

Dear Residents and Fellows,

We are excited to announce a call for applications for the 2023-2024 Resident Advocacy Cohort (RAC). Note that this constitutes a departmental course and will now be offered biennially. The subsequent cohort is anticipated in 2025-2026.

A yellow speech bubble containing the text "RESIDENT ADVOCACY COHORT" in bold, dark red, uppercase letters.

**RESIDENT
ADVOCACY
COHORT**

Eligibility

- Open to any rising second- or third-year resident or fellow from programs sponsored by the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.
- Seeking participants with a strong interest in advocacy and a specific advocacy issue about which they are passionate and intend to focus during their time in RAC.
- Prior advocacy experience is not necessary, but those with limited experience may be asked to independently complete modules prior to the course to ensure a baseline knowledge of advocacy skills.
- Participants will be asked to submit an application indicating a potential advocacy issue of interest and a commitment to working longitudinally and independently between course sessions.

Schedule/Logistics

- The cohort will meet **in person** for **three half-day afternoon sessions** over the course of the academic year. **Attendance is required and programs are expected to block clinical duties** to ensure resident/fellow participation as well as adequate time for transportation. These in-person sessions will be held in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and will occur **from 1 to 5 p.m. on August 28, 2023; November 13, 2023; and March 4, 2024**. There will not be a virtual or hybrid option offered.
- Between sessions, residents/fellows will be expected to work independently on advocacy efforts focused on their specific issue. To support this independent work, residents/fellows will periodically sign up for **30-minute “office hours” slots between sessions** to check in virtually with course faculty. Faculty will also be available for additional meetings and via email as needed.
- We request programs provide **four hours of admin time each month** in which there is no in-person RAC session (i.e., September, October, December, January, February, April, and May), to allow for participants to engage in community meetings and other advocacy work related to RAC.
- Participants will be strongly encouraged to attend the MMA Day at the Capitol (February 2024), MAFP House of Delegates (April 2024), and the AAFP Family Medicine Advocacy Summit (May 2024) as part of this advocacy experience.
- Participants will be expected to **publicly share** regarding their advocacy work following the final RAC session. Date and format of this public forum are still to be determined (April or May 2024).

Course Content

- Participants will learn and practice/apply tangible advocacy skills focused on a specific advocacy issue about which they are passionate. Participants will choose from a variety of advocacy skills

which best fit their learning needs and are relevant to their advocacy issue. Skills which participants may have the opportunity to practice include:

- Engage on social media
- Utilize Speak out/Action Alerts
- Collaborate with a community partner
- Write a letter to the editor
- Develop a one pager/issue brief
- Write and present a resolution
- Connect with leaders and legislators
- Create and deliver an elevator speech
- Develop a project proposal
- Utilize power mapping

Application

- Interested residents/fellows should apply via email to free0191@umn.edu.
- Applications will be accepted January 15 through February 15, 2023. A final list of participants will be available by March 1, 2023.
- Applications must include a letter of interest which should address the following questions.
 - What motivates your interest in building advocacy skills through participation in RAC?
 - What specific skills or tools would you hope to gain through participation in RAC?
 - On what issue do you plan to focus during your participation in RAC? Please elaborate on why this issue is important to you.
 - Recognizing that physicians can engage in advocacy in many diverse ways, please describe your prior advocacy experience.
 - Residency is a busy time. Discuss how you plan to create time and space into your residency schedule to be able to learn, practice, and fully participate in RAC and advocacy work.
- Applications require a letter of support from the resident/fellow's program director.

Please contact Dr. Freeman (free0191@umn.edu) or Dr. Doering (doeri035@umn.edu) with questions about the cohort. We look forward to another engaging year of advocacy!

Sincerely,

Anne Doering, MD (doeri035@umn.edu)

Katie Freeman, MD (free0191@umn.edu)

Heidi Cerdas Monge, M.Ed, MBA (hcerdasm@umn.edu)