

Family Physicians of Oregon

VOL • XX • NO 3 • SUMMER 2026

Inside this Issue:

- OAFP Welcomes New President, Board Members
- Highlights from the OAFP Annual Conference
- Strengthening Our Community and Our Voice



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4	President's Message
8	OAFP Members in the News
10	Greetings From the OAFP
12	From the Hill
14	From the Valley
16	Health Impacts Task Force
17	OAFP Welcomes New President, Board Members
18	Oregon Leads as Physician Workforce Challenges Grow Nationally
19	Highlights from the 2026 OAFP Annual Conference
21	Thank You to Our Sponsors!
24	Students Speak Out!
26	Foundation News
29	Public Policy and Legislative Affairs

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Readership of this publication includes more than 1,800 family physicians and their professional associates. Medical students and staff at OHSU and WesternU/COMP-Northwest also receive the magazine.

About the cover:

Photo by OAFP member **Bill Origer, MD, FAAFP**, who provided the following details: "This photo of the Milky Way was taken looking south over the Big Meadow at Black Butte Ranch, west of Sisters, Oregon. Viewing conditions were perfect - a clear moonless night, far from city lights, at an elevation of 3,300 feet. The camera captures more stars than the naked eye can see. The dark band is caused by a huge cloud of interstellar gas obscuring the stars behind it. The only illumination was starlight."



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OREGON ACADEMY
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EDITION 77

• PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



BY ERIC M. WISER, MD, FFAFP, 2026 OAFP PRESIDENT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FAMILY MEDICINE, OHSU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DIRECTOR OF OREGON AHCC

Strengthening Our Community and Our Voice

As I step into the role of president of the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, I do so with deep gratitude. I am thankful for the colleagues who have shaped this Academy, the mentors who encouraged me to get involved, and my family who make it possible for me to serve.

I first became involved with the Academy during residency in Erie, Pennsylvania, when I served on the Education Committee. I was encouraged in that work by my mentor, Brad Fox, MD, FFAFP and that support stayed with me. When my family and I moved to Oregon, I was looking for a place to connect with colleagues and continue growing. I found that community in OAFP.

My wife Amy, who is also a family physician, and our son Damon, understand the importance of this work. They have been incredibly supportive, even though it often takes me away from home. I am grateful for their understanding and proud to have their support. Like all of you, I balance the demands of a full schedule with responsibilities and commitments beyond the walls of my practice. That experience and perspective will guide how I approach this year as your

president. I want to be thoughtful about what we take on and focused on what matters most to family physicians and the patients we serve.

From Progress to Uncertainty

When I first joined OAFP, it was an exciting time to enter family medicine. I witnessed the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and saw Medicaid expansion improve access for many of my patients. Prenatal patients no longer lost coverage just weeks after delivery. I also saw the rollout of Oregon's patient-centered medical home model, which reshaped how we deliver care.

Family medicine continues to evolve quickly. Many of the most important lessons do not come from training or textbooks. They come from each other. Much of what I understand about

team-based care, behavioral health integration, and patient-centered care comes from this Academy and conversations with colleagues. I also have the opportunity to teach those lessons to students from across the state.

I learned firsthand about the transformation of primary care while caring for patients in our community. I learned about the patient-centered medical home from **Evan Saulino, MD, PhD**, Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) from Nick Gideonse, MD, and about behavioral health integration from **Dan Paulson, MD, FFAFP**, and **Liz Powers, MD, MHA, FFAFP**. Together, we navigated a period of rapid change in primary care. I am grateful for what they and so many others have shared.

continued on page 6



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We are now heading into a period of real uncertainty in health care policy. Changes to Medicaid are expected, and there is the possibility of changes to Medicare in the years ahead. These shifts will directly affect our patients. Some will lose coverage, some will delay care, and many will become

sicker as a result. We are losing our patients and they are losing us.

I want to remind everyone that progress is not linear. The arc of the moral universe is long and bends toward justice, and I believe we will get there. But in the near term, we will need to adapt.

Supporting Members Through Community

As we look ahead, one of my priorities is to ensure that OAFP remains a place where family physicians can learn from one another in real time. We need peer-to-peer learning that reflects what is actually happening in our practices.

We also need to amplify our collective voice. The stories we see every day matter. Sharing those stories with each other and with the public helps bring visibility to the real impact of policy decisions. The OAFP has built a strong foundation to ensure physicians have a voice and a seat at the table, whether in committees or before lawmakers. I want to build on that work so we can continue to advocate for our patients and communities.

The coming year will require flexibility. As coverage changes and systems shift, we will need to adapt how we practice and how we care for patients. That is not easy work.

My goal is for OAFP to be a steady source of support during this time. That means sharing timely information, creating opportunities for collaboration, and ensuring members do not feel they are navigating these challenges alone. It also means recognizing the real pressures we face and making space for connection.

This will be a busy year, but also an important one.

I am honored to serve as your president and look forward to the work ahead.



Continuing Education: Suicide Prevention & Postvention Trainings in Oregon

Oregon healthcare professionals have access to a comprehensive range of suicide prevention, intervention and postvention trainings that qualify for continuing education (CE) credits. These evidence-based trainings are designed to enhance clinical competence in identifying, assessing, and supporting individuals at risk of suicide.

Oregon Health Authority recently released its 2025 "Suicide Prevention Training for Behavioral Health Providers: Data Report to the Legislature," which demonstrates the growing impact of these training initiatives. The report outlines training participation rates across different healthcare professions and provides data on the effectiveness of Oregon's 2022 law requiring suicide prevention training for behavioral health workers.



Featured Training OCALM – Oregon Counseling on Access to Lethal Means

<https://www.aocmhp.org/initiatives/oregon-calm-ocalm/>

OCALM is an 8-hour Oregon-adapted training that equips healthcare providers with skills to counsel patients at risk of suicide on reducing access to lethal means. Earn 6.5 CME Prescribed credits (activity #109365) while gaining hands-on practice with Oregon-specific data, case scenarios, and culturally informed approaches to firearms and medication safety.

Additional OHA-Approved Trainings

The Oregon Health Authority supports the Big Rivers Suite of trainings that provide a comprehensive approach to the continuum of care:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3548.pdf>

For questions about CE credit requirements or training eligibility, contact the Oregon Health Authority.



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TOPICS FOR CARE OF OLDER ADULTS

THURS: Long-Term Care Year-In-Review, Hospice/Palliative
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Eating/Drinking, PinkSocks Life.

FRI-SAT-SUN: Oregon State Plan Alzheimer's, Dementia,
Brain Health, Geriatrics Year-In-Review,
Age-Friendly Transitions of Care, Heart Failure, Behavioral
Health, Polypharmacy Of Complex Medication Mgt,
Humanism/ Developmental Geriatrics, Behavioral
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• OAFP MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Boyd-Flynn Touts Affordable, Accessible Care for Oregonians



From left to right, Dr. Brian Duty, former Governor John Kitzhaber, Senator Lisa Reynolds and OAFP Executive Director Betsy Boyd-Flynn.

On March 19, OAFP Executive Director **Betsy Boyd-Flynn** testified before the House Committee on Rules in support of HCR 202, which would establish a state policy goal that by 2033, Oregon's health care system will be more affordable and accessible. In her testimony, Boyd-Flynn highlighted the growing challenges primary care teams face in navigating overwhelmingly complex administrative demands. Boyd-Flynn was joined in her support of the Concurrent Resolution by Dr. Brian Duty, President of the Oregon Medical Association, Former Governor John Kitzhaber, and Sen. Lisa Reynolds.

On Feb. 27, Boyd-Flynn was quoted in the *Willamette Week* article "The Oregon Health Care System Must Run Leaner. But How?" which examines how HCR 202 could improve health care outcomes in the state.

Dr. Devarajan Inducted as AGS Fellow

Sumathi Devarajan, MD, assistant professor of family medicine at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), was recently inducted into the newest class of American Geriatrics Society (AGS) fellows. Throughout her more than 20-year tenure in OHSU family medicine, Dr. Devarajan has gained a national reputation in geriatric education, supporting numerous learners and curricular advancements in geriatrics, while maintaining high-intensity leadership and clinical roles, and leading to the development of high-impact services for geriatrics, nursing home care, and residencies, and policy work. Congratulations!



