regulatory documents, etc), and a draft plan for an on-site visit (including time for discussions with both your faculty and your supervisors).

Building Research Capacity (BRC) Consultations

This is a formal consultation program focused on improving the quality and amount of research in Family Medicine Departments. BRC will provide both brief and extended consultation services through this ADFM/NAPCRG collaboration to provide support for departments trying to develop research capacity and activity. Fees do apply. [Learn more about BRC here.](#)

Questions?

Contact Amanda Weidner, aweidner@adfm.org.

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