We are very proud of the department’s outpouring of loving assistance to fellow Texans following the horrific flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in August. Several of our faculty and staff had to leave their homes and belongings to the flood water. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those affected. We thank our Baylor physicians who volunteered at the George R. Brown Convention Center and NRG Stadium.

A reporter from KPRC Click2Houston spoke with Alex Herrera, MD, (left) a first year family medicine resident, who, along with Bryan Vonasek (PGY2-BCM Pediatrics) and others, galvanized their fellow apartment dwellers to collect five truck-loads of gently-used clothing for the victims of (Continued on page 2)
Hurricane Harvey. He is but one of the many examples of those who donated time and effort and expertise to assist those inundated by the flooding.

Hundreds of evacuees found shelter at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Many FCM faculty volunteered day and night to provide medical care, making use of donated medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, crutches), pharmacy supplies, and a unit for dialysis.

Harris Health opened a full-fledged clinic at the NRG stadium on August 31 to provide much needed medical care to the flood victims. The clinic was staffed 24/7 by Harris Health nurses and our department’s physicians, NPs and PAs. From mid-August until September 23, Kelvin Shepherd, DO, and Joy Blumenreich, MD were in charge of the clinic schedule of 12-hour shifts, securing continuous access to medical care for the flood victims. The stadium’s medical area was divided into an ambulatory clinic and an “emergency room” for more acute cases. A pharmacy was set up on site. About 2,000 patient visits were performed. Without these Baylor providers and, of course, without the Harris Health nursing staff, such a service would not have been possible.

Baylor College of Medicine honored those who volunteered their time during Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath. Among attendees the event at Third Coast Restaurant on September 12 were Asmi Shah, MD; Rashmi Rode, MD; Roger Zoorob, MD, MPH, and Irvin Sulapas, MD.
The Baylor Family Medicine Clinic on Kirby did not escape unscathed. Several inches of flood water covered the entire clinic. Before a general cleanup began, Vida Kahrizi, MBA-HC, the Clinic Manager, was hard at work though her home was also damaged during the storm. While most of the sanitizing was accomplished by Baylor Facilities, others from Baylor came to assess the situation and lend a hand. Rock Morille, MBA, and Michael Stephens of BCM Facilities and Facility Services visited on Tuesday, along with Dr. Zoorob (above) and Dr. Sidani (middle), Dr. Salemi and Ramzey Sidani (below), and Sara Rahman (not pictured).

The cleanup process continues in phases and will take several weeks.

We wish to send our appreciation to department faculty who found ways to help during the flooding. It is an honor to work with such compassionate people.
Dr. Simon Whitney and I had a lovely visit with Ms. Regina O’Donnell at her ranch in Brenham, Texas, on August 16. She has long been a loyal supporter of the department with the William W. O’Donnell, MD and Regina O’Donnell Chair in Family Medicine, and the visit allowed us to express our sincere gratitude for her patronage of the College and the department.

Mrs. O’Donnell has quite an operation, including cattle and a major hay growing-and-baling enterprise. She drove us around in her truck to see her beautiful ranch and her historic home with the original windmill in front. She is also proud of her front porch where she posed for pictures. I am pleased that she let me pretend to drive her newest tractor (below).

After inviting us for a great lunch at the best (and, in her opinion, the only) restaurant in town, we bade her goodbye, hoping to see her back in Houston soon.

Thank you, Regina. We wish you the very best.

~ Dr. Zoorob
Two vice chairs were named during the first quarter of 2017.

**William Y. Huang, MD**, Associate Professor, will now lead educational programming in the department as Vice Chair for Education. In addition to continuing his medical student education and clerkship duties, Dr. Huang will work with Dr. Zoorob and the Dean to assure continued accreditation; supervise the Elective Director and Course Directors; and partner with Residency Director Dr. Eric Warwick, to ensure the success of GME efforts in the department. Dr. Huang has led medical student education for the department since 1988, and his new position will allow him greater freedom and responsibility to enhance our impact on the next generation of medical providers.

**Fareed Khan, MBBS**, has been named Vice Chair for Community Health Programs in our department, providing oversight for our collaboration with Harris Health as well as our growing list of community-based service programs and networks. In this capacity, Dr. Khan will also serve as Assistant Chief of Staff for Ambulatory Care Services in the Harris Health System. Dr. Khan is Associate Professor and a Faculty Senator and has served the underserved as BCM faculty since 1998. He will begin his additional responsibilities in November 2017, guiding our continuing expansion to meet the needs of the Houston communities we serve.

