

May 2023

Report of the President to the 2023 AAFP Congress of Delegates

Dear friends and Colleagues,

It has been my pleasure to serve as your 2022-2023 New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians President. As I wrap up my term it is with hope and relief we see the end of the COVID 19 public health emergency. COVID 19 has shaped many of the things we have done over the last few years. We have learned to embrace technology and the power to connect for meetings and meeting our patient's needs. We hope that some of the progress made in these modalities will stay on after the public health emergency ends.

We are at the beginning of the explosion of AI in the world and we stand on the precipice of seeing how we will interface with it in our practices. We hope that it will bring the promise of efficiency and relief of administrative burden to streamline process.

We have made strides this year to assess our organization and the needs of the members. We have conducted strategic planning sessions and your executive team has attended many conferences and webinars preparing the path for the future. Our membership is changing, and we are making sure we are adaptable and pivoting with their needs. One of Dr. Mravcak's first agenda items is a membership survey that will continue to inform our plans. We need to stay steadfast in our support of scope of practice and support our employed, private practice and DPC members.

The biggest ongoing legislative concern in our state and many others is Nurse Practitioner Independent Practice. Dr. Cascarina and Resident Members have testified in Trenton in a hearing with Senator Vitale, we have had many lively and dynamic discussions and sharing of literature as we prepare our next phase of advocacy. It gives me so much pride in our organization to see us all come together despite our busy schedules and unify around these important causes. We will not stand by and allow our patient's care to be compromised and for Healthcare Administrators and Insurance Companies to continue convincing themselves that we can be replaced by "providers" with less training than us. I look forward to working alongside all of you to make the organization and healthcare in the state stronger and leave it a better place for the next generation of Doctors and Patients.

Sincerely,

Kelly Ussery-Kronhaus, MD, FAAFP