

AAHPM Points of Progress

More than 30 committees and task forces representing the efforts and expertise of hundreds of Academy members have made significant progress toward implementing AAHPM's goals. This progress report highlights accomplishments within each goal area of the strategic plan during the last quarter of 2017.

Strengthen Engagement

Hunter Groninger, MD FAAHPM, chair, Membership and Communities Strategic Coordinating Committee

AAHPM ended the year with 5,125 members: 81% physicians; 11% affiliates (nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, chaplains, social workers); and 8% fellows, residents, and students.

The Communities Committee led by Randall Schisler, MD FAAHPM, continued to support the work of the Academy's two councils, 27 special interest groups, and six forums. The committee also monitored *AAHPM Connect* and was encouraged to see more than 275 discussion posts and 209 unique contributors to discussions during the most recent quarter.

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee has been moving forward with plans to update the AAHPM Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan. The Academy has contracted with the American Society of Association Executives™ to provide consultation services throughout the process. A kick-off call was held with the committee in December to discuss the scope of work and survey development for phase one.

AAHPM Connect remains an active online platform for members to share articles, post presentations, and participate in discussions. If you're interested in joining a community, simply add it to your demographic profile on your Member Profile page. Learn more at connect.aahpm.org.

Support Workforce and Career Development

Wayne McCormick, MD FAAHPM, chair, Workforce and Career Development Strategic Coordinating Committee

Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) Match Day was December 6 and on that day, 271 of 319 positions were filled with 102 of 137 programs filled. The specialty of HPM participates in the Medical Specialties Matching Program, which includes internal medicine specialties, allergy and immunology, and geriatrics. As of February 1, an additional 33 positions have been filled.

The Academic Hospice and Palliative Medicine Committee supported two new initiatives to develop resource guides for new fellowship directors and academic medical centers working with local community

hospices. The Fellowship Grants Advisory Group worked on a guide to assist fellowship programs seeking financial support.

The HPM EPAs/Curricular Milestones Workgroup refined HPM curricular milestones based on feedback received from the vetting survey sent to all HPM fellowship program directors and associate program directors. Visit aahpm.org/education/fellowships to download a copy.

The Academy was awarded a grant from the Hearst Foundations to support a new AAHPM Leadership Scholars Program. This program will support scholarships to AAHPM members who are interested in attending AAHPM Leadership Forum offerings or other select professional development opportunities with the goal of increasing the number of qualified physicians with advanced leadership training to meet the increased workforce demand. The Leadership and Career Development Committee will develop the scholarship criteria and requirements to include demonstration of financial need, commitment to the specialty of HPM, work history, career goals, and letters of recommendation. Information about the availability of the scholarship and application materials will be announced on aahpm.org in late spring.

Advance Knowledge and Competency

Elise Carey, MD FAAHPM, chair, Education and Training Strategic Coordinating Committee

AAHPM is ready to help you prepare for the HPM certification exam. Mark your calendar for the 2018 Intensive Board Review Course, August 9-11, in Minneapolis, MN. Three of the *HPM FAST* modules covering prognostication, pediatrics, and psychiatry and cognition are new and available for your preparation. These 25-item online self-assessments supplement *HPM PASS*, the 150-item practice test based on the HPM certification exam blueprint.

Essential Practices in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 5th edition, was released in the fall of 2017. The content of this nine-volume book series with corresponding learning modules is written to serve as a resource for exam preparation.

Hospice medical directors seeking certification from the Hospice Medical Director Certification Board will find resources to support your learning and exam preparation at AAHPM.org/self-study/hospice-products.

Pediatric Hospice and Palliative Care: Advances and Innovations (“Pedi-Innovate”) will provide a forum for interdisciplinary healthcare professionals to learn about innovative topics germane to the care of children living with life-threatening conditions or who are at end of life. Registration is now open for this course in Minneapolis on August 9-11.

Promote Quality of Care, Research, and Evidence-Based Practice

Robert Gramling, MD DSC, chair, Quality and Research Strategic Coordinating Committee

Phase 1 of the Registries Collaborative Project closed at the end of November 2017, with each of the seven objectives identified in the original grant proposal completed. Throughout the first year, staff and consultants continually engaged the partner organizations to gather information and conceptualize a model where the three registries could merge into a single entity and platform. This resulted in a robust business plan that provides the blueprint for successfully merging the three registries. The AAHPM Board of Directors approved Phase 2 of the project, with AAHPM providing the lead on writing a grant proposal for a 3- to 5-year project for submission to the Moore Foundation. In addition, AAHPM will provide in-kind and supplemental support to demonstrate its commitment to the project.

The AARP-funded Measure Development Project with partners AAHPM, AMGA, and OptumLabs, achieved a major milestone in December, having its measure analysis and testing plan approved by AARP. This project will test whether a commercial claims database can be used to identify patients with serious illness and provide a useful denominator for palliative care quality measures. The principal investigators and Academy staff are working with OptumLabs’ partner, AMGA, to define the global serious illness denominator, plus two smaller populations: people with dementia and multiple chronic conditions. The first Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting was held on February 5.

Advance Public Awareness and Policy

Gregg VandeKieft, MD MA FAAHPM, chair, Advocacy and Awareness Strategic Coordinating Committee

The External Awareness Committee continued to work on projects to help others better understand the benefits of hospice and palliative medicine.

AAHPM continued its efforts to advance its Patient and Caregiver Support for Serious Illness (PACSSI) alternative payment model (APM). The Academy responded to an initial set of questions from the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee review team examining AAHPM’s proposal, and Academy leaders shared details about PACSSI in presentations at various national conferences.

AAHPM joined stakeholders in transmitting joint letters to Congress regarding key legislative priorities. The Academy called on House leaders to follow the Senate’s example and pass the Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act and urged congressional leaders to advance legislation providing a path to permanent residency for healthcare providers, educators, and researchers with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status and to extend exiting flexibilities under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) to ensure the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can continue a transitional approach to the implementation of the Quality Payment Program.

AAHPM responded to a Request for Information seeking stakeholder feedback on the future direction of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) and also contributed to a joint letter submitted by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care.

AAHPM was represented at various meetings key to advancing the Academy’s policy priorities, including the Interim Meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates, the AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) and the CPT-RUC Emerging Issues Workgroup, the American College of Physicians Subspecialty Advisory Group on Socioeconomic Affairs, and the inaugural Integrative Pain Care Policy Congress. 🍷