Dr. Sumathi Devarajan

Boyd-Flynn Responds to Poll on Portland Health Care Concerns

A poll commissioned by *The Oregonian/OregonLive* found that nearly half of Portland-area voters say it's harder to get an appointment with a primary care doctor than a year ago, and nearly half say the same for specialists. And about 60 percent reported being concerned about affording health care. OAFP Executive Director **Betsy Boyd-Flynn** responded by pointing out that Oregon's primary care system has faced years of strain, driven by physician retirements, fewer medical students choosing family medicine, the loss of independent practices, and payment models that favor procedures and specialty care over primary care. "In many respects, I feel like the first challenge is to stop the bleeding," Boyd-Flynn said.



Betsy Boyd-Flynn

Drs. Galvez, Germann Discuss Delays in Patient Care Amid ICE Presence

Antonio Germann, MD, MPH, **FAAFP** was featured in the Feb. 2 article by *The Oregonian/OregonLive* examining how fears surrounding ICE enforcement were discouraging some Oregon immigrants from seeking medical care. Dr. Germann



Dr. Antonio Germann

shared concerns about how patients are avoiding seeking medical care because they are worried about being deported. **Eva Galvez, MD, FAAFP**, was also quoted, noting these fears are disrupting chronic disease management, leading some patients to ration medications, and avoid routine tests and vaccines. A Jan. 29 *Willamette Week* article noted that Dr. Galvez authored an OAFP resolution aimed at making it easier for organizations to advocate on behalf of immigrant patients.

Thank you to these members for taking the time to speak out in support of safe clinical spaces.



Dr. Eva Galvez

Dr. Germann, Boyd-Flynn Support Primary Care

Antonio Germann, MD, MPH, FAAFP discussed primary care spending in Oregon during a March 27 article in *The Lund Report*. The article said that while efforts to increase family medicine funding were initiated a decade ago, results haven't panned out.

OAFP Executive Director **Betsy Boyd-Flynn** spoke out for primary care in two recent *Lund Report* articles. In the March 12 article Boyd-Flynn commented on findings from the Oregon Health & Science University's survey on primary care access for patients on Medicare. In the March 9 article, which summarized the end of the legislative session, Boyd-Flynn noted her concern with House Bill 4040, which if signed, would reduce the number of people who are likely to benefit from hospital charity care. It also included a measure that will repeal a requirement that commercial insurers assign patients to a primary care provider.

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• GREETINGS FROM THE OAFP



BETSY BOYD-FLYNN, OAFP - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eulogy For a Medical Home

This opinion piece written by OAFP Executive Director Betsy Boyd-Flynn was originally printed on Feb. 19, 2026 in the Lund Report. Reprinted with permission. <https://www.thelundreport.org/content/opinion-eulogy-medical-home>

Our primary care system is increasingly fragile, and too many people are having a hard time even getting appointments. Last week the crisis I have been warning the community about, supporting members through, and urging legislators and policymakers to help fix, reached my neighborhood and my family. Our family physician's office is closing in March.

As the executive director of the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, I advocate for strong, accessible primary care for every Oregonian. I know everyone deserves access to this kind of care because my family has benefited from it for 21 years at Family Medical Group Northeast. I deeply understand what a difference it can make for the health and wellbeing of a family.

We were drawn to Family Medical Group because it is just blocks from our house, and we stayed because the care was exceptional. Though I never had a family physician before, it simply made sense that we would all see the same doctor. Family medicine meant I could bring my

children to the same physician who advised me through breastfeeding challenges and the back pain that came from hauling those same kids around.

The clinic was among the first to earn Oregon's Patient Centered Primary Care Home model recognition. They took pride in advancing to Five-Star status and maintained it until 2025. For patients, a medical home means same-day and Saturday appointment availability. When our strep-throat-prone kid went to bed with the sniffles and woke up with a fever, we knew she could be seen, tested, and if needed, get the prescription that would help her feel better quickly.

Medical homes focus on prevention. The Family Medical Group nursing team kept our kids on-schedule for their immunizations, seamlessly coordinating vaccines during well-child visits. For the adults, they made sure we stayed on track with preventive care and screenings, all while supporting us through the challenges of raising kids and entering midlife.

The clinic team delivered the comprehensive primary care advocates describe as the gold standard: a true first point of contact, continuity of care, and coordination with specialists when we needed them.

When Optum, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group, bought Family Medical Group in 2021, the clinic was thriving. Just five years later, after 40 years of serving the neighborhood, it is closing its doors. So what happened?

As a patient, I can say that things felt different after the acquisition. The toys and books that once welcomed children in the waiting room disappeared in a renovation that made the space look efficient and modern but no longer warm. The long-time receptionist, who displayed photos of her dog, departed and new staff didn't display any personal touches. Perhaps the shift reflected the growing pressures taxing primary care everywhere: complicated quality measures; a surge in patient portal messages, and an ever-expanding burden of prior authorizations and appeals. Stagnant payment levels make it very hard to stay afloat in primary care.

Despite knowing all this, I thought Optum's size might offer

insulation against those pressures. The conglomerate's vertical integration is designed to maximize efficiency, savings and profits in every part of the system. However, some analyses show that whatever savings they may get through expanding market share don't translate to reduced costs overall.

As the *Willamette Week's* reporting noted, Family Medical Group was a full practice with eight or nine clinicians as recently as January 2025. Now, just two remain, and they too, will be leaving in March. With wait times for new-patient appointments long and growing longer, no doubt many patients are scrambling to find new doctors; one lucky neighbor just told me her first appointment at a new clinic will be in May 2027.

Closures like this reflect systemic failures that demand strategic attention. We need a groundswell of pressure on policymakers to confront and fix these underlying problems, and we cannot wait. Right now in Salem, former Governor Kitzhaber's House Concurrent Resolution 202 is under consideration as a way of framing the work ahead. It envisions accessible and affordable health care for every Oregonian by 2033. So much needs to happen between now and then, and primary care family physicians are ready to roll up their sleeves. Oregon's legislators must vote for HCR 202.

Betsy

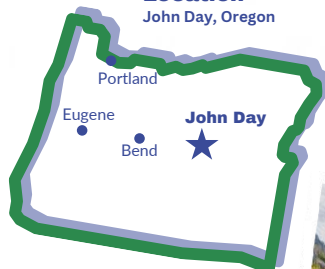
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ANA QUIÑONES, PHD, FGSA, PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT, OHSU FM DEPT.

The AGING Initiative: Building a Leading Resource for Aging Research at OHSU

About the author: In June 2025, Ana Quiñones, Ph.D., OHSU Family Medicine, was named co-director along with C. Barrett Bowling, MD, Duke University, of an infrastructure award on **Advancing Geriatrics Infrastructure & Network Growth (AGING) Initiative** and contact Principal Investigator (PI) for a renewed R33 grant of \$2.8 million.

The AGING Initiative started in 2014 at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (PI: Dr. Jerry Gurwitz) and transitioned to Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). This collaborative initiative builds research-related resources and a national network of early- and mid-career scientists pursuing an interdisciplinary research agenda focused on the needs of older adults with multiple chronic conditions (MCCs), countering the traditional single-condition, siloed approach to the care of older adults.

This is a highly productive, collaborative, transdisciplinary endeavor bringing together scientists from 20 research institutions. It includes the Health Care Services Research Network centers embedded within healthcare delivery systems that serve more than 2 million people aged 65 and older, as well as university-based centers established by the National Institute on Aging's Older Americans Independence Centers (OAIC or Pepper Centers).

The AGING Initiative disseminates innovative research, provides mentorship and training for early- and mid-career researchers, and importantly, incorporates the perspectives and insights of older adults living with multiple chronic conditions (MCCs), along with their care partners. In this competitive renewal, the Initiative's overarching aim is to build on its successful efforts and collaborations while advancing in more ambitious and sustainable directions.

There are many ways the AGING Initiative is advancing how we understand and care for older adults with MCCs. The following are specific examples that highlight this broad initiative.

