Dear Members and Friends:

The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians’s first full year under our new strategic plan produced a whirlwind of activity as we worked to achieve six strategic objectives:

- Help members navigate payment reform in a value-based environment
- Bring the joy back to family medicine
- Lead the enhanced primary care movement in Ohio
- Pursue opportunities where family physicians can improve population health
- Ensure Academy members receive value for membership
- Support the Foundation’s mission and vision to ensure a sufficient family medicine workforce for Ohio.

To review the year’s specific activities around these six strategic objectives, we will explore through each of the OAFP’s organizational pillars—Policy and Pipeline; Practice Success and Payment for Value; Professional Satisfaction and Wellness; and Quality Improvement, Continuing Medical Education (CME), and Population Health. These pillars drive action through advocacy, communications, and education and are built on a strong foundation of operational success.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kauffman, MD, President
Ann M. Spicer, Executive Vice President

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The Public Policy Committee, the Family Medicine Educators Workgroup, and our affiliated partner—the OAFP Foundation—make up our policy and pipeline pillar and through this pillar, the OAFP boldly advocates on behalf of family medicine before the Ohio General Assembly and with the state regulatory boards and agencies that impact the practice of medicine.

Before the Ohio General Assembly:
• Tom Houston, MD, testified against legislation that would allow psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications for patients with mental illness.
• Randy Wexler, MD, testified in support of funding the Ohio Comprehensive Primary Care program in the state budget.
• Ryan Kauffman, MD, submitted testimony in support of creating a confidential reporting program for treating impaired physicians.

A strong coalition of physician organizations successfully negotiated removal, from a nurse practice bill, language that would have granted advanced practice nurses independent practice.

In addition, the OAFP advocated on specific legislation as follows:
• Supported funding of the family medicine line
• Described the epinephrine access legislation as a solution in search of a problem
• Supported Tobacco 21 legislation (making it unlawful to sell or distribute tobacco products to anyone under age 21)
• Opposed expanding the scope of practice for certified registered nurse anesthetists
• Opposed consumer fireworks legislation for safety reasons
• Attended multiple interested party meetings on bills proposing restrictions on primary care physicians’ ability to prescribe opioids for chronic pain.

The OAFP submitted comments to regulatory and administrative agencies on rules pertaining to drug compounding, price transparency, immunization issues, telemedicine, office-based opioid treatment, opioid prescribing for acute and chronic pain, and terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) licensure.

The OAFP met multiple times with the medical and pharmacy boards to resolve complaints about threatening emails regarding Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) compliance. We continue to work with both boards in an effort to improve OARRS functionality and the accuracy of reports generated through the OARRS system.
The OAFP messaged, through the media, that any health care reform must not cause Ohioans to lose their access and coverage to health care, denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions is unacceptable, and primary care is and must remain a critical and foundational component of any health care system. The OAFP also editorialized about the importance of science and investing in scientific research.

Ryan Kauffman, MD, and Don Mack, MD, attended the American Academy of Family Physicians State Legislative Conference held October 27-29, 2016, in Phoenix, AZ.

The newly created Family Medicine Educators Workgroup, chaired by Phil Diller, MD, met twice to address their charge to advocate for educational funding streams that support an adequate primary care workforce, to support the Foundation’s pipeline programs, and to make medical students and residents aware of the importance of Academy membership.

The Academy’s pipeline work relies heavily upon the student and resident programming of the OAFP Foundation. In May 2017, the OAFP Foundation adopted a new five-year development plan that includes revised mission (to cultivate student career choice in the specialty of family medicine) and vision (to ensure a thriving family physician workforce for Ohio) statements. Mel Marsh of Acorn Consulting facilitated the creation of the development plan. The process included a comprehensive environmental scan, personal interviews with 40 individuals, and a day-long retreat.

Additional pipeline efforts revolve around the Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative Workforce Learning Center where the OAFP is represented by Jon Seager, MD, and Ted Wymyslo, MD. Their focus remains Choose Ohio First Primary Care Scholarships, team-based training, and integrated curriculum.

In January 2017, ProMedica announced its plans to close The Toledo Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program. The OAFP reacted quickly and strongly to this announcement utilizing media and government contacts to pressure ProMedica to re-evaluate their decision. Consequently, ProMedica is working with St. Luke’s Hospital to keep the family medicine training positions in the Toledo community. As a result of our success, the OAFP created an online toolkit of resources designed to help other family medicine residencies that face similar issues.
PRACTICE SUCCESS AND PAYMENT FOR VALUE

The spring issue of *The Ohio Family Physician* focused on value-based payment models. Feature articles took a deep dive into the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative (CPC Classic); Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+), Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), and Ohio’s Department of Medicaid CPC program.

