

**Proposal for Family Medicine Interest Group-  
Student National Medical Association  
Collaboration**

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## **Background**

The American Academy of Family Physicians is one of the largest national medical organizations, representing more than 94,000 family physicians, family medicine residents, and medical students nationwide. Founded in 1947, its mission has been to preserve and promote the science and art of family medicine and to ensure high-quality, cost-effective health care for patients of all ages. The AAFP established the National Family Medicine Interest Group Network to aid communication and the exchange of best practices between local FMIG student and faculty leaders. The FMIG Network promotes and advocates for Family Medicine through programs including clinical skills workshops, educational panels, residency fairs, and community outreach. Regional and National Coordinators serve as resources for local FMIGs, organize programming initiatives on the national level, and maintain communication between the AAFP, state chapters, and local FMIGs. Each year, FMIGs exemplifying best practices are honored through the Program of Excellence Awards.

The Student National Medical Association is the nation's oldest and largest independent, student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color. Membership includes over 6,000 medical students, pre-medical students, residents and physicians. Established in 1964 by medical students from Howard University School of Medicine and Meharry Medical College, SNMA boasts over 40 years of service to underserved communities and medical students. SNMA is dedicated both to ensuring culturally sensitive medical education and services, as well as increasing the number of African-American, Latino and other students of color entering and completing medical school. In 2003, the AAFP Board of Directors approved the creation of a student liaison to the SNMA. Responsibilities of the Liaison include disseminating of relevant information between organizations.

Acknowledging the similar missions and activities of both FMIG and SNMA Chapters, the Liaison and the FMIG National Coordinator will work together to increase collaborative efforts on the local and national levels.

## **Mission**

- To facilitate communication, awareness, and participation in events and opportunities of the AAFP and SNMA.
- To increase the effectiveness of FMIG and SNMA chapter activities through greater collaboration between local chapters.
- To promote student interest in family medicine and build a strong primary care workforce for the future.
- To highlight family medicine as a specialty uniquely suited to care for medically underserved populations.
- To encourage students from minority backgrounds to consider family medicine and to pursue AAFP leadership opportunities at the local and national levels.

## **Projects/Goals for 2007**

### Top Ten Ideas for FMIG-SNMA Chapter Collaboration

Each month we recommend a project through which local Family Medicine Interest Groups and Student National Medical Association chapters can partner. Ideally, this information would be posted to the Virtual FMIG website and the SNMA Website, or be included in the SNMA National President Monthly Newsletter. Some monthly suggestions may correlate with a monthly theme. For example, for Black History Month in February we may encourage FMIGs/SNMA chapters to profile African American leaders in family medicine or invite such local leaders to do a panel/lecture. When possible, the monthly ideas will also highlight a similar project that has already been done by local SNMA and FMIG chapters.

### Program of Excellence Awards

We propose a new categorical award regarding FMIG/SNMA collaboration through the Program of Excellence Awards. This award would recognize an exemplary collaboration by a local FMIG/SNMA.

### FMIG-SNMA Liaison

Suggest SNMA liaison position in infrastructure of local FMIG and advertise the national position to enhance communication and collaboration on a local level.

### Survey to FMIG/SNMA Leaders and Outcome Measures

At the end of the year, we plan to survey local FMIGs and SNMA chapters to determine the extent of involvement, successes of local collaboration, and suggestions for improvement. This survey could also include an assessment of the impact local partnerships had on student interest in family medicine, AAFP and SNMA leadership opportunities, and underserved medicine. Such data could be obtained through a general evaluation form that can be posted on the website for local clubs to use after collaboration projects. Thus, a standardized outcome measure can help assess our success in achieving the goals of the collaboration initiative.

## Timeline

### January

- Draft flyer and/or email to announce collaboration
- Submit materials to post on Virtual FMIG and SNMA.org. Items will include mission statement, collaboration ideas, calendar of upcoming events, links to each organization's website, and naming SNMA liaison and FMIG Network National/Regional coordinators as resources.
- Follow up with FMIG Regional coordinators making calls to local leaders, with a focus on promoting the collaboration and providing resources

### February

- Black History Month

### March

- Send reminder emails early or mid-March regarding Program of Excellence (PoE) award applications and the proposed new categorical award
- Begin advertising position of AAFP Liaison to the SNMA
- SNMA Annual Medical Education Conference (end of March/beginning of April)

### April

- Start encouraging cross-promotion of National Conference and leadership opportunities before school year ends
  - Provide links to applications on the Virtual FMIG page
  - Encourage clubs to have co-sponsored event especially regarding opportunities at National Conference and for national leadership opportunities
- Send out reminders for PoE Award

### May-July

- Continue to advertise AAFP Resident and Student National Conference and leadership opportunities

### August

- National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Students in Kansas City, MO
- Best Practices and Leadership Opportunities
  - Send out profiles of FMIGs with PoE awards related to new initiative
  - Profile newly elected leaders
  - Advertise remaining leadership opportunities

### September

- Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15 – 10/15)
- Reintroduce initiative for the new academic year

#### October-November

- Develop ideas for a national-level collaboration for next year

#### December

- Year in Review
  - Highlight successful initiatives in each region – regional coordinators could send out profiles to their respective regions
  - Send out survey to FMIG/SNMA leaders
  - Future plans?