

ADFM CERA Liaison Report

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CERA Vision

excellent family medicine educational research

CERA Mission

Provide a centralized infrastructure to:

- Produce rigorous and generalizable medical education research
- Facilitate collaboration between medical education researchers
- Provide training and mentorship in educational research methods

CERA (the CAFM Educational Research Alliance) is a systematic way to survey our educators with high quality, peer-reviewed surveys that limit the number of surveys we all get from our academic Family Medicine family. Faculty submit questions through a call for proposals process, these questions are vetted by the CERA Steering Committee, and one of our Steering Committee members assists faculty in the analysis and publication/presentation of the results.

Six surveys are scheduled for 2020, one each to Clerkship Directors, and the general membership, two to Program Directors, and two new constituency groups – FM residents and AAFP Student members. We will not be surveying us, the Department Chairs this year. The number of submissions for the dept chair survey has been down over the last couple of years, so we're taking a year off. The 2020 survey schedule is shared at the end of this report.

To date, there have been 97 published papers and 135 presentations. In 2019 alone, there were 11 publications and 12 presentations. The call for proposals for the Clerkship Directors survey just closed earlier this week. The next survey call will be issued in May for Program Directors with the survey going live in mid-September.

The CERA Steering Committee awards a **Paper of the Year award** at the annual STFM Conference to the first author of the best paper published using CERA data in the previous calendar year.

One new initiative being proposed is a **CERA fellowship** to train an upcoming academic family physician to conduct high quality educational research, and develop leadership skills for academic family medicine.

CERA is **collaborating with ABFM to survey residency directors about curricula and link data to future graduate surveys**. Connecting residency curricula to practice patterns of graduates has the potential to promote an outcomes-focused curriculum design. Residency directors will be asked to provide their residency ACGME identification numbers as part of this survey with the knowledge that this will be stripped off later to de-identify the data. The results will then be linked with an already planned annual graduation survey conducted by ABFM. This survey will be done three years after the program directors' survey. In this way, current residency practice can be linked with future graduate outcomes. ABFM has agreed to conduct

the linking, creating a “dummy” code for each residency, and then stripping off the residency identification code. ABFM will then provide the de-identified data to research teams.

Having accurate knowledge about family medicine residency education is critical to understanding how residents are being trained and to provide knowledge that can positively influence how residents are trained in the future. This program director survey aims to document the current basic characteristics of family medicine residencies, specifically their curricula, infrastructure, and faculty models. The graduate survey aims to document the practice of recent graduates in regards to their breadth of practice and specific practice features. The graduate survey will also document their perceptions about the quality of their training and how prepared for practice their training made them. By linking these two surveys, researchers will be able to correlate specific residency program features with graduate outcomes, such as practice patterns and satisfaction. This will generate a level of understanding of the impact of our residents’ educational experiences that has the potential for changing the way we train our future family physicians.

I believe the work that CERA is producing is important to academic family medicine as it helps us publish high quality educational survey research, and this new collaboration with the board has the potential of demonstrating what works and what doesn’t in creating well-trained family physicians. Here is a link to CERA publications and presentations: <https://www.stfm.org/publicationsresearch/cera/pasttopicsanddata/cerapublicationsandpresentations/>. Although these are not listed by Department or Institution, a quick scan of the topics suggests that a number of our Departments have been involved and that many address issues we are concerned with in our Departments of Family Medicine.

An untapped resource is the **Clearinghouse of CERA data** which can be tapped by any member of a CAFM organization for data analysis and publication purposes. CERA is one of the little known benefits which CAFM organization member dues help support. Since all of our residents are required to conduct a research study, one fairly easy way to accomplish this is with the use of secondary data – that is data that has already been collected. Our CERA data warehouse is available for all our faculty and residents to use.

2020 Survey Schedule

Audience	Call for Proposals	Proposals Selected	Final Questions Due	Survey to IRB	Survey Dates
Program Directors (17)	12/17/19-1/10/20	1/24/20	3/5/20	3/16/20	4/13/20-4/30/20
Residents	12/17/19-1/10/20	1/24/20	3/5/20	3/16/20	4/13/20-4/30/20
Clerkship Directors	1/24/20-2/7/20	2/21/19	4/3/20	4/14/20	5/19/20-6/2/20
Program Directors (18)	5/26/20-6/9/20	6/23/20	8/4/20	8/15/20	9/15/20-9/30/20
General Membership	6/23/20-7/7/20	7/21/19	9/1/20	9/12/20	10/12/20-10/28/20
Students	6/23/20-7/7/20	7/21/19	9/1/20	9/12/20	10/12/20-10/28/20