Ohio is the largest region with respect to practice sites selected for the Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) program. Of the 2,894 practice sites chosen nationally, Ohio has 562. Ohio also has the largest number of physicians and other health care professionals participating in CPC+. Of the 13,092 health care professionals chosen from across the country, 2,566 are in the Ohio project. The national CPC+ program is an advanced primary care medical home model that aims to strengthen primary care through regionally based multi-payer payment reform and care delivery transformation.

Repeal of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) and passage of MACRA are two of the most significant changes occurring in medicine in the last 40 years. Most family physicians will fall into the merit-based incentive payment system (MIPS) path under the Quality Payment Program (QPP). Throughout the year, the OAFP and its Value-Based Payment Committee kept members abreast of MACRA requirements and encouraged “Pick Your Pace” as a means to shift to value-based payment.

PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION AND WELLNESS

The Joy of Medicine Workgroup led the charge under our professional satisfaction and wellness pillar. The workgroup created a burnout and physician resiliency page on our website that has videos, articles, and online resources as well as information about the confidential services offered to physicians by the Ohio Physicians Health Program.

In addition, the workgroup launched Wellness Wednesdays, a monthly, interactive webinar series focused on enhancing professional and personal wellness. Offered every third Wednesday of the month, the series is facilitated by a licensed professional clinical counselor from the Ohio Physicians Health Program. Topics range from mindfulness and meditation to setting emotional boundaries and combating isolation. Participants can join a closed Facebook group for continued discussion and support, and webinars are archived on the OAFP website for convenient viewing.

The OAFP 2016 Family Physician of the Year Terry Wagner, DO, (left) of Stowe and Family Medicine Educator of the Year Christopher Bernheisel, MD, (right) of Cincinnati receive their awards from Stan Anderson, MD. The OAFP commissioned professionally-produced videos about these outstanding honorees, which can be viewed on the OAFP website at http://bit.ly/1cRSEi4. The Academy featured these videos during several OAFP events as a way to showcase inspirational family physicians.
The 2017 Members Assembly keynote speaker Dike Drummond, MD, CEO and founder of TheHappyMD.com, will help attendees learn how to recognize and prevent burnout, lower stress, and build a more balanced life.

In keeping with our finding your joy in family medicine theme, the winter issue of The Ohio Family Physician featured stories on families in family medicine. Our summer issue featured articles about how family physicians find their joy and keep things in balance for themselves.

The AAFP soon will be providing members with web-based self-assessment and planning tools and a “Wellness Planner.” Furthermore, the AAFP is developing an advocacy campaign to promote changing the culture of shame and blame that begins in medical school, and is often perpetuated through residency and into practice. Along similar lines, the OAFP is monitoring Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association efforts to conduct a survey on depression in medical trainees and will be basing future activities on research outcomes.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, CME, AND POPULATION HEALTH

For the first time, all of our annual team training programming occurred during one event—April 8’s Quality Improvement Summit. Practice teams broke into one of four topic areas (see bottom left) and utilized mapping exercises to figure out how to streamline office procedures in ways that provide enhanced efficiency, improved work environment, and better patient outcomes. Teams will track their progress for six months using online modules accredited by the American Board of Family Medicine. Photos from the event are pictured below.
This spring, the OAFP unveiled its newest member benefit—the Prevention and Management of Diabetes Performance Improvement Module. This free benefit offers members an online data collection module focused on diabetes. The module assists family physicians in the execution of a systematic, quality improvement initiative focused on preventing and managing diabetes. The OAFP continues to offer earlier developed modules on hypertension management and breast and cervical cancer prevention and early detection.

Hypertension was the topic of the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) knowledge self-assessment (KSA) and clinical self-assessment (CSA) program held during the 2016 Members Assembly. Held October 30, 2016, in partnership with the Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts and Wisconsin chapters, the OAFP’s virtual KSA/CSA focused on hospital medicine. The 2017 Members Assembly will feature a KSA/CSA on diabetes, in addition to a panel discussion on medical marijuana and an all-new conversational “ask your officers” session.

