



FMIG Program of Excellence (PoE) Application

Please fill in the following:

1. Number of students in your medical school: About 500
2. Number of active FMIG members: About 200
3. Check all that apply to you:
 - Our school does not have a department of family medicine.
 - Our FMIG has minimal support from our state chapter.
 - Our school has minimal faculty support (i.e. from Dean, Dept. Chair, etc.)
4. Our FMIG has won this award in the past:
 - YES What years? 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008
 - NO
5. We intend to apply for [Select one]:
 - Overall award
 - Award for Excellence / Innovation in: [Select one]

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD APPLICATION:

- You must use this template for your application. Please complete all sections (unless #8 does not apply to you).***
- The length of this document should be between five and 15 pages. Any longer or shorter and your application will not be considered.***
- In answering questions #3-6, describe what your FMIG learned from the previous year(s), what enhancements/changes you made or what innovations were developed.***

1. Contact Information:
Faculty Advisor (Name, Address, E-mail and Phone Number):
FACULTY ADVISOR
Vanathi Siddaiah, MD
University of Mississippi School of Medicine
Department of Family Medicine
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39212
601-984-5447 (office)
601-984-5411 (fax)
VSIDDAIAH@SOM.UMSMED.EDU

Primary Student Contact (Name, Year in School, Address, E-mail and Phone Number):
STUDENT CONTACT:
Anegla Sood, M3
FMIG Vice President
265 Western Hills Drive



Jackson, MS 39212
601.209.6591
gsood@som.umsmed.edu

2. FMIG Operation: Provide a brief overview of how your FMIG operates, including your leadership structure, mission statement and goal(s), student involvement and retention, and the role of your faculty advisor.

FMIG OPERATION

FMIG MISSION STATEMENT/GOALS:

Founded at the University Of Mississippi School Of Medicine in 1975, the goals and mission of the Family Medicine Interest Group set forth originally in its constitution and bylaws have changed little over the years. Since its induction, the group has sought to promote interest, awareness, and understanding of the practice of Family Medicine through service, fellowship, scholarship and fun.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND DESCRIPTION OF ROLES

To help achieve the goals of the organization, the executive committee is comprised of seventeen positions filled by twenty-four qualified individuals, who are dedicated to the promotion of an interest in Family Medicine among our students. Below is a list of the current officers and a brief description of each position.

2008-2009 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Preston McDonnell

VICE PRESIDENT: Angela Sood

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Rebecca Rose

PAST PRESIDENT: Amber McIlwain

COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR: Cynthia Garrett

CO-SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR: Laura Jackson and Samuel Holdiness

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR: Ben Kilman

CLINICAL SKILLS COORDINATORS: Anna Marie Haley

2008 RESIDENCY FAIR CO-COORDINATORS: Laura Jackson and Samuel Holdiness

2009 RESIDENCY FAIR CO-COORDINATORS: Jessie Lavender and Anna Marie Haley

M4 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE: Brent Smith

M3 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE: Michael Foster

M2 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE: Sharkeshia Brady

M1 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE: Jessie Lavender

RESIDENT ADVISORS: Sonya Clemmons, Dionne Jackson and Martha Dempsey

FACULTY ADVISORS: Dr. Robert Forbes, Dr. Thais Tonore, and Dr. Vanathi Siddaiah

STAFF/FACULTY LIAISON: Chastity Carney



PRESIDENT

The president is the leader and a representative for FMIG. In addition to organizing and chairing all meetings (general meetings and officers' meetings), he or she acts as a liaison between the group and other entities. The FMIG president also sits on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians and serves as the Chapter Delegate to the National Conference of Family Practice Residents and Medical Students each year. The president is usually a third year medical student who serves as past president and acts in an advisory role during the next academic year.

VICE PRESIDENT

The vice president assists the president and is responsible for leading FMIG and chairing all meetings during the president's absence. He or she also serves as the Student Membership Liaison for the American Academy of Family Physicians. As such, the vice president is responsible for the annual M-1 Welcome Luncheon, our primary recruiting activity, and oversees all membership activities, including recruitment and submitting new applications to both the American and Mississippi Academies. The vice-president also reserves meeting rooms for the monthly general meetings and the monthly officers' meetings. Finally, it is the responsibility of the vice president to submit the Program of Excellence Awards Application toward the end of the academic year for which he/she serves.

SECRETARY

The FMIG secretary is responsible for keeping updated records for the organization. He or she maintains a directory of the officers' contact information and sends reminders for all monthly and officers' meetings. The secretary also records attendance and minutes from all meetings and distributes them to officers and faculty/staff advisors.

