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Administered by the  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
Foundation

## **THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN AAFP HISTORY 1947-2007**

- Jun. 10, 1947:** The American Academy of General Practice (AAGP) was founded in Atlantic City, New Jersey at the Claridge Hotel. The first meeting was held in conjunction with the AMA meeting.
- Nov. 8-9, 1947:** The first meeting of the AAGP Executive Committee and Board of Directors was held at the Palmer House in Chicago.
- Jan. 1, 1948:** Attorney Mac F. Cahal, Executive Secretary and General Counsel of the American College of Radiology (ACR), started work as Executive Secretary of the AAGP. He worked on a part-time basis for the AAGP, operating out of ACR headquarters office in Chicago until March 1948.
- Feb. 21, 1948:** Missouri became the first state to organize a constituent chapter with the AAGP, followed by 32 other states that same year.
- Mar. 23, 1948:** The AAGP established its headquarters at the Plaza Theater Building in Kansas City, Missouri.
- Jun. 21, 1948:** The first meeting of the AAGP Congress of Delegates was held just prior to the annual meeting of the AMA at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago. Delegates from 26 constituent state chapters met to conduct the official business of the Academy, including election of officers, extensive revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws, and resolutions from several state chapters. A banquet attended by 300 persons closed the session.
- Mar. 7-9, 1949:** The First Scientific Assembly was held at the Netherland Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati with a total of 3,500 family physicians and 57 firms as technical exhibitors in attendance. According to a published report of the meeting in the *New York Times*, the “male frog pregnancy test” booth was crowded from morning until night with physicians eager to learn the techniques of this simple, reliable and practical office procedure. Hotel rooms ranged in price from \$3.00 for a single room at the Metropole to \$50.00 for a suite at the Netherland Plaza. Banquet attendees at the Assembly also received a specially designed vase of Rookwood Pottery, bearing the Academy seal. These vases were sold for \$1.75 plus tax to individuals who did not attend the banquet (and are now highly valuable collector’s items). Also during this Assembly, the AAGP Congress of

Delegates approved the first basic definition and policy on postgraduate study for AAGP members. The AAGP was the first major medical organization to require continuing medical education (CME) as a condition of membership. Members were required to document 150 hours of postgraduate study every three years in order to maintain active membership within the Academy.

**Feb. 21, 1950:** The first State Officers' Conference (SOC) was held at the Hotel Statler in St. Louis, Missouri, with a total of 84 officers of state chapters in attendance for the luncheon meeting.

**Apr. 1950:** The first issue of *GP* (forerunner of *American Family Physician*) was published. This first issue contained a section entitled "Atomic Warfare." General practitioners in suburbs were warned that in the event of an atomic bomb, it would be prudent for them to know how to operate a bulldozer (if not own one), since ". . . most of the physicians in the city would be killed or incapacitated. It would then be up to the general practitioners in the suburbs and surrounding country to come in and help."

**Mar. 19-22, 1951:** A sign of how things change: at the Academy's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in San Francisco, the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company hosted the evening entertainment, which included country singers Red Foley and Minnie Pearl. Promotional material indicated that "Residents, interns, students, technicians, nurses, and clergymen may register without paying the five-dollar fee required of other non-members." In 1951 (as well as 1959 and 1965), the city of San Francisco also planted a special floral display in Golden Gate Park which depicted the Academy's seal.

**Mar. 24-27, 1952:** At the Academy's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held this year in Atlantic City, the Academy's *Daily Bulletin* published an article entitled "100 AA members Plan to Attend Session," and reported that ". . . the group desires to attend . . . [a session entitled "Problem Drinker"] in a body- but anonymously."

**Mar. 22-25, 1954:** Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, attended the Scientific Assembly in Cleveland this year. Dr. Ulrich R. Bryner, 6th President of the Academy, was a personal acquaintance of his. Sir Alexander autographed and donated to the Academy a print of the original penicillin mold involved in his discovery, which is now preserved in the Center for the History of Family Medicine.

**Nov. 1955:** AAGP membership topped 20,000.

**Mar. 28-31, 1955:** One session at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Los Angeles was about "preserving the Doctor's Life and Usefulness." Promotional material stressed "After a winter of hard grueling work, you owe yourself a little breathing spell away from slushy streets, raw winds, crowded waiting rooms and the ever-present threat of the 3:00 A.M. phone call."

