

# SLAFP NEWS

## St. Louis Academy of Family Physicians

### WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Greetings from your Saint Louis Academy of Family Physicians (SLAFP), and welcome to the first in an ongoing series of newsletters, intended to update you on all aspects of your Academy. Newsletters will be released quarterly and will focus on reviewing recent events that SLAFP has been part of, informing you of upcoming events, and to welcome your participation as a member of SLAFP. Active member participation is vital to creating a strong, effective, and vibrant Academy that has a positive, measurable impact on its community.

#### NEW LEADERSHIP

SLAFP started 2023 with a change at the Executive Director level, as Vivian Helm retired after 22 years in that position. After a series of interviews, we were fortunate to find an excellent candidate in Julie Lawson, who assumed the Executive Direction position early in the year. Julie comes with many years of experience as an Executive Director for other professional healthcare organizations and is the CEO of the Reins Institute, a leadership development organization. She brings a wealth of experience and new ideas to SLAFP as we look to narrow our focus and deepen our community impact moving into the future.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN

The Executive Board met in March for a strategic planning session, to review the SLAFP mission statement and to discuss areas of focus moving forward. We reviewed last year's member survey, discussed the organizations' areas of strength, and listed potential areas for improvement. Three areas of focus were identified at the conclusion of the session:

- 1) Member engagement through improved communication and volunteer opportunities
- 2) Outreach and community building for our members
- 3) Support for local medical students interested in Family Medicine, and for current Family Medicine residents

We have used these areas of focus to guide our work thus far in 2023.

*continued*

**FALL 2023**

### Key Dates

#### October 2023

Submit your interest in a board position! SLAFP is looking for 4 members to join our board of directors.

#### November 7, 2023

Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors  
**6:30 pm**

#### November 10-11, 2023

MOAFP 31st Annual Conference  
More information

#### January 7, 2024

Installation of New Board Members (open to all members)  
**6:00 pm**  
Rosalita's Cantina, Des Peres Location

#### March 2024

Stay tuned for our next social event!





## NEW WEBSITE

SLAFP now has a new website ([slafp.org](http://slafp.org)) where individuals can go to become a member, find out about upcoming events, contact their Board of Directors and Chapter Executive, link to upcoming local CME events, and find professional resources. We are continuing to build and improve this site and welcome your input on ways to make it more effective for your needs.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

In March we hosted a “Welcome to Family Medicine” happy hour for newly matched medical students into Family Medicine at Rockwell Brewery, which was well attended by SLAFP members and residents-to-be.

In July we were blessed with a beautiful summer day when we hosted a family-friendly event for SLAFP members, residents, and medical students at Grant’s Farm. Throughout the year we have continued to participate in “Coffee with a Doc”, where members meet with medical students interested in Family Medicine to answer questions and serve as mentors.

Finally, in keeping with our annual tradition of supporting local students interested in Family Medicine, we also provided scholarship for 11 SLU medical students to attend the AAFP National Conference in Kansas City.



## LOOKING FORWARD

As we look forward to the remainder of 2023 there is still much work to be done. We have one open Board of Directors position currently as Cherry Cockrell, our former Vice-President, has relocated to Oklahoma. In addition, as occurs at the beginning of each year we will have 3 open Board of Directors positions to fill in January of 2024. **If you are interested in becoming a board member, or want to learn more about this opportunity, please reach out to myself or Julie Lawson for more information.** Plans are also underway to organize a member-wide event before the end of the year, which will be an excellent opportunity for networking and social collaboration. Please be on the lookout for more information soon. Finally, we will welcome in the New Year with our annual Installation event, which is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 7th , 2024. A formal invitation will follow once the date and location have been finalized. Please consider attending this event in support of your SLAFP board members.

The mission of SLAFP in 2023 was to improve member and student engagement. As you can see, we are making excellent progress in this direction, with more to come before the end of the year. Key to seeing SLAFP achieve its potential is input from and participation with our membership. Please reach out to SLAFP if there are ways we can better serve your needs, if you have a desire to work closer with interested students and residents, or if you want to become an active board member.

Sincerely,  
Christian Verry, MD  
President, St. Louis Academy of Family Physicians