Congratulations and thank you both for your outstanding dedication to this vital work. We are thankful to have you on the team and look forward to the future achievements your skill, experience, and leadership will bring.
The department celebrated James Bray, PhD’s 30 years of service to the department and to Baylor College of Medicine upon his retirement on September 30.

Dr. Bray has worn many hats while at BCM. He was the Director of Behavior Science and Health programs in the department until 2014 and was the Director of Faculty Development until 2016. Dr. Bray served on the BCM Academic Council and as Secretary of the Faculty Senate (2015-2017). Representing Baylor to the wider community, Dr. Bray has served as President of both the American Psychological Association (2009) and Texas Psychological Association (2015); he served on the
Board of Directors of International Association of Applied Psychology (2013-2018) and President of Division 17: Professional Practice (2-3-18). He was President of the Society of Family Psychology (1995) and the American Society for Advancement of Pharmacotherapy (2014).

Dr. Bray has been invited to share his expertise across the nation and around the world. He has presented in Canada, Japan, Australia, Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom. His work is published in peer-reviewed journals and he has written over 50 book chapters. The most recent are “Remarriage and stepfamilies” in APA Handbook of contemporary family psychology; “Science for prescribing: Forward” in Cognitive behavioral psychopharmacology: The clinical practice of evidence-based biopsychosocial integration; “Stepfamilies and blended families” in SAGE Encyclopedia of Lifespan Human Development.

The recipient of many honors, Dr. Bray recently received the Robert McPherson, PhD Legislative Action Award (2017) and the President’s Award for Outstanding Service (2014).

We wish Dr. Bray all the best as he becomes the Chair of Psychology at the University of Texas San Antonio.

(Top row) Some of those who have participated in the Faculty Development Fellowship thank Dr. Bray. Kenneth Barning, MBChB; Sarah Ansari, MD; Jennifer Okoh, MBBS; Dr. Bray; Alicia Kowalchuk, DO; Brian Reed, MD; Fareed Khan, MBBS; Hammad Mahmood, MD.

(Center row) Brittany Zaring-Hinkle; Dr. Bray laughs with Robert McLaughlin, PhD; (Bottom row) Dr. Oluyinka Olutoye, Chair of the Faculty Senate, honors Dr. Bray’s work as Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Vida Kahrizi, MBA-HC; Sandra Gonzalez, MSSW, LSCW
The Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) Course, sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians, was held on August 17-18 at the sixth floor Kirby location.

Residents from four programs, UTHHealth, DeTar, UTMB and Houston Methodist, joined our Baylor Family Medicine residents for a two-day intensive with hands-on teaching of maneuvers and comprehensive information residents will need to know in their practices.

Here’s a sample of what residents reported they liked best:

“Multidisciplinary group of learners - diverse experience levels and course facilitated by strong educators”

“Hands-on teaching of maneuvers and information. Wish I had this course before my OB-GYN rotation.”

“Very efficient. Great instructors”

“Simulation cases”

“Liked the hands-on approach”

“Whoever thought of beef tongue instead of pig’s feet is a genius!”

“Loved being able to ask questions and get comfortable with possible emergency settings in OB”

“Passionate knowledge and impartation of skill - thoroughly engaging!”

“Awesome!”
Many physicians joined the efforts of FCM faculty: (Clockwise from top left) Katherine Billingsley, MD (UTMB); Dr. Sidani and Bridget Angel; Kelly Gabler, MD (San Jacinto Hospital); Clare Hawkins, MD (Legacy Community Health); Juliet McKee, MD (UTMB) with Rashmi Rode, MD. (Not pictured) Patricia Lopez-Gutierrez, MD (Texas A&M); Omobolaji Olutimehin, MD (UTHSC); Isaac Goldberg, MD (Methodist Hospital); Tuere Coulter, MD (UTMB); Phuc Duc Nguyen, MD (UTHSC)

FCM Faculty included:
Anjali Aggarwal, MD;
Lisa Danek, MD, MBA;
Haleema Latifi, MD;
Patrice Latimer, MD;
Alicia Kidane, MD;
Suvarna Mahadasyam, MD;
Rashmi Rode, MD;
Hamisu Salihu, MD, PhD;
Mohamad Sidani, MD, MS;
Eric Warwick, MD
HAPPENINGS

After a delay due to Harvey, participants gathered for the Clinical Research Methods class taught by Hamisu Salihu, MD, PhD and assisted by Jason Salemi, PhD, MPH, Jennifer Matas, and Ramzey Sidani. The two-day event held at the Kirby Conference Center is a face-to-face beginner’s course aimed at training busy healthcare professionals, researchers, and students on knowledge and skills necessary to understand important concepts in health research, and to be able to conduct simple analysis independently using basic software.