TREASURER

The treasurer is responsible for all financial activities of FMIG. This officer maintains and provides records of FMIG accounts, provides financial statements to the officers, and assists in receiving and depositing checks.

PAST PRESIDENT

As an advisor to the new executive committee, the past president helps ensure a smooth transition among officers from one academic year to the next. He or she is an invaluable source of wisdom and ideas to help improve the organization from one year to the next.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR

The community service coordinator is responsible for organizing creative, productive, and fun community service activities for FMIG members. Unifying FMIG members in service, this year's projects have included activities such as collecting money for community outreach, Thanksgiving dinner for the Ronald McDonald house, Christmas caroling, clothes and toiletry drive for the state hospital, Valentine's Day project at the children's hospital, and workdays at the local free clinic.

SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

The social events coordinator organizes the general lunch meetings as well as the annual FMIG Banquet, an event which brings together community leaders in Family Medicine and medical students to discuss current issues in the field. For both the monthly meetings and the banquet, the coordinator assists with securing speakers and sponsors, finding a location, catering, door prizes, setup and decorating.

CLINICAL SKILLS COORDINATOR

The clinical skills coordinator is a second year medical student who organizes clinical skills workshops for both the first and second year classes. Workshops are held each semester and usually led by Family Medicine faculty and residents. This year's topic included suturing skills.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR



The public affairs coordinator is responsible for documenting important FMIG events via photography. He or she submits articles and photographs to This Week at UMC, the weekly campus newspaper, and is responsible for maintaining an updated website for the organization.

RESIDENCY FAIR COORDINATOR

The residency fair coordinator performs the monumental task of organizing and coordinating our annual Family Medicine Residency Fair, the primary fundraiser of our FMIG. This officer, usually a first year student, is elected in the fall and works with the coordinator from the previous year during the initial planning of the fair. Planning for the fair begins in the spring when invitations are sent to regional residency programs and hospital recruiters. Then in the late summer and early fall, the coordinator arranges catering, exhibit layouts, program printing, and advertising for the event in addition to registering exhibitors and coordinating the setup of exhibits. During the fair, the coordinator ensures that the event runs smoothly and makes contacts for the next year's fair. For the 2009 fair, a committee comprising interested FMIG members will assist the coordinator with planning and implementing the day's events.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

The class representatives from each of the medical school classes serve as liaisons between the FMIG and each class. Elected by the executive committee, they are responsible for communicating FMIG news to their class members in addition to announcing meetings, posting flyers, and e-mailing the classes about FMIG events. Class representatives also assist with recruitment activities of the organization.

FACULTY ADVISOR

The faculty advisor is available to students for advice regarding the planning of FMIG events. He/She also works diligently to encourage students in FMIG to consider a career in Family Medicine. The advisor is a liaison between FMIG and other faculty members in the UMMC Department of Family Medicine.

STAFF LIAISON

The staff liaison ensures the smooth operation of the organization by serving as a link between students, the FMIG officers, and Family Medicine faculty, residents, and staff. She serves as a valuable source of information about various technical and historical details of the organization.

ELECTIONS

In April of each school year, the majority of the FMIG offices are filled via nominations at the monthly meeting and via e-mail to the secretary. Candidates are invited to attend the April officers' meeting at which they are questioned and allowed to ask questions of the current officers. New officers are elected via secret ballot by the executive committee after discussion.

In May, new officers are announced to the medical students via e-mail, and they officially assume duties. As a part of the transition process, these newly elected officers as well as outgoing officers meet to share pearls of wisdom about each position. During this time, a tentative calendar of events is planned for the next academic year. The M1 representative and residency fair coordinator are elected through a similar process during the fall of the next academic year once the incoming class of first year students arrives.

MEETINGS

FMIG meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. Advertising for the meeting is done by the chapter secretary who sends out e-mails, prints flyers, and posts them around campus. The secretary is assisted by the class representatives who make announcements to their respective classes and help post flyers. These meetings provide the opportunity for students to learn about current issues in Family Medicine and to network with local physicians, Family Medicine faculty &



residents, and other students interested in the field. Monthly meetings also serve as a forum to inform students about the ongoing activities of the organization.

Monthly meetings are usually sponsored by community hospitals, local family physicians, and others who are interested in encouraging students to pursue a career in Family Medicine. By providing lunch for FMIG meetings, these kind donations make it possible for the FMIG to use money generated by fundraising efforts to send students to various conferences and to support philanthropic efforts. Students are also allowed to interact with representatives from the various sponsors, thus exposing them to opportunities in Family Medicine that are different from those found in an academic institution.