AGING Initiative Core Activities

There are multiple AGING Initiative activities that take the next step in developing a sustainable infrastructure to advance the science of MCCs research. These include:

1. The **MCCs Research Innovation, Translation, and Dissemination Core** fosters research innovation and translation of research findings into practice through targeted pilot grants, dissemination of key research findings, and engagement of patients and care partners in research activities.
2. The **Methods, Methods, and Data Core** stimulates development and implementation of innovative research approaches to understand and address the needs of older adults with MCCs.
3. The **Career Development Core** supports the career development and success of early- and mid-stage investigators by expanding the nationwide cohort of emerging leaders in aging research who are committed to the health and health care of older adults with MCCs.
4. The **Insights and Perspectives from Patients and carePartners Panel (IP4)** creates a patient-centered scientific network where patients and caregivers can influence and be involved with the direction, conduct, and dissemination of research aimed at improving the lives of older adults with MCCs.

MCCs Scholars Program

Mentorship of the next generation of MCCs researchers is central to the AGING Initiative. Now in its eighth year, the MCCs Scholars Program continues to expand its reach, supporting its eighth cohort of scholars. The program is designed to catalyze interdisciplinary research that advances the field of MCCs. Through this effort, the Initiative is cultivating a growing cohort of emerging leaders committed to improving the health and health care of older adults with MCCs.

Tools and Content Available for All

- **Webinars:** The AGING Initiative hosts a range of webinars designed to engage diverse audiences — including patients, caregivers, scientists, clinicians, policymakers, health care system leaders, and early-career researchers seeking to expand their skills in MCCs research. Topics have included conducting inclusive research with older adults living with MCCs, understanding the

importance of MCCs in emergency department settings, and advancing person-centered care planning for individuals living with MCCs.

- **Geriatrics Research Instrument Library (GRIL):** The Geriatrics Research Instrument Library (GRIL) is a publicly-available, user-friendly website that helps researchers identify and select instruments to assess and measure clinical outcomes relevant to older adults with MCCs across a full range of domains. GRIL was developed in collaboration with the AGING Initiative, Wake Forest University, and Yale Pepper Center and contains nearly 240 instruments across 23 geriatric domains: Anxiety, Caregiver Burden, Cognition/Dementia, Delirium, Depression, Frailty, General Health Status/Quality of Life, Health Behaviors, Hearing, Medical Comorbidity, Medication Adherence, Pain, Physical Activity/Performance, Physical Disability, Resilience, Self-Efficacy, Sleep, Social Determinants of Health, Social Support, Treatment Burden, Vision, Miscellaneous, and Other Instrument Libraries.
- **Patient & Care Partner Engagement Resources:** The center also maintains resources to support investigators in building strong, equitable, and sustainable engagement practices. Meaningful engagement of patients, care partners, and community partners is a central focus of the AGING Initiative, with an emphasis on partnership, transparency, and shared decision-making across all stages of research involving older adults living with MCCs and their families.

We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about the AGING Initiative and its efforts to meaningfully advance research and improve care for older Oregonians living with MCCs and their caregivers.

Important Links:

- **MCCs Research Innovation, Translation, & Dissemination Core,** <https://theaginginitiative.wordpress.com/overview/cores-and-teams/patient-priority-aligned-research-core>
- **Methods, Measures, & Data Core,** <https://theaginginitiative.wordpress.com/overview/cores-and-teams/methods-measures-core>
- **Career Development Core,** <https://theaginginitiative.wordpress.com/overview/cores-and-teams/career-development-knowledge-dissemination-core>
- **Insights and Perspectives from Patients and carePartners Panel (IP4),** <https://theaginginitiative.wordpress.com/overview/who-we-are/patient-caregiver-engagement>
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• FROM THE VALLEY

GINA MILLER, MD, FAAPF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FAMILY MEDICINE, WESTERN U/COMP-NORTHWEST
EMILY CAMPBELL, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST - WESTERN U/COMP-NORTHWEST



From the Valley: WesternU COMP-Northwest Match Day Highlights Strong Future for Family Medicine

Match Day marks a major milestone for students at Western University of Health Sciences' College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest (COMP-Northwest), highlighting both their individual achievements and

the institution's growing impact on the future of primary care. In March, graduates celebrated securing residency placements across the country, achieving a 99 percent placement rate, with half of the class entering

primary care fields. This success comes as COMP-Northwest, which is transitioning to its new name, the Heatherington College of Osteopathic Medicine, was recently named by U.S. News & World Report as a Tier 1 institution for primary care training for the third consecutive year.

This year alone, 19 students matched into family medicine, reinforcing the university's mission to address critical health care needs. Since COMP-Northwest's inaugural graduating class in 2015, a total of 289 students have entered family medicine residencies, with 46 of those placements serving communities across Oregon. These numbers reflect a sustained commitment to training primary care physicians and a meaningful regional impact for Oregonians. One of those students is COMP-Northwest fourth-year student **Kiana Fincher**, whose journey exemplifies that mission in action.

Fincher, who has served as the WesternU student delegate to the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians board for the past two years, was excited to open her

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placement letter and discover that she would be staying in Oregon to complete her residency. Originally from Trail, Oregon, Fincher looks forward to practicing family medicine at OHSU Cascades East in Klamath Falls.

"We came to WesternU because it was close to family and we really wanted that support system nearby, but I was also really excited about DO training. I wanted to do rural family medicine, so having that extra training with OMT (Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment) and getting a holistic view of each of my patients was important to me," said Fincher.

WesternU has made a deliberate investment in Oregon's future physician workforce through pathway programs with several universities across the state, creating opportunities for students with strong ties to Oregon to pursue medical education and ultimately return to serve their communities. COMP-Northwest's pathway agreements with Linfield University, Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, and Portland State University demonstrate a commitment to strengthening in-state recruitment, expanding access to medical education, and developing a sustainable pathway of physicians dedicated to meeting Oregon's evolving health care needs.

Together, these efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to addressing Oregon's physician

shortage, one that begins with recruiting students who have deep roots in the region and continues through training, mentorship, and residency placement. As graduates like Fincher take the next step in

their careers, COMP-Northwest's impact extends far beyond Match Day, and into the communities they will go on to serve.



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• HEALTH IMPACTS TASK FORCE



EVA M. GALVEZ, MD, FAAP, SITE MEDICAL DIRECTOR – VIRGINIA GARCIA MEMORIAL HEALTH CENTER
CHAIR, OAFP TASK FORCE ON HEALTH IMPACTS, VICE PRESIDENT, OAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Finding Hope and Purpose in Challenging Times

As I write this, I have just returned from the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians Annual Conference. After this weekend, I will bring a clearer view of some of the challenges that lie ahead for Oregon families: implementation of Medicaid work requirements, more frequent eligibility renewals, risk of loss of health insurance for immigrant families, and declining enrollment due to data privacy concerns. All together this means that it will be harder for our

patients to access care, and they will likely come in sicker, making our work all the more challenging. However, despite what seems like dire news in the year ahead, I am filled with a renewed sense of optimism and hope. That hope comes from my colleagues.

Over the weekend, I listened to lectures and engaged in conversations about thoughtful ways to reach and serve our patients, whether it be by implementing group visits, integrating

community health workers into our clinics, organizing around immigration enforcement, and engaging in state-level advocacy. In each of these conversations, I saw my colleagues meet the moment with creativity, innovation, and bravery, even when the systems around us fell short. I believe this is because we are guided by something deeper than any single system or institution: a moral commitment to act in our patients' best interests.

I can't gloss over the fact that the next few years will be extra hard, working in a system in which patients are sicker and bearing witness to their struggles can lead to significant moral injury, but I believe that moral injury can be mitigated by leaning into our professional values and connection with one another. Together we support one another while amplifying our voices to nudge the system toward equity and justice. I look forward to the role of our Health Impacts Task Force in helping our academy navigate the next year with empathy and grounded in the needs of our most vulnerable communities and the doctors who serve them.

If you are interested in participation with our Task Force, please reach out to Louisem@oafp.org.



We are hiring!



Oregon Health & Science Department of Family Medicine is hiring physicians, advanced practice clinicians and other care team members to care for patients, including maternity and inpatient care, and to support our academic mission.

Practice locations range from Portland downtown to picturesque rural Klamath Falls and Hillsboro, Oregon.

Our faculty work with colleagues in certified Patient-Centered Primary Medical Care Homes.

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Visit www.ohsu.edu/fmcareers.



OAFP Welcomes New President, Board Members

The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians is pleased to welcome its new president and board leadership, who were installed during the OAFP Annual Meeting in Sunriver on May 2, 2026.