(Right & below) Novice researchers take notes during a first-day lecture.
“Instructor was patient, humorous, and knowledgeable.”

“Great people, food, and location”

“Good foundation for developing scientific study”

“Great PowerPoint! Knowledgeable speaker! Great question & answer responses!”

“Professor and staff was helpful & patient when asked questions & made sure everyone understood the topic”

“Day 2 with coding was fantastic!!! Good examples”

“Very useful, well organized, helpful material - staff is great; food was great”

“Very impressive to be able to summarize a whole stats semester into one weekend - very lively and well presented”

“Great course. Dr. Salihu, Jennifer, Jason were wonderful”

“High quality! Dr. Salihu and his team were very patient and accommodating, friendly atmosphere.”

“It was great! Thank you for organizing it.”
Compassion and the Art of Medicine, the annual student elective and lecture series hosted by the Department of Family and Community Medicine, got underway with the first public lecture featuring Houston Playback Theatre at noon Friday, Aug. 11, in Cullen Auditorium. In this unique production, an audience member tells a story from his or her life and chooses actors to play the different roles. Then the story is recreated and given artistic shape.

Matthew Carter “Claire Bocchini, MD”
Jeffrey Steinbauer, MD “A primary care career: The view from the rear-view mirror”
Steven Maldonado “Moebius Syndrome”

Rahman Family “At least my kid doesn’t have that”
Megan Cole “Sympathetic vibrations: Exploring Sir William Osler’s wondrous literary reference”
David Buck, MD “HHH”
Richard Lyn-Cook, MD “9 millimeter”
Renee & John Zaluskey and Cynthia Le Mons “Urea cycle disorders: Beyond the pathway”

On Thursday September 28, Drs. Sue Nash and Jason Salemi hosted an event to celebrate the upcoming arrival of Dr. Kiara Spooner’s new addition to her family. Department faculty and staff gathered to shower the mom-to-be with well wishes and gifts...and partake in refreshments and cake.

The Patient Care Intervention Center (PCIC) has been invited by the Harris County Judge’s office to participate in the Data Driven Justice Initiative, which looks at individuals, known as frequent utilizers, who end up cycling through multiple systems, such as local jails, hospitals, and housing assistance services, without ever receiving the treatment they require.

The Houston Endowment has invited PCIC to participate in the Maternal Mortality Task Force addressing the incidence of maternal mortality spike seen in Texas in recent years, with especially high incidence occurring in certain communities. A collaborative effort is forming to address this issue at the community, clinical and policy levels.

David Buck, MD, MPH leads these initiatives with the operational implementation support of Bryan Bolton and the entire PCIC team.
Baylor College of Medicine’s Office of Institutional Diversity, Inclusion and Equity and Department of Family and Community Medicine have received a five-year, $3.3 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop the Center of Excellence in Health Equity, Training and Research. The Center will promote diversity in medicine by focusing on programs aimed at undergraduate students and current students, fellows and faculty.

Baylor was one of 13 U.S. institutions awarded a grant in 2017 through HRSA’s Centers of Excellence program, and one of only three in Texas. The overall goal of the national Center of Excellence program is to strengthen the nation’s capacity to produce a quality healthcare workforce whose racial and ethnic diversity is representative of the U.S. population. Immediate priorities of the Center include supporting the efforts of the School of Medicine to enhance curricula and programs for medical students that focus on health equity and social determinants of health. In addition, the Center will develop curricula for undergraduates to increase their readiness for medical school, as well as establish programming to support the academic and professional success of current students, trainees, and junior faculty.

