

**2023 Report**  
**ADFM Liaison**  
**to the**  
**Center for the History of Family Medicine**

The mission of the CHFM is to “serve as the principal resource center for the collection, conservation, study, exhibition and dissemination of materials relating to the evolving history of the specialty of Family Medicine in the United States.”

The CHFM is the official repository devoted to preserving the history of family medicine; the CHFM is *the* collective memory of our specialty. As such, it serves three roles: it is an archive, a historical research library, and a museum. It is a repository of books, historical documents and other materials that are important to the ongoing development of family medicine.

If you visit the CHFM (and I hope you will), you will *not* see manicured exhibits of old medical equipment and bottles of snake oil. Rather, you will see boxes of organized historical documents, photographs, artifacts, DVDs and other audio-visual materials, oral histories, books, and personal and professional papers of family physician leaders. You will likely see a family physician or non-family physician scholar digging into the boxes.

Anyone who loves libraries, museums, archives, and history will love the CHFM!

Academic medicine has a huge archival presence in the CHFM. Information is catalogued on the development of all of the organizations that currently comprise the Family of Family Medicine (ADFM, as well as the AAFP, AAFP Foundation, STFM, ABFM, AFMRD, NAPCRG and the ACOFP). Collections on academic leaders of family medicine are among the holdings.

The CHFM is housed on the fourth floor of the AAFP headquarters building in Leawood, Kansas and is administered by the AAFP Foundation. The CHFM has an online presence at <http://www.aafpfoundation.org/foundation/chfm.html>. The Center website has been updated and now includes a listing of the various

collections of the Center. Just google “Center for the History of Family Medicine” and take a look around.

I want to make ADFM member departments aware of six actionable items.

First, the Center is now offering grants to help conduct oral histories. Interested in documenting the history of your department or residency? CHFM provides up to \$3000 in grants to support the creation of oral history interviews focused on family medicine. For more information head here:

<https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/chfm-oral-history-grant.html>

Second, the CHFM offers the Sandra L, Panther Fellowship in the History of Family Medicine Fellowship. This fellowship offers a \$3,000 stipend for an individual pursuing research on history pertinent to our specialty. More information can be found here: <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/sandra-l-panther-fellowship.html>.

Third, a student and resident essay contest is offered through CHFM. The focus of the essay should be on a historical dimension of family medicine. The first-place winner will receive \$1,000 and the second-place winner will receive a \$500 award. Visit <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/grants-awards/chfm-student-and-resident-essay-contest.html#> for details.

Fourth, many departments and residency programs are having 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and are accumulating archival information and printing histories about their programs. Many departments have extant written histories and other important documents about their departments and residency programs as well as papers from some of the formative leaders of family medicine that should be conserved and made available to researchers at the CHFM. The CHFM would be interested in receiving copies of these materials. You can send this material to Crystal Bauer, Center for the History of Family Medicine, 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 440, Leawood, KS 66211-2672 or [cbauer@aafp.org](mailto:cbauer@aafp.org). if you have questions about the documents in your possession, please contact Ms. Bauer.

Fifth, you can request free copies of the “Pocket History of Family Medicine” published by the CHFM in packets of 180. This pocket history can be used to

enlighten residents and faculty about the rich history of family medicine and can be used as a recruitment tool for medical students.

Finally, ADFM member departments, chairs and other faculty should consider making a tax-deductible financial contribution to the CHFM Endowment. For more information, please visit the AAFP Foundation page at <https://www.aafpfoundation.org/donate.html>.

I appreciate the ADFM's confidence in appointing me to serve as the ADFM organizational liaison to the CHFM. The CHFM Board of Curators appreciates the financial and philosophic support the ADFM gives to the Center.

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