2026 OAFP President

Eric M. Wiser, MD, FAAFP, has been named OAFP President. Dr. Wiser practices at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Primary Care Clinic in Gabriel Park. He earned his medical degree from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University and completed his family medicine residency at the Allegheny Health Network Medical Education Consortium (SVH) Program (both in Pennsylvania). Dr. Wiser also completed an obstetrics fellowship in Spokane, Washington. Dr. Wiser joined the OAFP Board of Directors in 2020 and serves on the OAFP Commission on Education. He holds several leadership roles at OHSU, including serving as director of the Oregon Area Health Education Center, assistant dean for rural undergraduate medical education, and associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine.

New Members of the OAFP Board of Directors

Gary M. Plant, MD, FAAFP, practices with the Madras Medical Group. He earned his medical degree at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) Quillen College of Medicine, and completed his residency at the ETSU Quillen College of Medicine (Bristol program). Dr. Plant has served as a delegate and alternate delegate at the AAFP Congress of Delegates, as past president of the OAFP Board of Directors, as a member of the AAFP Nominating Committee, and

as chair of the Congress of Delegates Reference Committee on Practice Enhancement. He was named OAFP Family Doctor of the Year in 2020.

Admir Seferovic, MD, DABFM, FAAFP, earned his medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport and completed his residency at the Louisiana State University Shreveport Program. He serves on the OAFP Finance Committee and holds leadership roles as Graduate Medical Education Committee Chair and Regional Director of Undergraduate Medical Education at Providence Health & Services – Oregon. He is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Education at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine.

Christal V. Crooks, MD, practices with Kaiser Permanente's Center for Black Health and Wellness in Portland. She earned her medical degree from the University of Central Florida College of Medicine and

completed her residency at the ETSU Quillen College of Medicine (Bristol program). Dr. Crooks serves on the Health Impacts Task Force and has represented OAFP at the National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL) as the BIPOC Physician Representative and as the Women Physician Representative.

Andrew Chang, DO, practices direct primary care at the Bayberry Clinic in Portland. He earned his degree from the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency at the MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center (Waterloo program). Dr. Chang represented OAFP at NCCL as the New Physician Representative and as the LGBTQ+ Physician Representative.

We thank these leaders for advancing sustainable, equitable health care in our communities while strengthening connection and shared purpose among family physicians in Oregon.



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Oregon Leads as Physician Workforce Challenges Grow Nationally

JENNIFER HENDRICKSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ORCA-FM



The Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine (ORCA-FM) hosted a dinner for residency program directors and staff during the Residency Leadership Summit (RLS) in Dallas this March. Bringing everyone together at the conference made good use of our resources and gave us a chance to support the important work, connections, and camaraderie among Residency Program Directors and staff. A good time was had by all!

ORCA-FM is also sponsoring one faculty member from each program to attend Physicians Excelling at Relational Leadership Skills (PEARLS), beginning in June. PEARLS is a two-year professional development program designed specifically for family medicine faculty across Oregon. The program focuses on strengthening collaborative and relational leadership skills that support effective teaching and mentorship, foster psychologically safe learning environments, and enhance team leadership. Participants begin with an eight-hour virtual intensive, followed by quarterly one-on-one coaching sessions centered on real-world application and continued growth.

PEARLS helps create a connected community of practice, bringing together faculty from across Oregon's family medicine training programs to learn from one another, share insights, and integrate relational leadership tools into their daily work.

Our nine Oregon residency programs successfully navigated another frenetic National Residency Match Program (NRMP, or "Match") cycle, again attracting strong, high-quality candidates. Our programs work hard each year to recruit stellar residency applicants to Oregon programs. The process begins in September, when applicants submit materials through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Interviews take place from October through February, followed by both applicants and programs submitting rank lists in late winter. The Match algorithm then determines placements, with results announced during Match Week.

While the process is familiar, it continues to grow more complex and competitive each year. At the same time, the need for primary care physicians remains urgent. Projections estimate a national shortfall ranging from

57,559 to 87,150 primary care physicians over the next 15 years, with rural and non-metro communities most affected.

Nationally, the number of residency programs has grown significantly in recent years. This expansion was intended to help address the shortage of primary care physicians. However, it has not been matched by a corresponding increase in the number of medical students choosing family medicine.

As a result, more residency positions are going unfilled through the Match, with programs increasingly relying on the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) and other pathways to fill remaining spots. Overall, the trend both before and after this period of expansion shows a rising percentage of unfilled positions.

Unfilled vacancies increased from 14.6% before 2018 (pre-expansion) to 35.3% in 2025. In a positive trend, ERAS data shows a 12,440 applicant increase (both USG and IMG) in the number of candidates attempting to match in family medicine.

What does all of this mean for Oregon? The good news is that all of our programs filled their positions. Even more encouraging, more than 60% of our graduates stay in Oregon after residency, and over 60% remain in family medicine. Not every state starts from such a strong foundation.

At the same time, there is still important work ahead. That work is becoming more challenging as federal and state funding landscapes remain unpredictable, physician debt continues to rise, and compensation for family physicians has not kept pace with that burden or with other specialties.

ORCA-FM remains committed to strengthening our collaborative, supporting our residency programs, and recruiting and retaining the next generation of family physicians for Oregon's communities. We are also focused on sustaining this work during a time of uncertainty and change.

This effort includes all of us. Alongside the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, we have an opportunity to continue telling the story of family medicine, highlighting both the rewards of the profession and the meaningful impact you make every day.

We appreciate your support!

Highlights from the 2026 OAFP Annual Conference

The 2026 Oregon Academy of Family Physicians Annual Conference brought together family physicians, residents, students, and health care leaders in Sunriver for two days of learning, advocacy, and celebration. Attendees enjoyed clinical updates, discussions about the future of medicine, music, dancing, and advocacy conversations. This year's event highlighted how family medicine in Oregon is rooted in connection, community, and the shared commitment to caring for patients and one another.

Sessions Address Evolving Needs of Patients, Providers, and Communities

During the conference, attendees explored practical topics to help family physicians in daily practice and prepare for changes in health care. Sessions covered a wide variety of topics including adolescent mental health, chronic disease management, artificial intelligence, immigrant health care challenges, and the role of community health workers in primary care.

On Friday, presentations covered topics like abnormal uterine bleeding, pediatric obesity management, MASLD, Medicaid updates, chronic pain management with buprenorphine, and moral injury. The Pennington Lecture "Think in Systems, Act in Relationships: Building Relational Systems in Health Care and Community" was presented by **Brian J. Park, MD, MPH**.

Hands-on learning was also a key part of the conference. The Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) Provider Course, led by **Joe M. Skariah, DO, MBA, MPH**, offered extra training and skill-building for physicians.

On Saturday, the KSA Study Hall let participants work together on Health Counseling and Preventive Medicine certification requirements.

Saturday's sessions covered hypertension management, diabetes tips, Alzheimer's and dementia care, continuum of care, and ways to improve the patient journey. One session, "If We Don't Lead, Others Will: AI Agents and the Future of Family Medicine" presented by **Faraz Ghoddusi, MD, FAAFP** encouraged discussion about how family physicians can guide the use of artificial intelligence in patient care.

The conference also showed how important it is to work together across different fields and communities. The ORPRN panel on community health workers in primary care shared new ways to support patients and improve outcomes through team-based care.

Teamwork, Celebration, and Shared Purpose

In addition to educational sessions, the conference gave attendees many chances to reconnect and celebrate the family medicine community. On Friday evening, the Welcome Reception and Family Doctor of the Year celebration honored leaders and brought colleagues together from across Oregon. Jeff Heatherington, a representative for our presenting sponsor, greeted the audience and reaffirmed his commitment to family medicine in Oregon. Read more about the 2026 OAFP Family Doctor of the Year **Mary Wunderle-McIntosh, MD, FAAFP** on page 20. The May Day Masquerade OAFP Foundation Auction & Dance Showcase added excitement, blending philanthropy, dancing, and camaraderie to support the OAFP Foundation. You can see highlights from the auction on page 26.

The Doctor's Jam Sessions on Friday night remained a favorite tradition, filling the venue with music, laughter, and connection as physicians shared their musical talents.

This year marked the return of the live, in-person poster session, the first since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical students and residents presented their research and projects, connecting directly with attendees and faculty mentors. The session was supported by the AAFP Foundation Chapter Alliance Engagement grant. Being back in person brought new chances for discussion, mentorship, and celebrating academic achievement in family medicine.