Health Care for the Homeless Program was selected for HRSA funding under the Access Increases in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (AIMS). The increase of psychiatry services will enhance access to mental health and substance services, with a focus on patients at risk for or with opioid substance abuse.
Drs. Salihu, Salemi, and Spooner Receive Mentorship and Research Excellence Award

On Saturday August 12, a special graduation ceremony was held at Texas Southern University for 28 students who were the first graduates of the Maternal and Child Health Student Training for Academic Readiness and Success program also known as the MCH STARS program. During the celebration, the students and faculty at Texas Southern University presented Hamisu Salihu, MD, PhD, Jason Salemi, PhD, MPH and Kiara Spooner, DrPH, MPH with the Research Excellence Award, acknowledging their collective impact on underrepresented minority students in becoming future leaders in MCH research and practice.

MCH STARS is a 5-year, $815,000 maternal and child health pipeline training grant, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The program leverages a strong collaboration between Texas Southern University (TSU), a historically black institution (HBCU) and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), and seeks to leverage the institutions’ combined assets, superb infrastructure, expertise, and community linkages to empower undergraduate students to become future leaders in MCH. In Fall 2016, 28 students, predominantly underrepresented minorities from disadvantaged backgrounds, were recruited to the MCH STARS program. Trainees received specialized training in MCH core competencies using a blended didactic training approach which integrates traditional methods with cutting-edge technology (MCH lab) that creates a captivating learning environment for the millennial student. With input from trainees, an effective and enriching mentoring program was developed to meet the learning and skill development needs of the students as they navigate through the pipeline program and consider future career options in MCH-related fields. Trainees also receive inter-professional experience through participation and engagement in curricular and extracurricular activities that offer opportunities for inter-professional interactions. Last, trainees receive the unique opportunity as undergraduate students, to contribute to the design and analysis of a scientific study in MCH. Students were placed into four groups, with each group submitting a publication to a peer-reviewed journal by the end of their program year.

Dr. Salihu (left), Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, serves as the Principal Investigator and Program Director of MCH STARS program, while Dr. Omonike Olaleye, Associate Professor of Pharmacology at TSU, serves as the grant’s Co-Director. Dr. Salemi (center), Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, serves as the Training Curriculum Director and research mentor for the program. Dr. Spooner (right), Instructor, is the program’s Training Director. MCH STARS also benefits from many program faculty from TSU, including Dr. Flora Estes and Dr. Roddrick D. Jones.
Congratulations to Bharat Joshi, MD (left) and Sanjana Bhattarai, MD who were named Fellows of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Both practice at Vallbona Health Center.

Irvin Sulapas, MD was named team physician for the Houston Strikers, a new professional rugby team in Major League Rugby. Check out the comments of Dr. Sulapas (@isulapas) about the impact screening and Bod Pod testing the team performed in September. Dr. Sulapas is also team physician for the Houston Regals Soccer Club Association and Texas Southern University.

Read Dr. Sulapas’s suggestions for incorporating fitness into your daily life in Baylor Sports Medicine’s press release.

Dr. Sulapas was interviewed by Houston’s KPRC for How to avoid infections at the gym which aired on September 18. This interview was also aired by KOB4 from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Roger Zoorob, MD, MPH was interviewed for the BCM Momentum Blog for the International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day on September 9. Dr. Zoorob reminds readers that any amount of alcohol consumed by pregnant women puts unborn babies at risk for brain damage and other birth defects.
Malvika Juneja, MD has been appointed Course Director for DDASH (Determinants Disparities and Social Health), a newly designed course in the core curriculum of third-year medical students. The course replaces LACE, retaining a few of its essential elements while further extending the foundational ground for students to connect with their community, its resources, its disparities and socio-epidemiological challenges.

New Faculty: Please join us as we welcome Richard Eccles, MD, MS, an Assistant Professor for the Baylor Family Medicine clinic. Dr. Eccles received his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and his Master’s in Integrated Sciences from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He completed an Internal Medicine and Pediatrics residency at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and a Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship with Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital. Dr. Eccles comes to us with over five years of clinical experience. His primary work location is at the BFM clinic on Main Street.

Christina Okusanya, DNP received the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She began the DNP program in August 2014, completing in April 2017. She credits the support of her family, the encouragement of colleagues at MLK, and her determination to complete the terminal degree program. Dr. Okusanya reports that Dr. Brian Reed was a source of inspiration as she wrote her project.
Fabrizia Faustinella, MD, PhD shares what it’s like Growing Up Baylor.

Mónica Alzate, PhD, LCSW, MA shares her Healthy Habits with the BCM community.

As he begins his second year on the SOM Admissions Interviewing Subcommittee, Eric Lee, MD was featured in the Office of Admissions newsletter in July.

