

2021 House of Delegates

Report of the Board Chair

It was an honor to continue to serve as Board Chair during these difficult times. About a year ago we chose to delay appointing our new officers in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Our intention had been to move the Annual Meeting to the Spring, and we hoped we would all be meeting in person. However, even though we are meeting virtually again it is time to install our new officers and assist them in the transition to their new roles.

Once again, I am proud to be part of the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians. Despite, and due to COVID, we have been very busy working on behalf of Family Physicians across the state and have had many successes. We have seen one of our own, Dr. Mary Campagnolo elected to the AAFP Board of Directors this year at the AAFP Congress of Delegates. We have continued to work on Primary Care spend in New Jersey. Our government affairs committee has continued to speak for us in Trenton.

Regarding matters specific to the COVID pandemic, we have given testimony at the NJ Senate Health Committee meeting on the necessity of continued insurance reimbursement for telemedicine. We have also had two discussions with the NJ Department of Health where we voiced our concerns regarding the lack of primary care presence in the roll out of COVID vaccine to New Jersey residents. Due to the diligence and hard work of our NJAFP staff and our fellow physicians, our colleagues have been quoted in 26 different news articles over the past year. We are getting our voice heard advocating for Family Physicians.

This has been a difficult time for all of us practicing Family Medicine in New Jersey. However, we have shown our strength and the critical need for strong Family Medicine to take care of patients during this crisis. I am confident that we will continue to advocate for Family Medicine and make sure our voices are heard.

I thank you again for the opportunity to serve as Board Chair for the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren Carruth, MD