

CAFM Educational Research Alliance (CERA)

Date: March 2024

Individuals Submitting This Report: Heather Paladine, MD, CERA director; Sam Grammer

1. Status of Program (please type an X before appropriate option):

- Green:** On target with achieving objectives/timeline.
 Yellow: Caution - program moving forward but key areas need attention.
 Red: Not hitting multiple targets.

2. REQUESTED ACTIONS FOR STFM Board: (i.e., feedback requested on areas of concern, additional fiscal note/resources requested, etc.): None.

3. Program Goals

CERA Vision
 excellent family medicine educational research

CERA Mission

Provide a centralized infrastructure to:

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

4. Program Smart Objectives

Note: The SMART objective for the student/resident survey from 2022 was not achieved and was removed in 2023. These surveys are currently on hold as the committee works on rebuilding the framework for the survey to increase the response rate.

SMART Objective	2023	2022	2021
Each core survey (Program Director, Clerkship Director, Dept Chair, and General Membership) will each receive at least 7 submissions.	81	43*	84
CERA participants will generate at least 25 presentations and/or peer-reviewed papers annually**	44	41	33
CERA will maintain an active mentor list of at least 50 mentors. An active mentor is defined as someone who has served as a mentor in the last 3 years.	42		
CERA Steering Committee will have at least 4 national/regional presentations per year to educate on survey research methodology and increase collaboration among family medicine researchers	5	2	0

* There was no call for proposals for the student or resident surveys; 7 proposals from the past resident and student surveys were used

** CERA sees presentations and publications as an outside validation on the quality of research of these projects.

5. Attendance/program participation (3-year history, if applicable):

Expect maintenance or some growth in attendance for activities. Steady decline in attendance is an indication that issues need to be addressed.

	(2023)	(2022)	(2021)
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# of Accepted Research Team Proposals*	(5 surveys) 26	(7 surveys) 31**	(5 surveys) 24
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*This is an internal marker of research quality by the survey directors.

** Includes the 7 resident and student proposals from previous surveys

BACKGROUND:

6. Program Description:

The CAFM Educational Research Alliance (CERA) is a framework to focus and support medical education research. CERA is a joint project of the Council of Academic Family Medicine (CAFM) which consists of STFM, ADFM, NAPCRG, and AFMRD. Expenses are shared by member organizations, and STFM provides administrative support for the initiative.

CERA conducts 5-6 surveys per year, generally of various subsets of CAFM membership. Each survey includes questions submitted by CAFM members on multiple subjects, as well as a set of recurring questions to provide data for historical comparisons. CERA added resident and student surveys in 2020.

Researchers receive their individual survey results, plus the demographic and organizational information. Individuals who submit survey questions are given 3 months to analyze the data before it is released to the general membership. The expectation is that investigators will write and submit a paper within those 3 months. Data is collected through STFM and housed at STFM under the oversight of CERA. CERA has had three directors: Chip Mainous, PhD (founding director); Dean Seehusen, MD; and now Heather Paladine, MD.

STFM staff:

- Sam Grammer, project liaison, and Ray Biggs, MBA, IT support