

2024 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 It is a repository of books, historical documents and other materials that are important to the ongoing development of family medicine.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 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 Rather, you will see boxes of organized historical documents, photographs, artifacts, DVDs and other audio-visual materials, oral histories, books, and personal and professional papers of family physician leaders.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!

The CHFM is housed on the fourth floor of the AAFP headquarters building in Leawood, Kansas and is administered by the AAFP Foundation. If you cannot visit in person, the CHFM has an online presence at <http://www.aafpfoundation.org/foundation/chfm.html> (or just google “Center for the History of Family Medicine”) and take a look around. Center holdings are in the process of being digitized, an enormous and expensive undertaking.

Information is catalogued on the development of all the organizations that currently comprise the “Family of Family Medicine” (ADFM, AAFP, AAFP Foundation, STFM, ABFM, AFMRD, NAPCRG and the ACOFP). Collections on academic leaders of family medicine are among the holdings.

In my opinion, compared to any other family medicine organization, as the academic leader of family medicine organizations, ADFM has the most to gain from CHFM activities. The CHFM Board of Curators appreciates the financial support from ADFM. The \$4 million CHFM endowment that ADFM helped to establish, fully funds the operational costs of the CHFM. The endowment continues to build.

I want to make ADFM member departments aware of six actionable items.

First, the Center is now offering grants to help conduct oral histories. Interested in documenting the history of your department or residency? CHFM provides up to \$3000 in grants to support the creation of oral history interviews focused on family medicine. Mēlanie Douglass is the recipient of the 2023 grant to conduct oral histories on her project “Mining the Medicine: From the Dining Room to the Doctors Office.” For more information and to apply for a oral history grant, go here: <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/chfm-oral-history-grant.html>

Second, the CHFM offers the Sandra L. Panther Fellowship in the History of Family Medicine. This fellowship offers a \$3,000 stipend for an individual pursuing research on history pertinent to our specialty. Diane Jarrett EdD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, was awarded the 2023 Sandra L. Panther Fellowship to study “The Family Physician on TV: A Reflection of Societal Changes, 1969-1976”. More information, including a fellowship application, can be found at: <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/sandra-l-panther-fellowship.html> .

Third, a student and resident essay contest is offered through the CHFM. The focus of the essay should be on a historical dimension of family medicine. The first-place winner receives \$1,000 and the second-place winner receives a \$500 award. The 2023 first place winner was Joshua Smith, MD from the University of Cincinnati/The Christ Hospital Family Medicine-Psychiatry Residency Program for his essay titled “Family Physicians and Unintended Consequences.” Visit <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/chfm-student-and-resident-essay-contest.html#> for details about the 2024 essay contest rules.

Fourth, many departments and residency programs are having 50th 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 CHFM. The CHFM would be interested in receiving copies of these materials. You can send this material to Natalie Gaspard, Center for the History of Family Medicine, 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 440, Leawood, KS 66211-2672 or ngaspard@aafp.org if you have questions about the documents in your possession, please contact Natalie.

Fifth, you can request free copies of the “Pocket History of Family Medicine” published by the CHFM 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.

Finally, ADFM member departments, chairs and other faculty should consider making a tax-deductible financial contribution to the CHFM Endowment. For more information, please visit the AAFP Foundation page at <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/donate.html>.

I appreciate the ADFM's confidence in appointing me to serve as the ADFM organizational liaison to the CHFM. Beth Rosemergy DO, Chair of the Department of Community and Family Medicine at the University of Missouri – Kansas City, has been appointed as the next ADFM liaison to the CHFM Board of Curators. We conducted a warm hand-off on December 15, 2023 and Beth is ready to go.

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