- Jan. 1, 1956:** The AAGP raised membership dues to \$20.00 per year. Of that amount, \$5.00 was allocated for subscription to *GP*.
- Mar. 19-22, 1956:** Then Vice President Richard M. Nixon made a surprise appearance at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held in Washington, D.C. that year. Also, for the first time at the assembly, special events for children were offered. The children toured the National Zoo, the FBI, the Smithsonian and the Washington Monument. Five ladies with the YW Wives Club of Washington (associated with the YWCA) acted as chaperones.
- Sept. 1, 1956:** The Volker Building located at Volker Boulevard and Brookside in Kansas City, Missouri, was dedicated as the new national headquarters of the AAGP. It was the first building constructed by the AAGP to serve as its headquarters. The cost of construction for the new building was \$650,000.
- Mar. 23, 1958:** The AAGP Congress of Delegates endorsed a proposal for establishing “an educational and research foundation for the support of research on medical and economic aspects of general practice.” This foundation was named the AAGP Foundation (now called the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation).
- Mar. 24-27, 1958:** At this year’s Scientific Assembly in Dallas, the Academy’s *Daily News* reported that: “Something new has been added to each technical exhibit booth this year – a small house broom, compliments of the Academy. The brooms are part of a plan to speed evening clean-up and build good will with our best friends, the technical exhibitors...The brooms...bear a label reading: ‘Don’t let the dust gather under your feet - make a clean sweep of the general practice market with the American Academy of General Practice!’”
- Aug. 15, 1958:** Articles of Incorporation filed for AAGP Foundation.
- Nov. 18, 1958:** Charter issued to AAGP Foundation. AAGP Executive Director Mac Cahal was named Secretary-Treasurer. He and Helen Cobb acted as staff for the Foundation. There were no immediate plans to undertake a drive for funds, but two voluntary contributions preceded the Foundation's establishment. The first contribution of \$1,000 was from Marion Laboratories of Kansas City, Missouri (now part of Sanofi Aventis); the second contribution was \$2,000 from A.W. Breckenkamp, administrator of the AAGP Group Disability Insurance Plans (now AAFP Insurance Services, Inc.).
- Apr. 6-9, 1959:** “Space Medicine” was a scientific session offered for the first time, at the Academy’s 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in San Francisco. The overall registration in 1959 stood at 5,731. Two technical exhibitors of note that year were The American Tobacco Company and the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.
- Mar. 21-24, 1960:** During the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held in Philadelphia this year, one of the sessions featured was entitled “Fall In or Fall Out” and discussed “Critical

Targets for Thermonuclear attack: seventy areas including 92 cities. Experts predict 13.5 million casualties. Some 9,000 surviving Academy members would lead in getting care to survivors.” Other scientific sessions included “Doctor, Wife and Patient” - “... legal implications of ‘privileged communication,’ outlines rules for protection of doctor and wife in handling shared professional information ...”; and “Worn Out or Just Tired?” - “The tired old man often calls upon his doctor for relief from a variety of complaints...” In addition to the scientific exhibits, the Sears Roebuck Foundation also exhibited a model office building containing 2,112 square feet of office space.

- Apr. 15, 1961:** The Academy’s Commission on Education recommended to the Congress of Delegates that the terms “continuing” or “continuation” medical education be used, rather than “postgraduate” education to describe the physician’s ongoing professional education. The Congress of Delegates approved this recommendation. At the same meeting, the Commission on Education reported that a pilot program to provide continuing medical education via open-circuit television was being finalized with NBC television, to air weekly on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. The first program aired the following day, April 16, 1961.
- Apr. 17-20, 1961:** At the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Miami Beach, the Academy celebrated the final payment on the mortgage for the Volker Building headquarters at a special “mortgage-burning” luncheon.
- Jul. 1961:** A new publication was unveiled by the Academy, entitled *Family Physician*. It was sent free of charge to nonmember general practitioners and part-time specialists under age sixty-five. It was intended as a marketing tool to help advertise *GP* as well as the AAGP.
- Apr. 9-12, 1962:** “How to Please Your Doctor Husband” was the subject of the ladies’ luncheon at the Scientific Assembly program held that year in Las Vegas. Other program highlights during this, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly included “Sudden Death in Infants;” “Death with Dignity;” and “How to Avoid Malpractice Suits.”
- Jun. 1962:** The word “American” was added to the title of the nonmember publication *Family Physician*. This publication merged with *GP* in January 1970 and the name *American Family Physician* became the official title of the Academy’s journal.
- Mar. 31, 1963:** An amendment to the AAGP Constitution and By-Laws was approved by the Congress of Delegates to include a “Life Membership” classification. Once approved, any member of the Academy who had been a member for ten years and was age 70 could apply to the Board of Directors of his/her state chapter to be classified as a Life member. Life members were not required to fulfill continuation study requirements or to pay annual membership dues, but continued to pay the regular membership fee for the official journal.