Attendees of our Congress of Members joined discussions about the following resolutions:

- "Appropriate use of AI in Family Medicine" (Adopted with substitute resolution)
- "Advance Care Planning Education Initiative for Youth and Community" (Adopted)
- "Support for the Use of Federal Health Dollars by States for the Funding of State-20 Based Universal Health Care" (Adopted)
- "Evidence-Based Standards for Pediatric Gender Distress and 17 Detransition Care" (Not Adopted)

**Scan the QR code to
read the final reference
committee report.**



continued on page 20

As the conference ended, attendees left with new clinical insights, stronger professional connections, and a shared sense of purpose. The 2026 OAFP Annual Conference reminded everyone that even as health care changes, family physicians lead with compassion, teamwork, and dedication to their patients and communities.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's annual OAFP conference, which will take place on May 13 to 15 at Skamania Lodge. We will be joined next year by the Oregon Pediatric Society. Save the date!

Oregon Academy of Family Physicians Names Dr. Mary Wunderle-McIntosh 2026 Doctor of the Year

Family medicine is the foundation of health care, requiring clinical excellence, compassion, continuity, and deep community connection. The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) is proud to recognize **Mary Wunderle-McIntosh, MD, FAAFP** as its 2026 Doctor of the Year for her outstanding commitment to patients, medical education, and rural health care.



Dr. Wunderle-McIntosh

Dr. Wunderle-McIntosh is widely recognized for providing thoughtful, individualized care to her patients. Colleagues describe her as compassionate, attentive, and deeply committed to understanding the unique circumstances of every patient she serves. They also note her ability to foster a supportive environment for staff and colleagues, treating team members with the same kindness and respect she extends to patients.

For nearly 20 years, Dr. Wunderle-McIntosh has served as a cornerstone of Samaritan Health Services, providing full-spectrum care to patients of all ages in Lebanon and Corvallis. In addition to her clinical work, she has played a significant role in shaping the next generation of family physicians through her leadership in medical education and residency training.

As the first site director of Samaritan's rural family medicine clinical training site and the program's sole family medicine-obstetrics faculty member, Dr. Wunderle-McIntosh served for years as the only female faculty member modeling comprehensive women's health care within the residency program. Her impact continues through the many physicians she trained and mentored who now care for patients throughout Oregon and surrounding communities.

Currently serving as associate program director of the family medicine residency program, Dr. Wunderle-McIntosh advocates for comprehensive, full-scope training for medical students and residents, with a particular emphasis on women's health and rural practice. She will soon continue that work as associate program director of a rural training program in Michigan.

Beyond medicine, Dr. Wunderle-McIntosh remains deeply engaged in her community through volunteer work in local schools, support of youth activities, participation in community events, and advocacy for patients and families.

Colleagues consistently describe Dr. Wunderle-McIntosh with one word: kindness. Whether caring for patients, mentoring learners, leading colleagues, or serving her community, she exemplifies the values at the heart of family medicine — relationships, trust, continuity, and care across generations.



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We would like to thank the following organizations for their support of our Care That Connects conference which took place May 1-2 in Sunriver. We are grateful for your commitment to the specialty of family medicine.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



FamilyCare Health is an independent, non-profit organization committed to transforming Oregon's health care system through evidence-based reform, community collaboration, and holistic approaches that address the true foundations of health. With over 35 years of experience as a provider-owned health plan and coordinated care organization (CCO), FamilyCare Health has evolved into a research, education, and advocacy leader dedicated to systemic change.

Unlike traditional health care organizations, FamilyCare Health is free from shareholder obligations, political donors, and profit-driven motives. Their only priority is to advocate for policies and practices that improve health outcomes, lower costs, and promote equity.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



OHSU Family Medicine has historically been ranked as one of the top academic programs in the nation. They are committed to serving their patients and communities through excellence in clinical care, education, and research. OHSU Family Medicine is transforming primary care and inspiring future leaders by demonstrating the best in Family Medicine.



Southern Oregon Alliance of Physicians and Providers (SOAPP) is a 501(c)(3) that connects physicians to opportunities across Southern Oregon in a simple and coordinated way.

Thinking about a change or just curious what it's like to live and work in southern Oregon? They make it easy to explore. SOAPP organizes customized visits so you can meet multiple organizations, experience different practice settings, and get a real feel for the community all in one trip.

They also bring physicians together through local events and ongoing connection, helping build a strong and supportive medical community.

If you or a physician you know is interested in exploring opportunities in Southern Oregon, reach out to SOAPP at connect@soappinfo.com and they will coordinate a visit.

GOLD SPONSORS



AllCare Health is a locally owned, physician-led integrated health organization serving Southern Oregon for more than 30 years. Headquartered in Grants Pass, they are committed to making health care simpler, more accessible, and more affordable for the more than 72,000 members they serve.

As an Oregon Benefit Company and three-time Certified B Corporation™, AllCare Health operates with a strong focus on transparency, ethics, and positive community impact. Their decisions are guided by what best supports the health and well-being of their members, communities, and environment.

AllCare Health delivers high-quality, coordinated medical care while working to improve patient experience, advance population health, and reduce overall health care costs. Through community partnerships, grants, and investments addressing social determinants of health, they remain deeply committed to strengthening the vitality and equity of the diverse communities they serve across Southern Oregon.



Dairy West is proud to sponsor the 2026 Oregon Academy of Family Physicians Annual Conference. They value the opportunity to support OAFP and its members, whose leadership works to advance the well-being and health of communities across the Northwest.

As a trusted partner, Dairy West is committed to serving as a resource for health professionals by providing access to credible, science-backed nutrition information, continuing education opportunities, and practical resources for the patients and families you serve. They are honored to contribute to the important work you do every day and to help support your ongoing learning and engagement.

Dairy West invites you to stay connected for the latest nutrition resources, tools, and upcoming continuing education opportunities.

continued on page 22



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They offer a comprehensive approach that includes medication management and innovative therapies such as TMS and Spravato®. Care is available through both in-person and telehealth appointments, ensuring flexible access for patients.

Their team includes licensed psychiatrists, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who work collaboratively to support each patient's mental health goals. They accept a wide range of insurance plans to help reduce barriers to care and improve access.

BestMind is committed to delivering timely, effective treatment and serving as a trusted partner for both patients and referring providers.



CareOregon is a nonprofit organization providing Medicaid insurance benefits to more than 500,000 Oregonians on the

Oregon Health Plan. They support their members through three coordinated care organizations, a Medicare Advantage plan, a tribal care coordination program, a dental care organization and in-home medical care with Housecall Providers.

CareOregon members have access to integrated physical, dental and mental health care and substance use treatment. They also connect members to housing, fresh food, education and transportation services. CareOregon is committed to ensuring that Oregonians—regardless of income or background—have meaningful access to quality health care. To learn more, visit www.careoregon.org.



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Provider Solutions & Development (PS&D) supports physicians and advanced practice clinicians with heart, making career transitions easier and more meaningful from residency to retirement. For over 20 years, PS&D has focused on people, not quotas, offering guidance that puts clinicians' needs first. Founded within Providence and partnering with health systems nationwide, PS&D provides exclusive access to hundreds of positions. They don't just fill jobs. They help you find the right fit for every stage of your career journey.



Springfield Family Physicians is a 5-star Patient-Centered Primary Care Home (PCPCH), locally owned and independently operated family practice serving the communities of Springfield and Eugene, Oregon.

Established over 30 years ago, the organization has grown to include three clinic locations and is now the largest independent primary care provider in Lane County. Their team includes 26 medical providers, supported by integrated behavioral health services and clinical pharmacists to ensure comprehensive, coordinated care. They are proud to offer extended office hours six days a week, along with convenient access to onsite mammography and ultrasound services.

Springfield Family Physicians is committed to delivering high-quality, patient-centered medical care with a strong emphasis on proactive and preventive health management. Their mission is to provide accessible, compassionate, and evidence-based care that supports the long-term health and well-being of the patients and communities they serve.

BRONZE SPONSORS



Comagine Health is a national, nonprofit, health care consulting firm. They work collaboratively with patients, providers, payers and other stakeholders to reimagine, redesign and implement sustainable improvements in the health care system.