On the second Wednesday of each month, FMIG officers meet to conduct the business of the chapter. Topics of discussion for the meetings often include potential speakers and sponsors for monthly lunch meetings, service project ideas, clinical skills workshops, and planning for the annual recruitment fair and banquet.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT/STUDENT RETENTION

The student and staff leadership of FMIG are passionate about stimulating as well as maintaining a continued interest in Family Medicine among students. Through the monthly lunch meetings, students are afforded the opportunity to hear from dynamic speakers about topics that illustrate both the breadth and depth of Family Medicine. Additionally, these meetings allow students to interact with community and staff physicians, UMMC Department of Family Medicine residents, and other students who share an interest in this field of medicine. During these meetings, students also sign up to participate in the community service activities of the organization. The following is a brief description of this year's monthly meetings:

June 2-4, 2008:

The first student event of the 2008-2009 school year was a three day workshop held by the FMIG Faculty advisors and other department physicians. This workshop was aimed at teaching rising M2 students a "crash course" in clinical skills. Dr. Thais Tonore, Dr. Vanathi Siddaiah, Dr. Judith Gearhart, and others covered basic clinical skills including how to perform a history and physical exam, suturing, venipuncture, and how to properly use tools such as stethoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, and otoscopes. Students were given the opportunity to practice these skills with each other and with real patients.

August 7, 2008:

The major recruiting effort of FMIG occurs during this first luncheon meeting of the year held during the first week of class. Our FMIG officers each have an opportunity to speak to the incoming M1 students and explain the purpose and activities of our organization. Students are also invited to the annual Family Medicine Residency and Opportunity Fair at this meeting. Representatives from our Family Medicine faculty as well as the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians introduce first year medical students to Family Medicine as a career and invite students to become members of the AAFP. As a result, over 100 members of the first year medical student class became members of FMIG and the AAFP. Faculty Advisor Dr. Thais Tonore also gave one of her famous pep talks to the M1 class. Lunch for this meeting was sponsored by UMMC Department of Family Medicine.

October 1, 2008:

Our October lunch meeting was sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Health. Linda Young, the Workforce Development Coordinator, was our speaker. She discussed various scholarship and loan repayment opportunities available to students willing to practice primary care in the state of Mississippi. Over 50 students attended this meeting.



November 5, 2008:

Dr. Bert Beisel, a family physician in Columbia, MS, was our guest speaker for our monthly luncheon. This meeting was sponsored by Hattiesburg Clinic. As this meeting was held the day after the presidential election, Dr. Beisel discussed the implications of the election on healthcare and in particular, issues that will face physicians in Mississippi and family physicians in general. As a native of Germany, he told stories of his circuitous route to medical school, choosing family medicine, and how he found himself practicing in rural Mississippi. Dr. Beisel is a returning speaker and is very popular with the students. Over 75 students attended this meeting.

JANUARY 15, 2009

The Annual FMIG Dinner Banquet was held during this month in lieu of the regular lunch meeting. Attended by 115 students, this event allowed FMIG members, Family Medicine faculty and residents came together to celebrate the accomplishments of the organization throughout the year.

This year's speaker, Dr. Shannon Pittman, is a proud graduate of the UMMC School of Medicine and the Department of Family Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Pittman is an Assistant Professor and Residency Director in the UMMC department of Family Medicine. She spoke on "Four Letter Words" that all physicians will deal with in their careers. Other special guests included representatives from the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians and sponsors including Baptist Health Systems, Hattiesburg Clinic, Jackson Heart Clinic, MAFP Foundation, and River Oaks Hospital.

Planned by the social events coordinator with assistance from other FMIG members, the banquet was held at the Capital Club of Jackson. The coordinator contacted a speaker and arranged catering and decorating.

Various businesses in the area were solicited via phone calls, e-mails, letters, and personal visits to sponsor the event with monetary donations and door prizes. Sponsors donated door prizes. They included Applebee's, Backyard Burger, Best Buy, Raisin' Cane's, Chick-Fil-A, Chili's, Nick's, Starbucks, and Target.