James H. Bray, PhD, associate professor of family and community medicine, was re-elected as a representative to the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives for a three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2018. The Council of Representatives is the governing body of the American Psychological Association and approves all policies for the Association. Dr. Bray was elected to represent the Society of Addiction Psychology in the APA Council. He previously served as president of the APA in 2009.

Check out Dr. Bray’s advice to parents about how to prevent their kids’ summer “brain drain” on the austin360 website.

Dr. Bray discusses tips to avoid and cope with road rage on BCM’s Momentum Blog.
Baylor College of Medicine honored recipients of the RIITE Awards, those nominated by peers as exemplifying the BCM Core Values: Respect, Innovation, Integrity, Teamwork, and Excellence. The Department of Family and Community Medicine was well-represented at the gathering, with three winners in the Excellence category, Roger Zoorob, MD, MPH, FAAFP; Eric Warwick, MD; and Sharon Mitchell, MS. Supporting our winners were those who wrote nomination letters, Sara B. Rahman; Anna Perales; Fareed Khan, MBBS; Mohamad Sidani, MD, MS; and Jason Salemi, PhD, MPH.

Others acknowledged on the RIITE Recognition Wall include Fabrizia Faustinella, MD, PhD; Mary C. Bradley, MEd; William Huang, MD; Rocio Hernandez; Paula Rosales; Michelle Santiago.

Congratulations! We are very proud of you.
September is FASD Awareness Month, and Sandra Gonzalez, MSSW, LCSW (right) was quoted by NASW News about abstaining from alcohol during pregnancy and FASD prevention. “Our training includes talking with health care professionals about the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure and encouraging them to discuss options for reducing the risk. Ultimately, we want to send the clear message that there is no safe time, no safe amount, and no safe type of alcohol during pregnancy.”

Isabel Valdez, PA-C (left) was quoted by Susan Feinstein in Consumer Reports about the critical importance of vaccines for college students. Bacterial Meningitis; Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis; HPV; and Flu shots should be up to date before heading to classes because large groups of people in close proximity provide ideal conditions for spreading diseases, including those that are vaccine preventable. Check out the article here.

Dr. Zoorob and the post-doc fellows gathered to congratulate Kiara K. Spooner, DrPH, MPH upon her completion of the program in September. The addition of Michael Hansen, MD (right) brings the fellowship again to full complement. Dr. Spooner has transitioned to Instructor in the department. Congratulations!

(Left to right) Charles Chima, DrPH, MBBS, MSc; Dr. Spooner; Dr. Zoorob; George Germanos, MD; Ahsun Raza, MBBS, PhD, MS.
AAFP and Baylor partner to create alcohol screening practice manual

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has partnered with the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine to create a new alcohol screening and brief intervention manual to be distributed in the AAFP News to all family medicine doctors and residents in the country.

According to Dr. Zoorob, the manual not only makes the case that family physicians should buy in to alcohol screening and brief intervention, but also guides them step-by-step through the screening and intervention process and how to implement it in practice.

The manual, Addressing Alcohol Use Practice Manual: An Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention Program, specifically addresses topics such as identifying champions to promote alcohol screening and brief intervention, and implementing risky drinking registries.


Faustinella F, Hurwitz R. Health education for young adults: A community outreach program. XLibris. 2017 Sep

Faustinella F. A day at the walk-in clinic. The Pharos. 2017


Salihu HM. Creation and validation of the collective impact index (CII) to evaluate the new model of the Federal Healthy Start Program. 2017 CityMatCH MCH Leadership Conference and Healthy Start Convention. September 19, 2017

Davila JA, Pasalar S, Miertschin N, Quadri Y, Flash C, Giordano TP. Intensive trauma-informed case management intervention to improve HIV-related outcomes in homeless HIV patients. MedHeart Grantee meeting. Rockville Maryland. Jul 2017. This was a 5-year HRSA, Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) grant for “Linking into care Multiply diagnosed HIV patients, with Substance abuse and Mental Health Disorder.”
UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Medicine offering health data and analysis course

Our Community Health Analytics cost effectiveness analysis (CHAT-CEA) training course has been designed to bring you up close and personal with cost effectiveness analysis, one of the fastest-growing fields in health research. Our goal is to impart not only up-to-date knowledge about CEA, but also the applied technical skills necessary to design, conduct, and interpret your own CEA. The innovative approach incorporates real-life case studies in decision analysis, so that you begin to think as the experts do. That way, instead of just being able to recite facts and “speak the lingo” of CEA, you will be positioned perfectly to become a functional analyst in your work or studies. This course is engineered meticulously: instructors’ ongoing integration of software will mobilize more than one area of your brain, and our visually stimulating environment will make your learning experience a pleasurable one.