As a trusted, neutral party, they work in communities to address key, complex health and health care delivery problems. In all their engagements and initiatives, they draw upon their expertise in quality improvement, care management, health information technology, analytics and research.

Comagine Health invites partners and communities to work with them to improve health and redesign the health care delivery system.



The **National Multiple Sclerosis Society** is the world's largest organization dedicated to supporting people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic, unpredictable disease of the central nervous system that impacts nearly one million individuals in the United States.

Founded in 1946, the Society serves as a trusted resource for both people living with MS and the health care professionals who care for them. It provides education, clinical tools, research funding, advocacy, and personalized support services, including MS Navigators.

Through national advocacy, cutting-edge research, and hundreds of volunteer-driven events each year, the Society works to ensure everyone affected by MS can access high-quality care and live their best life.

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Medicine. Combining clinical care, research, and education to advance the understanding and practice of medicine, they provide compassionate, coordinated care personalized for the unique needs of every patient.

They are proud to provide patients with the very best in diagnosis and treatment. And they are pioneering leading-edge therapies that will change the way health care is delivered tomorrow.

Stanford Medicine is an ecosystem comprising the School of Medicine and the pediatric and adult health care delivery systems. Precision Health is at the core of what they do, preventing disease before it strikes and treating it decisively when it does.



WesternU is one of the largest graduate schools for health professions on the West Coast. The University is home to more than 3,600 students in eight colleges, 28-degree programs and two campuses. The original campus in Pomona, CA was founded in 1977. WesternU expanded to Oregon in 2011.

Degrees offered: DO, DPT, DMD, DNP, OD, PharmD, DPM, DVM, and a number of master's level health science degrees.

Healing humanity through science and compassion, one patient at a time.

STUDENTS SPEAK OUT!



JULIE RANDALL, FMIG CO-PRESIDENT,
CLASS OF 2027



As we close out the academic year and look forward to starting the new one, the new FMIG leadership team at OHSU has been hard at work. We have been celebrating the achievements of our Family Medicine-bound Class of 2026 graduates, many of whom will be staying in Oregon for their residency training come summer.

FMIG members have been eager to show our classmates the exciting breadth and variety that's possible within Family Medicine. Our rising second and third year members have

been focused on organizing lunchtime enrichment sessions, including an IUD insertion teaching workshop. So many of our FM-bound students are passionate about reproductive health care, and procedural-based events have historically been very popular with students across specialties who are eager for more hands-on learning opportunities. Another upcoming lunchtime workshop will focus on matching students with Family Medicine faculty members who are available as research mentors, as all

OHSU students have a scholarly project research requirement.

Many students will go on to share their research at the annual Oregon Academy of Family Physicians meeting, including at this year's event in Sunriver this May. Other future lunchtime events include one focused on audiology and another on transgender health care in family medicine. So many of our FM-bound students are passionate about reproductive health care and serving marginalized communities, and there has been real enthusiasm for organizing events that showcase how Family Medicine cares for these patients.

On the heels of last year's successful event at the Providence Milwaukie Teaching Kitchen, the FMIG team is planning a repeat event this summer. This event focuses on empowering future Family Medicine physicians to provide nutritional counseling to their patients through cooking. We know that nutrition, food preparation, and a focus on food insecurity are often overlooked in the early years of medical training, and this event aims to help close the knowledge gap on one of the most impactful preventive health measures for our patients.

Lastly, our FMIG is excited to welcome our new faculty advisor, **Dr. Andrew Wang**. The leadership team is so thankful to all of our Family Medicine faculty members for giving their time and energy not only to teach and advise, but also to inspire our fellow students to consider a career in family medicine!



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STUDENTS SPEAK OUT!

OLIVIA VAN WINKLE, PRESIDENT; BRIAN SONG, SECRETARY;
TIFFANY PHAM, OUTREACH COORDINATOR



WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES COMP - NORTHWEST



The Future of ACOFP/FMIG at WesternU Oregon

Greetings from the Family Medicine Club at Western University COMP-NW. We started the year off welcoming our new leadership team: President **Olivia Van Winkle**, Vice President Hayden Manninen, Treasurer **Kathrine Kadrmas**, Secretary **Brian Song**, and Outreach Coordinator **Tiffany Pham**. As we reflect on past years of service and engagement at COMP-NW, we also look toward the future of the Family Medicine Club and the many opportunities to deepen community involvement, strengthen support for fellow students, and inspire the next generation of physicians to pursue fulfilling careers in family medicine.

On May 2, 2026, our club participated in the second annual WesternU Rural Health Care Equity Fair, which provided free health care services to our community members in Lebanon. Our school provided a wide variety of services, from Osteopathic Manipulative Treatments to vitals stations, to accommodate the varying needs of our local residents. This year, the Family Medicine Club leadership partnered with the Lebanon Senior Center. Throughout the day, our leadership assisted them in promoting services available to seniors in the Lebanon community. These included access to the LINX program, discussing the social enrichment programs available to seniors, and the Meals on Wheels program. LINX is an affordable, disability-friendly, flexible-

route transportation service designed to support seniors while remaining accessible to the general public. The service helps older adults who are no longer able to drive maintain independence and stay connected to the many social and enrichment activities offered through the Center.

However, our most rewarding activity was offering attendees the opportunity to write notes for senior lunches delivered through the Meals on Wheels program. On Monday through Friday, Meals on Wheels delivers lunches to the homes of 150 seniors in the community. Seeing the community come together to write thoughtful messages to accompany these lunches was incredibly meaningful, especially knowing that many of the seniors receiving them rarely have the opportunity to leave their homes. It is imperative that we ensure our seniors feel included and valued among themselves and in society. By the end of the day, our club had engaged with over 50 community members.

In May, we invited Timothy J. Gray II, DO, to speak about his experiences as a Family Medicine physician and Medical Director of Mountain View Medical Center (MVMC) in Forest Grove. MVMC is a vital part of the Oregon community, providing invaluable health care to countless patients, especially those in communities where health care options are scarce. "Providing hope while improving the health of our community,

one patient at a time" is MVMC's motto, and Dr. Gray and his team wholeheartedly embody these values. The Family Medicine Club was honored to welcome Dr. Gray and to learn from his wealth of experience and insight.

At the beginning of June, during WesternU's conference week, we are excited to collaborate with the WesternU community on the Pomona Campus in California for a virtual Family Physician Panel. This opportunity will allow both campuses to engage with one another by forming connections with new colleagues and physicians, while also providing students with a better understanding of Family Medicine in practice.

The Mock SP Encounter proved successful, providing students with an early introduction to the clinical and professional expectations of medical school in a supportive environment. Due to the lasting impression the Mock SP Encounter had on our first-year students, we are pleased to continue the tradition this coming fall for the incoming 2030 class of medical students. We hope to further give back to our COMP-NW community and support them as they begin their journey through medical school.

All of our members at the Family Medicine Club at Western University COMP-NW are excited for the upcoming school year and hope the OAFP community has a safe and restful summer.

• FOUNDATION NEWS



RICK MOBERLY II, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & CORE RESIDENCY FACULTY, OHSU FAMILY
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There are moments in our profession when the pace slows just enough for us to see one another clearly. The recent OAFP Foundation masquerade and auction was one of those moments.

For one evening, we stepped away from clinic schedules, inboxes, and the steady demands of care. In their place, there was laughter, conversation, and a shared sense of purpose. Masks and costumes added a sense of play, but what stood out most was something more enduring: the strength of a community that continues to show up for one another and for the future of family medicine.

The auction itself was a reflection of that spirit. Every item, from thoughtfully curated gift baskets to one-of-a-kind experiences, represented generosity. Donors gave creatively. Attendees bid enthusiastically. Volunteers made the entire evening run with ease. **And together, we not only met our fundraising goal of \$50,000, we blew past it, raising more than \$65,000.** The result was more than a successful event. It was a clear signal of what happens when this community leans in together.

The funds raised will directly support medical students and residents as they find their path into

family medicine. That includes travel scholarships, conference opportunities, and resources that help sustain interest in a field that is as demanding as it is essential. For many learners, these supports are not extras. They are the difference between interest and action, between curiosity and commitment.



What made the evening especially meaningful was the people in the room. Family physicians from across Oregon, at different stages of their careers, all connected by a shared calling. This is a group that understands continuity, not just in patient care, but in mentorship and advocacy. You see it in the way students are welcomed, in the way residents are supported, and in the way colleagues lift one another up.