February 11, 2009

Our February meeting was sponsored by the UMMC department of Family Medicine. Over 70 students listened to faculty advisor Dr. Thais Tonore, Associate Professor and Director of Student Programs in Family Medicine, discuss the M3 family medicine rotation, available M4 electives in family medicine, and summer opportunities in family medicine for current M1 students. She also discussed ways for M1 and M2 students to become involved in family medicine. Current M2 students who had participated in the summer clinical skills workshop and department internships shared their experiences. Dr. Tonore also discussed a few of her more challenging patients that she had faced and did a "compare and contrast" of how family physicians view and interact with patients versus internists.

March 4, 2009

Our March meeting was hosted by Wesley Medical Center and featured one of our most popular returning speakers. Dr. Charles Griffith, a family physician who practices in Purvis, MS, and Hattiesburg, MS, gave an entertaining lecture on issues facing family physicians in Mississippi today. He touched on the business side of family medicine, and what led him to practice in rural Mississippi. He also discussed his daily schedule, which includes hospital inpatient service at a large hospital in Hattiesburg, clinic in the small town of Purvis, his emphasis on mental health and treating families as a whole, and his experiences with patients in prison and nursing homes.

MARCH 15, 2009

To congratulate the graduating medical school class of 2009, FMIG personalized Hershey's™ chocolate bars with wrappers containing the UMMC Family Medicine logo and the inscription



“Congratulations Class of 2009 from the Family Medicine Interest Group.” Over 100 chocolate bars were displayed and distributed at the reception following the Match Day Ceremony.

RECRUITMENT

The primary recruiting efforts of FMIG are aimed at encouraging first year medical students to become members of the organization. During orientation week for first year students, the interest group, in partnership with the departmental faculty, introduce students to opportunities available in Family Medicine. As a result, approximately 85% of each incoming class consistently joins FMIG and AAFP.

RETENTION

To keep all members involved in FMIG, the executive committee endeavors to pick different topics each year for monthly lunch meetings that will maintain student interest. The officers also select meaningful and enjoyable service projects. Additionally, student involvement is encouraged during all four years of medical school by encouraging students to hold an FMIG office. The leadership of FMIG is composed of members of all medical school classes. This allows the organization to stay connected to each class and to keep students informed.

FMIG also encourages student leaders to stay involved in the organization nationally by sponsoring several students to attend the AAFP national conference. By attending workshops and the recruitment fair as well as networking with other students and family physicians, our student leaders are able to develop innovative ideas for improving our local FMIG program. Last year we were able to send 2 representatives and with continued success in our fundraising efforts, we hope continue to send students to the conference each year.

3. Community Service: What does your FMIG do for the community? [If you have several community outreach activities, list all of them.] Also, if your FMIG collaborates with your school's SNMA chapter, describe your activities here.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service to the community was once again a primary focus for the UMMC chapter of FMIG. As a change from previous years, this year we challenged ourselves to at least one major service project per month. In addition to the scheduled projects, food left over from each meeting was distributed to the residents of the Ronald McDonald House located on campus.

We began the school year with a bang in August with our annual luncheon for the first year medical students. Each year this outreach meeting presents an opportunity for students to fellowship with family physicians and gain valuable information about family medicine.

September was extremely busy as members worked to gather donations and door prizes for the Annual Family Medicine Residency/Opportunity Fair.

The project for October was our annual service day at the Jackson Free Clinic. The JFC was originally established by FMIG as a Saturday clinic affording free health care to the underserved in Jackson. The clinic is staffed by students and various primary care physicians. On FMIG service day, students interested in family medicine volunteer with members of the UMMC family medicine faculty.

We choose to serve residents at the Ronald McDonald House during the holiday season. It was important to the group members that we provide extra love and attention to these families during this period. In celebration of Thanksgiving, FMIG members prepared and served a lasagna



dinner complete with dessert. As our Christmas project, we made it our initiative to purchase needed items (i.e. snacks, cleaning supplies, etc.) for the Ronald McDonald House.

January was extremely busy as members worked to gather donations and door prizes for the annual FMIG Dinner Banquet which was once again a major success. At the end of January members began collecting items to take to the Salvation Army. Donations were collected through the end of March.

Valentine's Day was dedicated to the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital. Members signed Valentine cards during the February lunch meeting. On Valentine's Day, several members distributed the cards to children on all floors of the hospital.

Several projects were scheduled for the month of March. During the March lunch meeting students were encouraged to use Spring Break as an opportunity to clean out their closets and serve their community. Several items were collected from students to donate to the Salvation Army, including several large pieces of furniture. In addition, FMIG provided good luck notes and candy bars to all senior medical students during the Match Day ceremony. Many members worked hard to package these gifts of congratulations for the UMMC senior class.

Members are scheduled to help build a house in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity in April.