The OAFP hosted a hypertension management webinar on September 29, 2016, and an October 4, 2016, webinar outlining recent changes to the ABFM family medicine certification process. Core Content Review of Family Medicine, a home-study, CME program produced by the Ohio and Connecticut Academies of Family Physicians, continues to be an important source of non-dues income.

In response to action taken at last year’s annual meeting, Ryan Kauffman, MD, appointed a task force to propose a new system for addressing resolutions and policy proposals with the intent of making the process more inclusive, efficient, and knowledge-based. If the 2017 Members Assembly adopts the recommendations of the task force, members will be able to submit policy/resolution proposals throughout the year for timely consideration by the board.

The board’s mega issue discussions included conversations with Todd Baker, the new CEO of the OSMA, and Mike Abrams, president and CEO of the Ohio Hospital Association. The board also took a deep dive into the State Health Assessment and the drug pricing ballot initiative.
During the AAFP annual meeting in Orlando, the AAFP Foundation recognized Mary Jo Welker, MD, and husband Lloyd Welker as the 2016 AAFP Foundation Philanthropists of the Year.

Gary LeRoy, MD, is serving the second year of a three-year term on the AAFP Board of Directors. Joining him in national service are:

- Brian Bachelder, MD — AAFP Commission on Education
- Ryan Kauffmann, MD — AAFP Commission on Continuing Professional Development
- Mary Krebs, MD — AAFP Commission on Quality and Practice
- Mike Sevilla, MD — AAFP Commission on Membership and Member Services
- Colette Willins, MD — AAFP Delegate to the American Medical Association
- Ann Spicer — Chapter Executive, AAFP Commission on Health of the Public and Science
- Anna Askari — AAFP Delegate to the AMA Medical Student Section
- Kelsey Murray, MD — Family Medicine Interest Group National Coordinator
- Valerie Good, MD — AAFP Task Force on Tobacco Prevention and Control.

Tom Houston, MD, is the AAFP’s representative to the American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Steering Committee. Fred Miser, MD, is president-elect of the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors.

Don Mack, MD, and Ann Spicer traveled to Chicago in April to attend the American Society of Association Executives Symposium for Chief Elected/Executive Officers.

On April 26-29, 2017, 21 OAFP leaders converged on Kansas City for the Annual Chapter Leaders Forum (ACLF) and National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL). Once again, the OAFP sent a full delegation to NCCL:

- Wayne Ford, MD — Minority Representative
- Kathleen Meehan-de la Cruz, MD — GLBT Representative
- Mary Krebs, MD — Women Representative
- Tamer Said, MD — IMG Representative
- Brandon Crouch, MD — New Physician Representative.

Kathleen Meehan-de la Cruz, MD, was elected member constituency co-convener for the 2018 NCCL and member constituency alternate delegate to the 2017 AAFP Congress of Delegates.

During the OSMA annual meeting held April 1-3, Brian Bachelder, MD completed his term as OSMA president. Family physician Robyn Chatman, MD, is now OSMA president. Melissa Jefferis, MD, and Jeff Harwood, MD, continue to serve as the OAFP’s delegate and alternate delegate to the OSMA. Jeff Harwood, MD, was honored as OSMA’s 2016 Ohio Outstanding Team Physician.

Ann Spicer and Kate Mahler attended the AAFP Chapter Executives Leadership Program held October 13-14, 2016, in Las Vegas.

Valerie Good, MD; Selim Sheikh, DO; Haley Coleman, and Elana Curry represented OAFP resident and student members at the AAFP National Congress of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students held July 27-29, 2017, in Kansas City.

Summaries of all board, commission, and committee meetings held during the 2016-17 year, along with reviewed financial statements, are available at www.ohioafp.org.

THE FUTURE

As of April 15, 2017, the OAFP had 5,026 members in the following membership categories:

- 2,635 active
- 31 inactive
- 287 life
- 306 resident
- 1,760 student
- 7 supporting

With full knowledge that much still remains to be done, substantial progress has been made in our first year of work under our new strategic plan. No doubt—these are tough times in medicine. Value-based payment brings risks, but the potential for reward if appropriately implemented. Change fatigue, administrative burdens, and dysfunctional electronic health records have sapped joy from patient care—we want to bring that joy of family medicine back to you by easing practice burdens and giving you tools for self-care and professional satisfaction. Enhanced primary care, population health, membership value, and advocating for a sufficient family medicine pipeline for Ohio—all important and worthy objectives to achieve. More work to do; much more to be accomplished. Onward!