Family medicine has always asked a great deal of those who choose it. Breadth of knowledge, depth of compassion, and the ability to meet patients where they are, often over years or decades. It is not an easy path. But nights like this make something clear. It is a meaningful one, and it is sustained by a community that believes in it.

If you were able to attend, thank you for being part of an unforgettable evening. If you donated, volunteered, or helped organize, your efforts made a real difference. And if you are looking for a way to support the next generation of family physicians, the Foundation offers a direct path to do so. Your contribution helps ensure that students and residents not only choose family medicine, but are able to thrive in it.

We are also looking to grow the Foundation itself. If you have an interest in mentorship, advocacy, or shaping the future of family medicine in Oregon, we would welcome your involvement. **Serving on the Foundation board is a meaningful way to contribute your perspective and help guide this work forward.** Email Louise Merrigan: louisem@oafp.org if you're interested in joining.

There is a momentum building, and it is worth sustaining.

Thank you for all that you do, in your clinics, in your communities, and for one another.



Thank you to our 2026 OAFP Foundation Auction Donors!

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continued on page 28

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End of Session Reflections: *A Challenging Road Ahead*

Family physicians entered the 2026 legislative session bracing for cuts. Lawmakers faced a significant budget shortfall, federal policy uncertainty, and growing pressure on Oregon's Medicaid, behavioral health, and workforce systems. In that environment, simply preserving core health care infrastructure became an achievement in itself.

The short session did not produce sweeping new health care programs. Instead, it focused on stabilization: protecting the Oregon Health Plan, maintaining rural access, improving behavioral health workforce conditions, and preparing the state for the financial and administrative impacts of federal changes.

For family physicians, perhaps the most important takeaway is that the Legislature continued to prioritize Medicaid, even amid fiscal strain. House Bill 5204 rebalanced the Oregon Health Authority budget by adjusting funding tied to federal policy implementation, Oregon Health Plan caseload growth, and coordinated care organization rate changes.

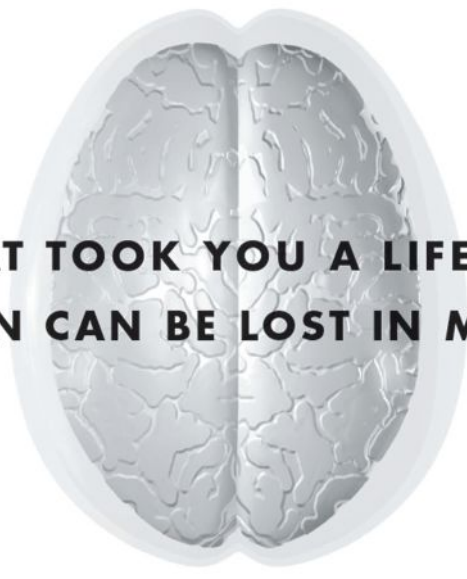
That matters because Oregon's health care system is increasingly dependent on Medicaid stability. Family physicians serve as the front door to care for many Oregon Health Plan members, particularly in rural communities and underserved urban areas. As federal changes continue to shift costs to states or reduce Medicaid participation, Oregon will face difficult

decisions in the 2027 and 2029 biennia about eligibility, reimbursement, and benefit design. The Legislature's actions this year suggest there is still strong political support for protecting Medicaid coverage, but the fiscal pressure is unlikely to ease.

One of the most troubling outcomes of the 2026 session for family physicians was the decision to significantly reduce the Oregon Health Authority's Quality

Incentive Program (QIP) funding pool. For years, the QIP has been one of the central tools that coordinated care organizations use to reward high-performing clinics and providers for improving preventive care, chronic disease management, maternal health outcomes, immunization rates, and behavioral health integration. Historically, the quality pool has represented more

continued on page 30



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than 4 percent of CCO payments, generating well over \$300 million annually statewide. But in response to mounting Medicaid cost pressures, OHA and lawmakers moved to shrink the pool dramatically for upcoming measurement years. Early proposals would have reduced the quality pool from 4.25 percent to as low as 2 percent, eliminating roughly \$200 million in

provider incentive funding. Even the scaled-back final approach represented a major reduction.

For family physicians, this was especially painful because QIP dollars often help sustain care coordination, quality improvement staff, and preventive care investments that traditional Medicaid reimbursement does not fully support. In many clinics, particularly smaller and rural practices, those payments are not “bonus”

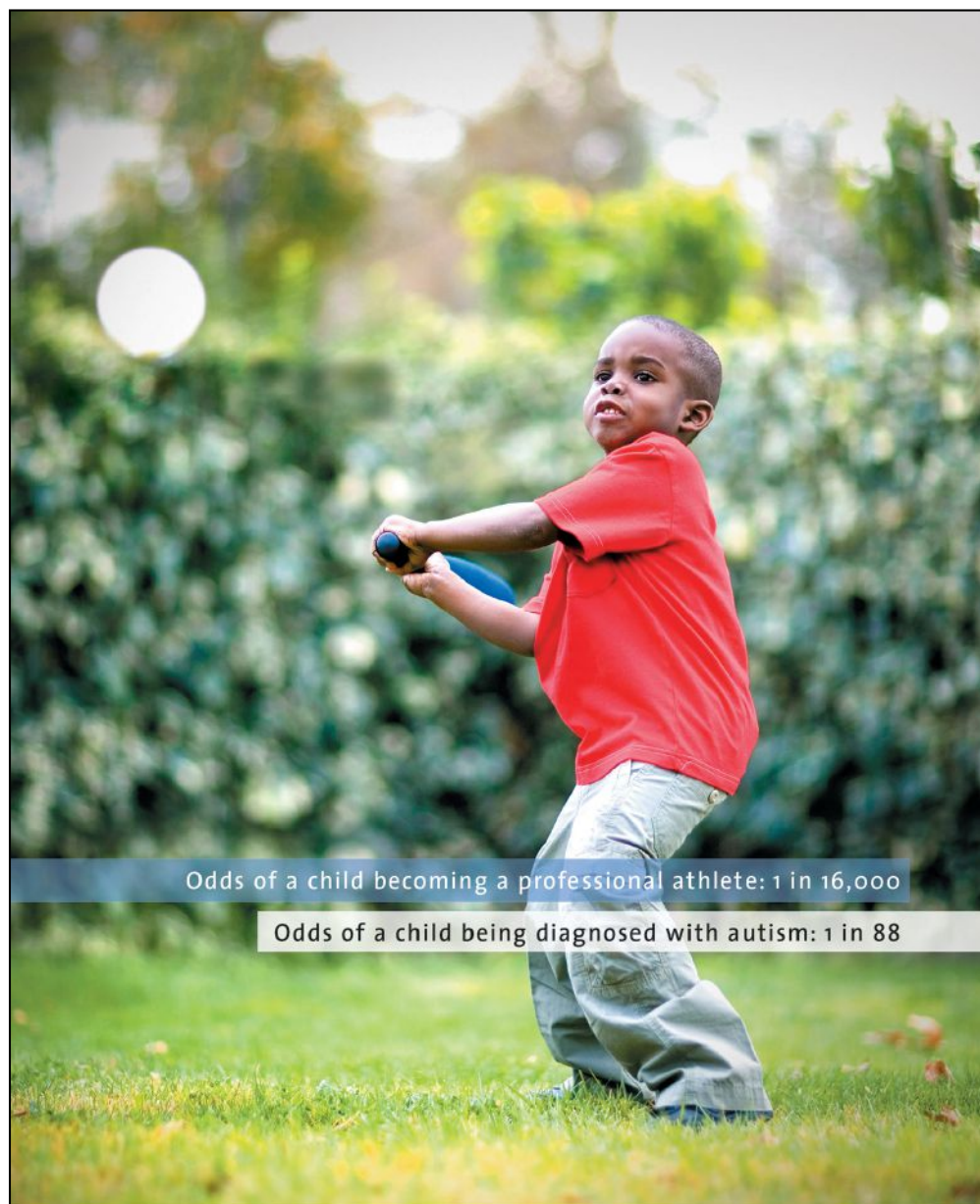
dollars; they are part of the fragile financial foundation that allows clinics to meet quality goals and continue serving Oregon Health Plan members. The cuts may help the state balance its budget in the short term, but they also risk undermining one of Oregon’s most successful strategies for improving care and controlling long-term costs.