4. Professional Development: What activities does your FMIG do to promote professional and/or leadership development among its members? If you describe a program that has been in existence for a number of years, please explain its *current significance*.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To aid in the development of leadership skills, professional development, and clinical skills among the FMIG members, workshops are held usually in coordination with other interest groups on campus (specifically the emergency medicine interest group) during the year for first and second year medical students. These activities are designed to help students make a smooth transition from the classroom to the wards by teaching basic clinical skills. The physicians instruct students on various suturing techniques as well as various situations that they may face in undergraduate rotations, residency, or in practice.

The annual Residency Opportunity Fair serves not only as an important effort to advocate Family Medicine, but also serves as a means for FMIG to allow its members to hone their leadership skills by organizing such a successful event and to promote professional development by promoting involvement with residency programs across the nation. Exhibitors from residency programs all over the southeast are given the opportunity to recruit qualified students, while students and residents gain the chance to explore the many options offered by a career in Family Medicine. Profit generated by the event is used to fund community service projects organized by FMIG and to sponsor meals at various events throughout the year. This money is also used to defray the cost of FMIG members' travel and other expenses to attend the AAFP students and residents meeting in Kansas City each year.

Officers also participate in the annual MAFP meeting in Destin, Florida. At the 2008 meeting, FMIG representatives assisted with the registration process and setup for the recruitment fair. They also helped staff the family fun night activities and had the opportunity to enjoy some fun in the sun. This unique experience allowed our officers to network with many local family doctors, thereby building professional relationships that will help foster increased support of FMIG from physicians across the state.

5. Exposure to Family Medicine and Family Physicians: Tell us what your FMIG does to expose its members to family physicians – in your medical school or community – and how the scope of family medicine is demonstrated.

EXPOSURE TO FAMILY MEDICINE AND FAMILY PHYSICIANS

The Family Medicine Interest Group seeks to foster an interest in the specialty through numerous activities. The monthly lunch meetings frequently feature family physicians from around the state who discuss a variety of topics ranging from patient care to practice in urban and rural settings. The UMMC Family Medicine residents' panel is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about the basics of Family Medicine. This is especially beneficial for the first and second year medical students who learned about the breadth of practice of Family Medicine, residents' lifestyles, community physicians' lifestyles, fellowship opportunities, and how to choose a specialty.

Community physicians also partner with FMIG by serving as preceptors for preclinical students. This year during the February lunch meeting as is customary, a member of the Family Medicine faculty, Dr. Tonore, informed students about the opportunity to work with a community physician during the summer after the first year of medical school. Students work with the preceptor for approximately 2-6 weeks, during which they begin to learn clinical skills that will be invaluable once they begin clinical rotations. FMIG members also participate in the Department of Family Medicine's day camp, an abbreviated 3 day summer program that allows students to learn clinical skills including the general physical exam, the musculoskeletal exam, venipuncture and basic medical tool usage.

Further opportunity to interact with the Family Medicine residents and faculty occurs through members' volunteer efforts at several local middle schools. Using their clinical knowledge to benefit the community, FMIG members work beside residents and faculty physicians to perform free pre-sports physicals. In addition to honing their clinical skills, FMIG members are afforded the opportunity to provide a much needed service and perhaps spark an interest in the minds of these young students to someday pursue a career in Family Medicine.

6. Promoting the Value of Primary Care: Describe what your FMIG does to tell members about the role of family medicine in enhancing primary care. This could include talking about the patient-centered medical home and the primary care workforce or coordinating activities with other primary care interest groups (internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN or emergency medicine).

PROMOTING THE VALUE OF PRIMARY CARE

The members of the Family Medicine Interest Group are constantly striving to make the organization better and to find new and creative ways to accomplish its goals. In the upcoming year, it is our goal to continue to send students to the AAFP national conference and to also send more students to the MAFP annual meeting in an effort to promote primary care through the specialty of family medicine. By becoming more involved with our state Academy, students will be able to interact with local doctors who are on the frontline battling Mississippi's health care problems, thereby encouraging more students to pursue a career in Family Medicine within Mississippi.

As a new change, FMIG is considering sponsoring a special project to promote primary care and family medicine as a career to medical students. The tentative plan is to schedule an evening meal instead of just a monthly meeting as was done previously. This meeting would be at a local restaurant, and invitations would be geared towards any interested medical students (specifically targeting third year students) to the event. The FM faculty at UMC will be invited along with residents, a couple of private practice physicians, and several fourth year students planning on pursuing FM in order to provide the students with a variety of experiences and opinions. Several topics of discussion may include the following: fourth year electives, opportunities for residencies across the nation, electives/specialties provided by FM, and other topics which remain to be

determined. This project potentially holds the capability of being very successful in promoting family medicine and primary care but the specifics of the project are still to be planned.

