



**For Immediate Release**

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**FMEC Annual Meeting Theme Announced**  
Unleashing Our Family Medicine Superpowers

*Join the FMEC for a marvelous meeting in DC*

DAYTON, OHIO – The Family Medicine Education Consortium (FMEC) has announced the theme of its 2022 Annual Meeting, to be held September 16-18, 2022, in Arlington, VA. **“Unleashing our Family Medicine Superpowers”** was chosen by the Board of Trustees and the Host Committee of the 2022 Annual Meeting. The theme was chosen to recognize the strengths, accomplishments, and potential of family medicine, and it is particularly relevant given the last two years of challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The specialty of family medicine develops skills and knowledge that are truly “super.” Family physicians provide the majority of care for America’s underserved rural and urban populations. They diagnose and treat illness in all ages, and provide preventive care, health-risk assessments, immunizations and screenings, and personalized counseling on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The family physician is able to leap from immunizing a toddler to treating adult hypertension in a single bound (which may simply be down the clinic hallway and into the next exam room).

“The family medicine pathway, from medical student to resident to practitioner, challenges us to identify our many strengths and superpowers, and supports us in learning how to use them to create healthy patients and communities,” says Eleni O’Donovan, MD, Director of Education at Unity Health Care and co-chair of the FMEC 2022 Host Committee. “Every day, in every town, family physicians are exercising those superpowers –such as agility, breadth of practice, leadership, innovation, patient-centeredness and empathy – to keep families and communities healthy.”

In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic required family medicine to expand its toolbox to support patients and communities. A national survey conducted over the last two years by the Larry A. Green Center showed that despite threats brought on by COVID-19, burnout, and staffing shortages, primary care providers enhanced their services through more video- and phone-based care, collaborating with public health and other community services, and increasing mental health supports for patients.

The FMEC recognizes that physicians are not perfect or invincible. As any movie or comic book lover knows, superheroes often face their own challenges, and for family physicians, staying abreast of a growing scope of health threats, compounded by issues such as work/life balance and burnout, can be very demanding. The same survey referenced above found that during COVID-19, 10% of primary care providers reported receiving regular calls from healthcare colleagues undergoing personal mental health



crises. The FMEC Annual Meeting provides the opportunity for family physicians to connect, learn from each other, and become inspired to fight the next day's challenge. "The FMEC Annual Meeting does so much to advance our specialty – helping students find their way into family medicine, giving residents and junior faculty presentation opportunities, and connecting academic programs throughout the Northeast U.S.," says Doug Spotts, MD, Vice President and Chief Health Officer at Meritus Health and co-chair of the FMEC 2022 Host Committee. "The energy is incredible, and we can't wait to get together again in September."

Registration for individuals, residency programs, and exhibitors is open now for the FMEC 2022 Annual Meeting, which will be held September 16-18, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Visit [FMEC 2022 Annual Meeting](#) for more information.

### **About the FMEC Annual Meeting**

Every year, the FMEC hosts a lively and innovative Annual Meeting, rotating through states in the northeastern U.S., for medical students, family medicine residents, faculty and others involved in family medicine. At the conference, nearly 1,000 attendees participate in peer-reviewed scholarly sessions, hands-on workshops and a popular residency program recruitment fair. Through a robust scholarship initiative, the FMEC brings hundreds of medical students to the Annual Meeting to consider family medicine for their careers and to meet with residency programs around the country. The Annual Meeting is also the forum for the FMEC to recognize excellence in family medicine and primary care through its many award programs. The meeting is full of networking opportunities, and the camaraderie that develops among both new and long-time attendees of the FMEC Annual Meeting is truly special. For more information, visit [FMEC 2022 Annual Meeting](#). To support the FMEC's scholarship program and help generate interest in family medicine among medical students, visit the [FMEC Student Scholarship Support](#) donation page.

Individual members and organizational partners of the FMEC receive discounted rates on exhibits, residency fair booths, and registrations. Visit the FMEC website for more information on [FMEC membership and partnership programs](#).