

FAFP AUGUST MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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My passion for family medicine dates back to my upbringing in rural Bloomfield, Indiana – the quintessential small-town USA where a family doctor was the only physician in town. My experiences there taught me the importance of hard work, honesty, strong patient rapport, continuity of care, and access to care. In 2015, I moved to Florida. I attended the University of Florida for college and medical school, and have loved living in Florida ever since. Now, as a family medicine resident physician in Tallahassee, I strive to care for patients in a compassionate and comprehensive manner, working in partnership with them to achieve better health and quality of life.

Beyond working to be the best physician I can be, I have particular interests in organized medicine, health policy, advocacy, and leadership. I currently serve as Resident Vice President on the FAFP's Board of Directors, after serving last year as a student member on the board. I also serve as a member of the

FAFP's Government Relations Committee and the Membership & Innovation Committee.

Putting the "health" back in healthcare requires large-scale action. While it's easy to get bogged down by the daily burdens and hurdles we often face in trying to deliver the best care to our patients, it's also important to remember that our words and advocacy have the ability to effect change that results in a better health system for tomorrow. This is what drives a great deal of my passion for advocacy. In May, I was able to travel to Washington, D.C. with the FAFP cohort attending the AAFP Family Medicine Advocacy Summit. There, we met with legislators and their staff to discuss bills and policies that would benefit our patients and our specialty.

While there are only so many patients I can see in clinic or on rounds every day, I know that the reach of successful advocacy far exceeds what I can do by myself – and this is

what keeps me motivated and engaged. Of course, family physicians will continue to have plenty of policy issues to advocate for, now and in the future. From scope expansion to prior authorization, our voices are needed now more than ever.

Outside of the world of medicine, I enjoy traveling, doing projects around the house, listening to country music, watching sports and movies, and spending time with friends and family. Having a balance between my personal and professional responsibilities has been integral to being effective in all of my roles.

All in all, I am immensely grateful for the opportunities the FAFP has provided me thus far in my early career. I encourage members of the FAFP, from students, to my fellow residents, to attendings, to participate in the academy in their own unique way. This benefits our patients, our colleagues, and our specialty, and is ultimately rewarding for all of us.