The session also reinforced a growing recognition that workforce shortages are among the greatest threats to health care access. Several bills addressed provider pathway and retention issues, especially in behavioral health. These measures point toward a larger conversation that we hope to continue in the next two biennia: how Oregon recruits, trains, licenses, and retains enough clinicians to meet demand. Family medicine is deeply connected to that discussion. Workforce shortages are increasingly affecting primary care clinics, maternity care access, emergency departments, and care coordination teams across the state.

The 2026 session may ultimately be remembered less for what it created than for what it revealed. Oregon’s policymakers appear increasingly aware that the state’s health system is under strain from multiple directions at once: federal funding changes, workforce shortages, administrative complexity, and uneven access to care.

That means the next two biennia are likely to feature larger debates about Medicaid financing, primary care reimbursement, workforce development, behavioral health integration, and rural sustainability. Family physicians will be central to each of those conversations because family medicine sits at the intersection of them all.

In many ways, 2026 was a bridge session. It bought time, preserved key programs, and signaled where the next major policy fights are headed. For Oregon family physicians, the message is clear: the future of primary care will not simply be shaped in clinics and hospitals, but in the Legislature.



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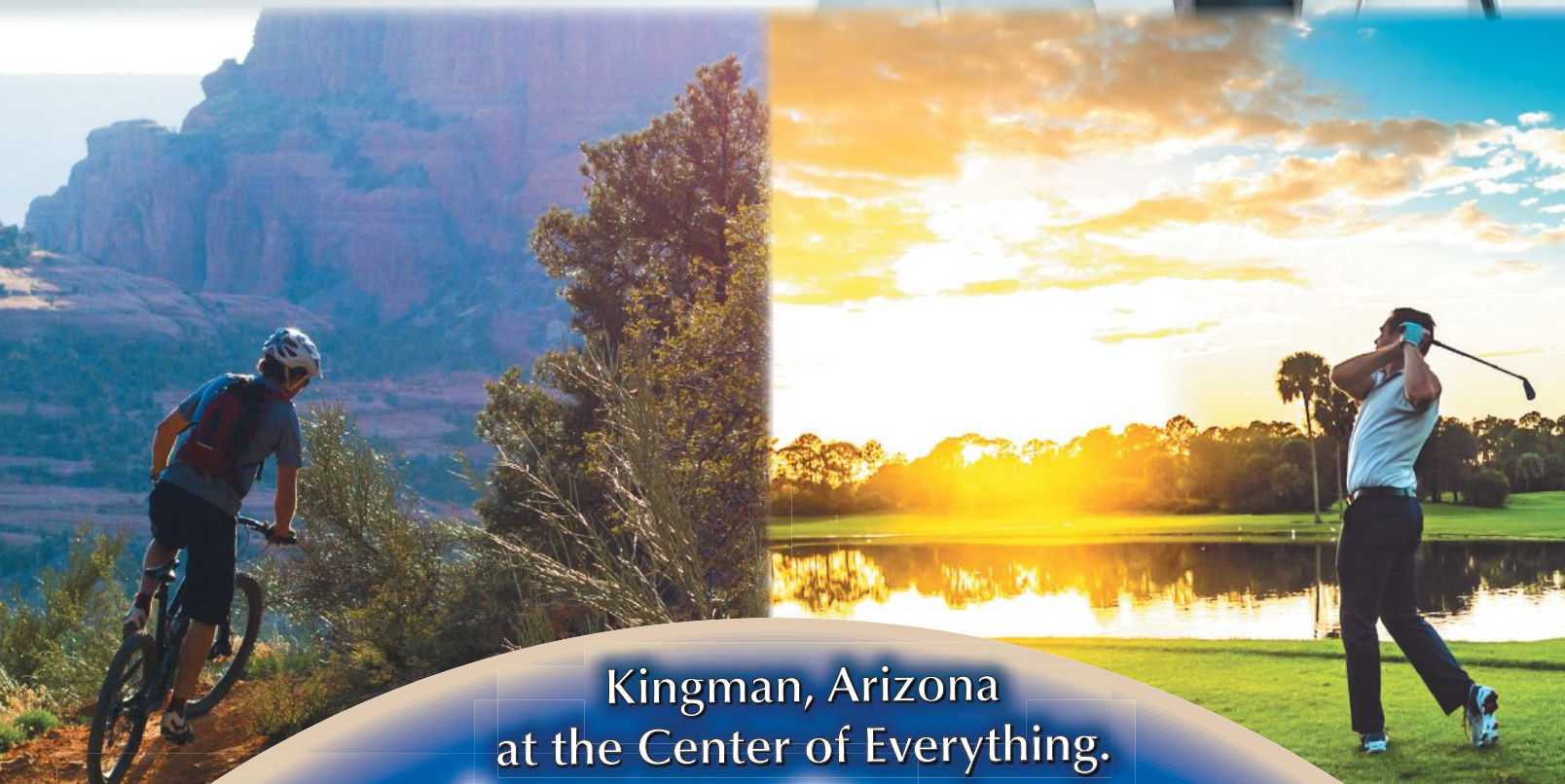
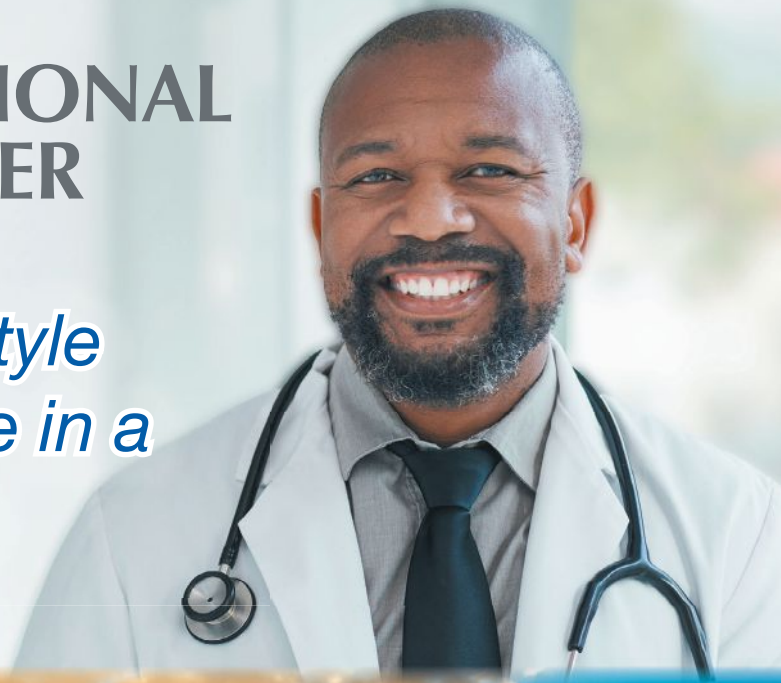
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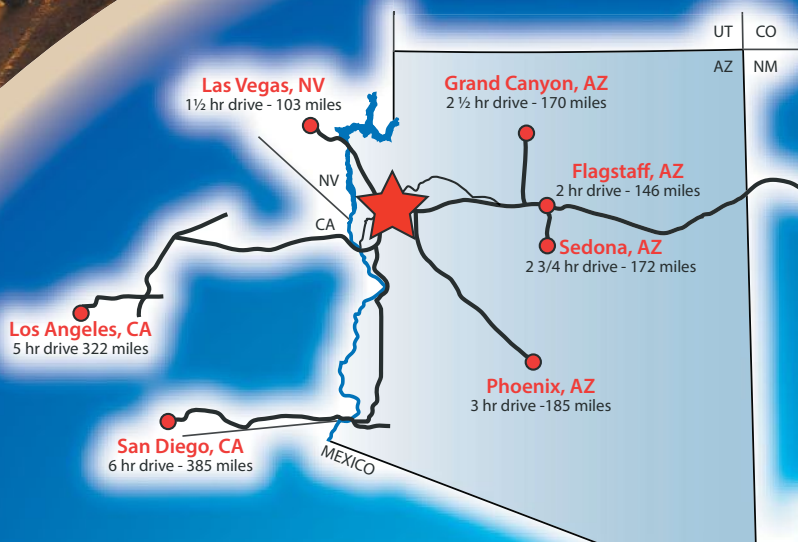


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