

1 **INDIANA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
2 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**
3

4 **French Lick, IN**

July 25, 2021

5 **Nykki Boersma, MD, FAAFP**
6

7 A year ago, I began my president's report by noting that it had been a most unusual presidential year,
8 and concluded with this statement that we were Family Physicians - and that we did not stop.
9

10 It has been an honor and a privilege to serve a 2nd term with you as president of the Indiana Academy
11 of Family Physicians. It has been a particular honor to be able to be the face of this Academy through
12 a year of challenges and transformations - in our state, our nation, and our world. As family physicians,
13 our duty is to our patients and their continued good health, and the challenges that we have been
14 presented in the last year have given us an opportunity to show just how deeply and passionately we
15 care about that health.
16

17 We are family physicians, and we do not stop working.
18

19 I don't have a list of exotic places (or mundane ones) that I traveled in the last year, or reports of the
20 business conducted at other states' meetings that I attended on behalf of your Academy. Our
21 meetings have been virtual for a year; my first chance to see our hard working staff face-to-face came
22 at a campaign meeting this month. But meeting on e-mail and virtually rather than in person does not
23 mean that your Academy has been any less tireless this year than any other.
24

25 This year, your state and national Academy have been there to speak out on behalf of our patients and
26 against the inequities that affect their health. I have met with the Indiana Department of Health
27 alongside other state medical society leaders regarding pandemic management and allocation, and I
28 have been proud to be part of a state whose medical leadership has prioritized getting vaccines into
29 the arms of every Hoosier, and whose medical community has come together to offer free
30 transportation to vaccine sites, traveling vaccine clinics throughout the state, free COVID-19 testing in
31 the height of the pandemic, and steady access to the data that we need to make scientifically driven
32 decisions for the benefit of our patients' health.
33

34 We recognize that your training and experience and qualifications matter, and that being a family
35 physician makes you uniquely qualified to do the things that you do. In September, we partnered with
36 the Indiana State Medical Association in forming a coalition focused on scope of practice issues. The
37 Indiana Physician Coalition is a multi-specialty project whose mission is to ensure that health care in
38 Indiana continues to be led by physicians and is delivered with a team-based approach.
39

40 The influence of Family Medicine reaches even outside our own specialty: I was able to attend the
41 Indiana State Medical Association virtual meeting in September, where Dr. Darroca, an OB-GYN and
42 the newly installed president of the ISMA, named the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians as one of
43 the formative elements in his medical leadership journey.
44

45 In October, I was able to meet with the Indiana University School of Medicine Bicentennial Scholars on
46 a virtual panel about legislative advocacy, introducing the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians, the
47 specialty of Family Medicine, and our legislative priorities to a new generation of medical students.
48

49 In January, I joined with the Indiana State Medical Association and the Indiana Academy of Pediatrics
50 in a joint letter urging Gov. Holcomb to raise the cigarette tax and use those proceeds to invest in
51 proven health programs to reduce mortality and chronic illness among Hoosiers.

1
2 In March, your Academy announced the candidacy of Dr. Teresa Lovins for the AAFP Board of
3 Directors, and I have been privileged to serve on her campaign committee as we prepare for the
4 Congress of Delegates in September.

5
6 In April, I was able to attend the virtual National Conference of Constituency Leaders, and serve as
7 your delegate for the LGBT/allies constituency. While we were unable to meet in person, this
8 conference contained powerful energy, and the virtual format allowed it to reach family physicians
9 around the nation and around the globe. I assisted in crafting resolutions that encouraged the AAFP to
10 go even further in making our specialty one that attends to the health of every patient, no matter what
11 their identity.

12
13 At NCCL I reconnected with family physicians whom I have come to consider some of my dearest
14 friends. Their passion, their drive, and above all their concern for the health and well-being of every
15 person make me so proud to be a part of this family. As my 2 years as president draw to a close, I
16 leave this office as hopeful for the future of our specialty as I entered it.

17
18 You are my family, and it has been an honor to serve as your voice.

19
20 Nykki Boersma, MD, FAAFP
21 President of the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians