



For Immediate Release

June 25, 2026

CONTACT:

Scott G. Allen, MS, CEO
Family Medicine Education Consortium
scott.allen@fmec.net

FMEC Announces Plenary Speakers for 2026 Annual Meeting

DAYTON, OHIO – The Family Medicine Education Consortium (FMEC) will hold its [2026 Annual Meeting](#) at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, NJ from September 24-26, 2026. Plenary speakers will include Drs. Kisha Davis, Mike Varshavski, and Kaitlin Baston, who will show the power and breadth of family medicine and educate and enlighten the audience about critical and emerging issues for primary healthcare.



Kisha Davis, MD, MPH, FAAFP



Mike Varshavski, DO



Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM

- On Friday afternoon, **Kisha Davis, MD, MPH, FAAFP** will present **“Family Medicine at the Crossroads.”** Family medicine stands at a pivotal moment. As the nation faces rising chronic disease, widening health disparities, workforce shortages, and growing pressures on the healthcare system, the need for comprehensive, relationship-centered primary care has never been greater. We will explore the challenges and opportunities facing family medicine, examine the evolving intersection of primary care and public health, and discuss how educators, learners, and practicing physicians can help shape the future of the specialty. Together, we will consider what is required to ensure family medicine not only survives this moment—but leads the transformation of healthcare for generations to come.

Dr. Davis is a family physician and public health leader committed to advancing health equity, population health, and value-based care. She serves on the Board of the American Academy of Family Physicians and is Chief Health Officer for Montgomery County, Maryland. Dr. Davis previously led health equity efforts at Aledade and advised Congress as Vice Chair of the Medicaid And CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). A former White House Fellow, she also served as medical director at CHI Health Care, an integrative primary care center. Passionate about mentoring, she teaches at Johns Hopkins and precepts residents at the Uniformed Services University. She has held multiple leadership roles within AAFP and the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Davis earned degrees from Duke,



UConn, the University of Maryland, and Johns Hopkins. Outside of medicine, she is a wife, mother of three, documentary co-producer, podcast co-host, and author of *The Making of a Pearl*.

- On Friday evening, **Mike Varshavski, DO** will present “**Healthcare Communication in the Digital Era.**” A doctor’s ability to communicate evidence-based information to their patients is an essential pillar of good medicine. Unfortunately, physicians face an uphill battle these days due to the avalanche of misinformation patients receive on social media. While face-to-face communication is important, doctors are increasingly pressured to use social media themselves to debunk misinformation directly. Doctor Mike Varshavski has built an audience of over 30 million followers doing just that: educating about health and science through organic posts on platforms like YouTube and Instagram. Unfortunately, he can’t do it alone. Hear from the man himself about the do’s and don’ts of educating online so that we can curb the misinformation pandemic together.

Doctor Mike Varshavski is a board-certified family medicine physician and the most followed doctor on social media. When he’s not practicing medicine, Doctor Mike creates videos online debunking medical misinformation to an audience of over 30 million across platforms like YouTube (@DoctorMike) and Instagram (@doctor.mike). His podcast, [The Checkup with Doctor Mike](#), has welcomed the biggest names in healthcare, from Vice President Kamala Harris to Emmy-winner Noah Wyle. He lives in New York with his two newfoundland dogs and enjoys a side hobby of being a Ferrari racecar driver.

- On Saturday afternoon, family physician **Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM** will present “**Shaping the Future of Care: Where Leadership, Policy, and AI Converge.**” Healthcare stands at a defining moment. AI is advancing at a pace few could have imagined, creating extraordinary opportunities to improve care, expand access, and empower patients. Yet the most important questions are not technological. They are human. Dr. Baston will explore what it means to lead through one of the most consequential transformations in modern medicine. This session will examine the promise and challenges of AI in healthcare, the responsibilities that come with innovation, and the critical role physicians must play in shaping the future. As clinicians, we witness firsthand the realities of the healthcare system and the needs of the people it serves. Our voices are essential not only at the bedside, but at the tables where decisions are made. If we want policies that promote both innovation and access, protect patients, and improve outcomes, physicians must help lead the conversation. The discussion will also place healthcare’s AI revolution within a broader global context. As artificial intelligence reshapes industries, economies, and daily life, society must grapple with fundamental questions about equity, responsibility, human connection, and the future of work. Through the lens of Vinyl Health, attendees will explore how AI can be used not to replace human relationships, but to strengthen them, helping people better understand their health, navigate complexity, and stay connected to the families, caregivers, and clinicians who support them.

Dr. Kaitlan Baston is a family physician and the Chief Executive Officer of Vinyl Health, an AI-driven health technology company redefining how people experience and navigate care. Vinyl is built on a simple but transformative idea: healthcare should make sense to the people living it. By translating complex clinical information into clear, personalized, and shareable insights, Vinyl helps patients and families understand what is happening, what to do next, and how to stay aligned across providers, closing one of the most persistent gaps in modern healthcare. Dr. Baston brings a unique combination of frontline clinical experience, executive healthcare leadership, and public policy expertise to this work. Most recently, she served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health under Governor



Phil Murphy, where she led initiatives to address the social, environmental, and economic drivers of health, improve maternal and child health outcomes, advance integrated models of care, and spearhead landmark regulatory reforms that unlocked long-stalled innovation. Previously, Dr. Baston served as President and CEO of University Hospital in Newark, a major urban academic medical center and Level 1 trauma center. Earlier in her career, she founded the Cooper Center for Healing, an innovative program integrating pain management, addiction treatment, and behavioral health years before integrated care became a national priority.

About the FMEC Annual Meeting

The FMEC Annual Meeting, held every fall, attracts over 1,000 medical students, family medicine residents and faculty from the FMEC's 14 state + DC region in the northeast U.S. The meeting theme is "Riding the Waves of Change in Family Medicine." The meeting venue is the [Harrah's Resort Atlantic City](#) (777 Harrah's Boulevard, Atlantic City, NJ 08401) which is also the headquarters hotel. This is the first time FMEC has held its Annual Meeting in Atlantic City. See <https://www.fmec.net/2026-atlantic-city-nj> for more information and links to register.

The meeting features hundreds of educational sessions and a residency program recruitment fair of over 100 programs. Through a robust scholarship initiative, the FMEC is able to bring 300 medical students to the Annual Meeting to consider family medicine for their careers and to meet with residency programs. The Annual Meeting is also the forum for the FMEC to recognize excellence in family medicine and primary care through its many award programs. Networking opportunities abound.

A Host Committee of family medicine training programs in the region has been working hard to help plan the meeting, choosing the theme and plenary speakers and raising support for student scholarships and more.

About the Family Medicine Education Consortium

[FMEC](#) is a catalyst, convener, and incubator that connects family physicians and other stakeholders to improve the health communities by strengthening family medicine, primary care and medical education. FMEC serves 14 states and the District of Columbia in the northeast region of the U.S., working with 60 medical school departments of family medicine, over 220 family medicine residency programs, and thousands of family physicians and other health care providers in community settings. Through an Annual Meeting for over 1,000 health professionals, annual awards, learning communities, and quality improvement projects, FMEC inspires medical students to seek careers in family medicine, strengthens academic family medicine through faculty development and leadership experiences, and stimulates innovative approaches to primary care service delivery.

2026 FMEC Annual Meeting Host Committee

Atlantic Health/Overlook Family Medicine Residency*
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University/Cooper University Hospital Program*
Beebe Healthcare Family Medicine Residency
Capital Health
ChristianaCare
Hunterdon Medical Center Family Medicine Residency
Inspira Health Network/Inspira Medical Center-Mullica Hill
Inspira Vineland
Institute for Family Health
Jamaica Hospital Family Medicine Residency
Jefferson Health New Jersey
Meritus Family Medicine Residency Program
New York Presbyterian-Columbia Family Medicine Residency
Penn Medicine Doylestown Health Family Medicine Residency
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
St. Luke's University Health Network
St. Mary Medical Center/SMMC
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
Thomas Jefferson University Department of Family and Community Medicine
University of Pennsylvania Family Medicine Residency Program

**co-chair*