Register and complete the course online.
This two-day intensive course is aimed to train busy healthcare professionals, researchers, and students on the knowledge and skills necessary to understand important concepts in health research, and to be able to conduct simple analysis independently using basic software.

Course Modules
The course will consist of four modules that will provide a comprehensive overview of Research Methods. On the first day, we will review and thoroughly discuss study designs, qualitative and quantitative research and data collection and management methods. On the second day, students will be given step-by-step instructions on how to use statistical software such as SAS and Excel to conduct basic analyses.

Module 1: Introduction to Research Design
• Introduce important epidemiological concepts
• Overview of descriptive epidemiology
• Overview of analytical epidemiology
• Practical applications of measures of frequency and association

Module 2: Data Collection Methods and Data Management
• Discuss quantitative data collection methods
• Discuss qualitative data collection methods

Module 3: Statistical Testing - Part 1
• Discuss types of variables
• Statistical inferences from population and samples
• Introduce overview of statistical tests and demonstrate how to conduct these tests in Excel and SAS

Module 4: Statistical Testing - Part 2
Introduce additional statistical tests and apply techniques in SAS and Excel
2017 AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students

Eight medical students and four family medicine residents from the Baylor College of Medicine attended the 2017 American Academy of Family Physicians National Conference of family medicine residents and medical students in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 27-29, 2017. The annual conference hosted over 5,000 attendees and showcased a variety of workshops, lectures, as well as hundreds of residency programs from around the nation. Jessica D’Souza, an MS4 who is applying to Family Medicine residencies this fall noted that “the residency fair was an incredible opportunity to meet programs from across the country and develop a feel for which ones offer the best fit for our long-term goals. Furthermore, building relationships with each program and future colleagues in the field showed us the inspiring community of family docs that we are joining.”

Dr. Fareed Khan and residents are seen below at their booth in the exposition hall at the conference. Our program was represented by (left to right) Drs. Casey Tran, Jordan Owens, Fareed Khan, Priyanka Chakrabarti, Amanda Patterson, who spoke with many medical students applying for Family Medicine. BCM merchandise was a hot commodity for potential applicants.
Left to right: Eric Lee, MD; Jessica D’Souza (MS4); Justin Fu (MS4); Allison Yeh (MS4); Nelson Boland (MS3). Not pictured: Husain Mogri (MS4); Noor Nassar (MS4); Rida Khan (MS4); Sarah Horne (MS4)

Allison Yeh, elected Texas delegate to the AAFP National Congress of Student Members (NCSM), put forth a resolution that urges the Board of Directors to write a letter opposing the Department of Health and Human Service’s proposed budget cut of over $213 million to current Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program grantees. Allison said of her experience, “My interest in public policy started during clinical rotations but did not know where to start. Through my involvement with BCM Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG), I was able to draft and testify on this resolution. I was really nervous during the process and spent hours researching and worrying, but the anxiety turned to relief when I found out the reference committee had officially adopted our resolution!”

Baylor’s Family Medicine Interest Group was selected as one of twelve FMIGs from around the nation that participated in the Primary Care Leadership Collaborative (PCLC), a collective of AAFP, Primary Care Progress and Family Medicine for America’s Health. The initiative brought primary care advocates, physicians, and medical students together to learn relational leadership skills that they will utilize in their year-long project to increase the awareness of the importance of primary care in the local Baylor community. Dr. Eric Lee, the faculty advisor of the BCM FMIG, also attended the PCLC session in support of the students’ efforts to increase interest in primary care and family medicine in the student body.

The students still found time to explore Kansas City BBQ and meet other medical students interested in family medicine from around the nation at events such as the Texas AFP Margaritas and Nacho’s mixer and the National Conference Celebration at the exquisite Arvest Bank Theatre at The Midland. The students left the conference inspired, invigorated, and excited to pursue careers in Family Medicine.
The Family and Community Medicine Quarterly Report is a publication of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.

To be added to the Report email listserve, please email Joan Newell.