FMIG understands and values the essence of primary care and attempts to promote primary care through various mechanisms. The monthly lunch meetings are just one example of how FMIG provides an opportunity for both members and non-members to listen to FM physicians speak about the importance of primary care. In the future, it remains a significant goal to search for new ways in which to promote primary care and invite students to learn about the magnitude of primary care in our healthcare system.

7. Measures of Success: What programming elements has your FMIG considered successful? How do you track measurable improvements? This could include increasing membership, showing improvements in Family Medicine match rates among active FMIG members, or receiving recognition from your medical school/state chapter/AAFP.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

FMIG considers the involvement of its members in community service projects, in monthly meetings, and in any other FMIG designated projects a measure of momentous success. More specifically, the primary means by which FMIG measures its success is through the number of residency programs and local students that partake in the perks of the annual FMIG residency fair. A summary will be presented here on the 2008 residency fair with a mention of this project's current significance to FMIG.

The Seventh Annual Family Medicine Residency/Opportunity Fair was held on September 3, 2008. Twenty Nine residency programs, hospitals, and other exhibitors attended this event, representing five states in the Southeast region. Approximately 200 students and residents attended this fair. Exhibitors were given the opportunity to recruit qualified students, while students and residents gained the chance to explore the many options offered by a career in Family Medicine.

Planning for the event began in late May. Coordinators sent letters to more than 100 Family Medicine residency/physician opportunity programs in the region inviting them to participate in the fair. In addition to this, follow-up phone calls, e-mails, personal invites, and other efforts were made to contact exhibitors to solicit participation.

During the planning stages, coordinators made hotel and transportation arrangements for exhibitors. On-campus facilities to host the fair were reserved and catering details were orchestrated for more than 250 people. Local businesses and exhibitors were asked to donate door prizes to assist in publicizing the event to all medical students and Family Medicine residents. FMIG officers volunteered to help with registration, door prizes, set-up, and other necessary tasks on the day of the event.

To improve the fair each year, we rely on verbal feedback from students and written feedback from the exhibitors. The menu has also been changed to finger foods in recent years to allow students to snack yet mingle with the exhibitors at the same time. The event is held in the evening making it more convenient for the medical students to attend. At the end of each fair, accurate contact information is collected for all of the exhibitors, and for the following year's fair, this information in addition to that found on the AAFP website is used to contact potential exhibitors. Finally, the officers like to thank the exhibitors with handwritten notes.

In recent years due to the increasing amount of responsibility necessary to bring a successful recruitment fair to fruition, the coordination of the fair has been shared by two students. These two students share the responsibilities of coordinating the huge effort that it takes to organize and host the fair. These students are responsible for coordinating and assigning the duties of the other FMIG officers. In this way, more people are available to assist with planning and implementation of this massive endeavor.



As the primary fundraiser of the group, this event typically raises over \$7,000 for our FMIG chapter. In addition to funding community service projects and lunch meals, this money is also used to help send our members to the national conference where we learn new skills and gain ideas to continually improve our Family Medicine Interest Group.

The current significance this event holds for FMIG is the growing participation this project is invoking from both FM residency programs across the nation and from students and residents at the University of MS. This chapter of FMIG prides itself in the leadership qualities of our officers who arrange such a tremendous event and boasts about the success of this annual event and also about the excitement it raises in other interest groups on campus to produce a similar residency fair for their specialty.

Another measure of success is established by the continued support from the MS Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) that FMIG receives. The MAFP pays the AAFP membership dues for each student who joins FMIG. MAFP also partners with FMIG by allowing our president to attend board meetings, therefore allowing the exchange of information between students and physicians about local and national issues in Family Medicine. The strong support and encouragement from the state level and the recognition from the AAFP through the rewarding of the POE award 5 consecutive years serve as a constant reminder and motivation to continue to push the goals of FMIG, promote the value of primary care, and make the efforts of FMIG even greater with each passing year.

8. Special Consideration for First-Time Applicants or Those Wanting to Show Significant Enhancement in Programming, Membership or Operation: If your FMIG has never submitted an application for this award, or if your FMIG has made significant strides in a particular area, tell us why you think you should be considered for this award. [If this does not apply to you, you do not need to fill out this section.]

Thank you for your submission!