

Report of the Resident Directors 2023

It has been our honor to serve as the resident directors for the 2022-2023 year. Our goals as directors were to advocate as leaders in the field for our patients and to spread awareness of the importance of primary care. We started our term with ambition to reconnect with our peers after the social distancing we had experienced due to the pandemic. In order to increase outreach to residents and engage in closer communication, we hosted a meeting with residents all over NJ and shared information on how to become more involved with NJAFP. We also discussed options on which methods would be best to connect residents and came to a conclusion to create a WhatsApp group for all those who are interested. We have been utilizing this group to introduce ourselves as well as share information regarding updates in public and/or personal health within our community. With the continued movement towards technology, we had created a social media account to increase awareness about NJ AFP and advocacy. While this is still under construction, we plan to continue making an impact with the goal of increased interaction from residents statewide and hope for increased involvement.

One of our highlights from this year was the opportunity to go to Trenton and participate and advocate as Family Medicine physicians, specifically as residents, and educate the NJ community on the importance of the education and training that residents must complete prior to independent practice. This allowed us to collaborate with other healthcare professionals in different specialties and unite in providing high-quality patient care. We testified in opposition bill S-1522 at the NJ Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens committee alongside resident and attending physicians of other specialties because we felt strongly about the quality of care of our patients in NJ.

We participated in meetings for strategic planning and hope to continue making a contribution to the Academy. We will continue our march towards physician-led healthcare and aim to recruit residents and colleagues to join us on this path!

Sincerely,

Dr. Deshanki Pandya & Dr. Reema Iqbal