

# Family Medicine Updates



From the American  
Board of Family Medicine

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From the Society of Teachers  
of Family Medicine

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## UPDATE ON THE P<sup>4</sup> PROJECT

Five months into the first year of implementation, the P<sup>4</sup> (Preparing the Personal Physician for Practice) residencies have their hands full. Most have completed IRB processes, and a significant minority of programs have completed the “baseline” data collection about the residencies and their residents. The residencies certainly have not lacked for ambition, and implementation is presenting virtually every program with a set of challenges.

The first “collaboration visits” with the innovating residencies by the Oregon Health and Science University evaluation team and a representative from the Steering Committee have been inspiring. Each program has its own character and culture, but all are clearly dedicated to their residents and learning how to improve family medicine residencies. Some of the programs already have been successful at garnering additional financial support for their efforts.

A number of different communication strategies are being implemented, led by former Pisacano Scholars Erika Bliss and Marguerite Duane, to inform students and residents, residencies, and the family of family medicine. The P<sup>4</sup> Web site, <http://www.transformed.com/p4.cfm>, is a good source for those wanting to keep in touch with the project. Starting in 2008, a new look and additional information will be added to this Web site that enhance efforts to share learnings.

The next meeting of the P<sup>4</sup> program participants will be in early 2008, and everyone is expecting this meeting to be filled with a lot of discussion about the real problems faced when making substantial changes to a residency. Meanwhile, Residency Programs Solutions (RPS) and P<sup>4</sup> are collaborating to learn more about assisting residencies as they manage change. Managing change is now a crucial skill set for residencies, just as it is for family physicians.

*Larry Green, MD*

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## STFM ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE FEATURES A DIVERSE RESEARCH PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The STFM research committee is assembling a variety of research-related activities for the STFM Annual Spring Conference, which will be held April 30 to May 4, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland.

STFM will feature presentations of original research, including forums and a research poster fair, including completed projects and fellows', residents', and students' works in progress.

Our 2 distinguished original research papers will be presented in a separate forum, and will describe screening questions to predict limited health literacy and declining trends in the provision of prenatal care by family physicians.

In addition to our focus on original research, this year we will also focus on teaching research and evaluation methods that are particularly relevant for family medicine residents and students, such as methods for quality improvement evaluation. The goal is to provide skills and tools that are essential for family physicians who will not necessarily become career researchers, and to assist residency programs with fulfilling the RRC requirements for research and scholarly activity. This component will feature 4 skill-building sessions on teaching research in residency, using electronic health records for quality improvement research, teaching rigorous evaluation methods for educational programs, and designing for dissemination: quality improvement.

The STFM Annual Spring Conference also provides an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of family medicine researchers. The research committee reviewed original research papers published by STFM members during the preceding academic year and selection of a Best Research Award will be announced in Baltimore. We will also announce the winner of the Curtis G. Hames Research Award, presented annually in recognition of an outstanding career of contributions to family medicine research. The presentations by the Hames Award winner and the STFM