

The [Family Medicine Education Consortium](#) is a catalyst, convener, and incubator that connects those interested in improving the health of the community by strengthening family medicine/primary care services and medical education. The FMEC mission is to improve the health of the nation by strengthening family medicine and primary care to meet its full potential. The FMEC is a non-profit organization incorporated in Ohio (FEIN 31-1436038).



The FMEC serves 14 states and the District of Columbia in the northeastern U.S., from New England to Virginia and west to Ohio. FMEC's constituency in these states includes nearly 60 Medical School Departments of Family Medicine and 195 family medicine residency programs (AAFP, 2021) accepting about 1,300 first year

residents annually. The FMEC region graduates over 9,600 medical students, with about one-quarter from osteopathic medical schools (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019). Combined, the FMEC region is home to 35,733 professional active family physicians (KFF, September 2021).

Leadership and Staff

The FMEC is led by a 15-member [Board of Trustees](#). The current President is Donald Raj Woolever, MD, who is the Executive Director at the Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency in Augusta, ME, and the President-elect is Leon McCrea, MD, who is Senior Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. FMEC has five professional staff, led by CEO Scott G. Allen, MS, who has 30 years of professional association experience, primarily with pediatricians, family physicians and other primary care providers.

Members

FMEC offers [Individual Memberships](#) (\$30 for Residents and Fellows, \$50 for others) as well as [Organizational and Academic Partnerships](#) for medical school-based departments of family medicine and community hospital-based family medicine residency programs (\$500 to \$25,000 and over). Approximately [50 institutions](#) across the region are active partners of the FMEC, while another 100-150 participate each year in the FMEC's Annual Meeting (see below). FMEC communicates via a [monthly newsletter](#), periodic emails, press releases, and more to a database of over 5,500 key contact individuals, and our social media reaches thousands more.

Annual Meeting and Conferences

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, 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.

At the recent 2021 Annual Meeting held October 8-10, 2021, in Pittsburgh, PA, over 260 faculty members, 174 residents, and 237 medical students attended The Residency Fair featured nearly 70 residency program booths and was as lively and loud as ever. The program featured over 170 workshops, seminars, research presentations, discussions and more and nearly 100 posters.



The FMEC also co-hosts the [Direct Primary Care Summit](#) each summer for 200-300 physicians, and promotes related educational initiatives, to help physicians learn about models that allow patients/families to directly contract with their primary care clinicians.



Awards

The FMEC presents numerous [annual awards](#) to recognize excellence in family medicine and primary care in the region and nationally. Awards recognize Family Physicians Who Are Changing the World, Mid-Career Faculty Achievement, Emerging Leaders, Creative Writing, and Visual Arts. The FMEC also collects and honors expressions of the core attitudes and beliefs—the personal philosophies—about caring for others through its “This We Believe” awards.



Quality Improvement

The FMEC is changing care and promoting innovation through its learning communities and quality improvement collaboratives. The FMEC engages multi-institutional teams to support cost-effective, innovative changes to primary care service delivery on a wide range of topics.

The FMEC is uniquely qualified to lead such initiatives. Among the FMEC’s leadership and membership are many nationally known authorities from hundreds of academic institutions, putting our work at the forefront in terms of expertise and innovation. The projects also benefit from the FMEC’s reach into its large, multi-state region. When initiating projects, FMEC secures participation from diverse clinics and academic centers, helping to test the learnings and improvement cycles in many unique settings. The FMEC’s reach also benefits our projects when promoting the results and encouraging systemic spread of practice changes after a successful pilot.

The FMEC quality improvement initiatives vary in scope, but they often include recruiting practices, clinics and training programs to participate in time-limited, intensive quality improvement cycles; development of training materials and toolkits for use in medical school, residency, and graduate medical education programs; webinars and other educational programs accessible nationally to help spread new information and practice change strategies; and presentations and publications of results at FMEC and in national meetings and journals. For instance, the FMEC’s IMPLICIT (Interventions to Minimize Preterm and Low-birthweight Infants Using Continues Quality Improvement Techniques) Network has created a [valued toolkit](#) in collaboration with the March of Dimes and published peer-reviewed articles in the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine ([2009](#) and [2018](#)), the Annals of Family Medicine ([2016](#)), and the Maternal and Child Health Journal ([2020](#)).

Projects

As of 2021, in addition to IMPLICIT, the FMEC’s projects include FACTS: Fertility Appreciation Collaborative to Teach the Science initiative; the Integrative Health Learning Community, which is teaching health care teams to use the HOPE Toolkit, non-pharmacological approaches for pain and opioid management, and evidence-based complementary treatments and self-care for chronic diseases; and the Innovators Network which highlights unique and promising developments in primary care during an Annual Meeting preconference each year.



The FMEC is actively seeking topics and partners for future learning communities and quality improvement collaboratives.

From our Attendees

“I loved seeing everyone involved, eager and excited to participate in family medicine centered care.”

2021 Faculty Attendee

“There were many opportunities for learning and the variety of sessions was excellent. The level of material was wonderful!”

2021 Faculty Attendee

“The most meaningful part of the meeting for me was meeting leaders in family medicine who were passionate about bringing about positive changes in the field.”

2021 Student Attendee

“Interacting with residency programs during the fair was great and like-minded individuals inspired me and re-affirmed my decision to go into family medicine.”

2021 Student Attendee

For More Information

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