

**2021 Report**  
**ADFM Liaison**  
**to the**  
**Center for the History of Family Medicine**

During the last year, the Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM; the Center) reached a major milestone. In 1998, the leadership of the Center set a goal that the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (AAFPF; the Foundation) establish an endowment that would allow the Center to be financially self-sufficient. Due to the contribution of Family of Family Medicine organizations and many individuals, the endowment has grown to the point that the Center can now self-fund all of its operational costs, including personnel salaries and benefits. This means that more funding can be directed to various new projects by the Center and the Foundation. There are some indirect costs of the Center that are still borne by the AAFPf and as the endowment continues to grow, we anticipate being able to cover those remaining costs as well. Thank you to the ADFM for contributing \$1,000 to the endowment. The Center is an important resource that helps us learn from the past and will guide us in the future.

With that background, two new projects of the Center will be of interest to ADFM members. First, we are documenting the experiences of family physicians to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you or your faculty, residents, and students would like to document your personal or organization's experiences with the pandemic, please do so. You can request a writing guide from Center manager, Crystal Bauer, at [cbauer@aafp.org](mailto:cbauer@aafp.org). Think about what historians in the future will learn from your experiences, just as we have learned in 2020 from the influenza pandemic of 1918.

Second, the guidelines for a student and resident essay contest are being finalized. The focus of the essay will be on a historical dimension of family medicine. Look for an announcement soon.

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 It is a repository of books, historical documents and other materials that are important to the ongoing development of family medicine.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 and 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 will likely 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. The CHFM has an online presence at <http://www.aafpfoundation.org/foundation/chfm.html>.

The annual meeting of the CHFM Board of Curators was held virtually on November 22, 2020 in Leawood, Kansas. Several items of note to ADFM members were discussed at the meeting.

First, many departments and residency programs are having 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and are accumulating archival information and printing histories about 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 CHF. The CHF would be interested in receiving copies of these materials.

Second, the CHF offers a History of Family Medicine Fellowship that offers a stipend. If you have a faculty member, residents or medical students interested in pursuing research on history pertinent to our specialty, please have them look into the fellowship here: <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/sandra-l-panther-fellowship.html> .

Third, you can request free copies of the “Pocket History of Family Medicine” published by the CHF in packets of 180. This pocket history can be used to enlighten residents and faculty about the rich history of family medicine and can be used as a recruitment tool for medical students.

Fourth, the Center website has been updated. It now includes a listing of the various collections of the Center. Just google “Center for the History of Family Medicine” and take a look around.

I have three recommendations to the ADFM and its members.

Recommendation #1: ADFM member departments, chairs and other faculty make a personal tax-deductible financial contribution to the CHF Endowment. For more information, please visit the AAFP Foundation page at <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/donate.html>.

Recommendation #2: ADFM continue to make an annual contribution to the CHF endowment.

Recommendation #3: ADFM member departments of family medicine make material donations to the CHF of historical documents pertinent to the history and development of their departments and residency programs and family medicine in general. You can send this material to Crystal Bauer, Center for the History of Family Medicine, 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 440,

Leawood, KS 66211-2672 or [cbauer@aafp.org](mailto:cbauer@aafp.org). if you have questions about the documents in your possession, please contact Ms. Bauer.

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.

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