- Apr. 1-4, 1963:** Program highlights at this year's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Chicago included "The Doctor and the Discharged Mental Patient" and "Exasperating Vision in the Geriatric Patient."
- Jul. 1964:** Programmed instruction became a feature in *GP*- the first program was "Primary Arterial Hypertension." Members who completed a six-month programmed learning course received six hours of postgraduate study credit.
- Jun. 16, 1966:** The corporate name of the AAGP Foundation was changed to the Family Health Foundation of America (FHFA).
- Oct. 10-13, 1966:** Perhaps foreshadowing the tension between the generations which was to come later in that decade, the title of one notable roundtable session held at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Boston was "The Angry Adolescent." Also at the 1966 Assembly, a report of ladies entertainment: "At the Ladies' Tea, Dr. Ashley Montagu will speak on 'The Natural Superiority of Women,' premise of a best selling book written by him. Dr. Montagu is very British and very amusing and has made frequent appearances on the Jack Parr and Johnny Carson shows."
- Sept. 18-21, 1967:** Promotional literature for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Dallas that year included a "Ladies' Guide to Delightful Dallas...Fully recognizing the vital role the doctor's wife plays in his life and career," the Academy planned several events for the ladies, including "an exclusive haute couture luncheon" at the Great Hall of "the famous Dallas Apparel Mart."
- Oct. 27, 1967:** The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) was founded by a group of 45 physicians who gathered at the New York Hilton at the initiative of Dr. Lynn Carmichael, Director of the Family Medicine Program at the University of Miami School of Medicine. The group discussed the feasibility of developing a new organization related to the teaching of family medicine, an idea that had originated with Dr. Ward Darley, former Executive Director of the Association of American Medical Colleges. By the third meeting, in November 1968, Dr. Carmichael was elected the Society's first president.
- Feb. 8, 1969:** Family Practice was approved as American medicine's twentieth specialty. (It later was ranked as the 19<sup>th</sup> specialty when the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, formerly part of the American Board of Surgery, was approved separately as a certifying board in 1971.)
- Apr. 15, 1969:** The American Board of Family Practice (ABFP) was incorporated, with headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky. (The FHFA subsequently granted \$50,000 to ABFP to implement the newly approved program of certification.)
- Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 1969:** A hotel strike that occurred on the third day of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Philadelphia paralyzed the city and wreaked havoc for Assembly attendees. And, another sign of the times: One session during the Assembly this year was entitled "Drugs and Teens."

- Oct. 13-14, 1969:** A Workshop for Consultants in Family Practice was held in Kansas City, attended by 44 physicians. This workshop later evolved into the Annual Workshop for Directors of Family Practice Residencies.
- Jan. 1970:** A new merged publication of *AFP/GP* was sent to family physicians, general practitioners, internists and prescribing osteopaths. Later in the same year, *GP* was dropped from the title and the publication became simply *American Family Physician*.
- Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 1970:** The first board examination was given by ABFP. Successful candidates who sat for the exams that year and the next became “charter diplomates.”
- Oct. 3, 1971:** The American Academy of General Practice officially changed its name to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Also on this date, the Congress of Delegates approved a “Fellow” membership classification. It required completion of 600 hours of approved postgraduate study or attainment of diplomate status in the American Board of Family Practice.
- Oct. 4, 1971:** In the first of three appearances at assembly events, actor Robert Young (who portrayed Marcus Welby, M.D. on the ABC television show of that name) was keynote speaker at the Academy’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Miami Beach. Other appearances by Mr. Young were in 1974 and 1984.
- Oct. 8, 1971** Mac F. Cahal, J.D., retired after serving 24 years as Executive Director of the Academy, and was replaced by Roger Tusken. Mr. Tusken joined the AAGP in 1957, serving in various positions such as field assistant, director of membership services, director of communications division, and since 1968, as assistant executive director.
- Sept. 1972:** STFM moved to Kansas City and occupied space in the AAFP Headquarters.
- Sept. 26, 1972:** The AAFP held its first fellowship convocation in New York City, with 10,000 attendees and 4,000 degrees conferred. AAFP publications noted that the continuing education program that brought the charter fellows to the convocation was a supreme example of the AAFP’s reputation as an innovator in medicine.
- Apr. 15, 1973:** The AAFP dedicated a new headquarters building located at 1740 West 92<sup>nd</sup> Street in Kansas City, Missouri. The purchase price was \$2,250,000. The staff moved into the building on June 29, 1973.
- Aug. 1973:** President Richard Nixon vetoed the HEW appropriations bill which would have provided \$15 million for family practice residencies under provisions of the Health Manpower Training Act.
- Oct. 1-4, 1973:** A report from the Academy’s 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held this year in Denver stated that “. . . the AAFP announced its endorsement of a national

advertising campaign against venereal disease...The ads will carry a slogan 'VD is for Everybody'..."

- Jan. 5, 1974:** The ABFP Board of Directors approved the mechanism for evaluating the first group of diplomates (those who passed the certifying exam in 1970).
- Apr. 5-7, 1974:** The first meeting of the ad hoc group of residents in family practice was held in Kansas City. Thirty-five residents from 27 individual family practice programs responded to a request from the Academy for a resident representative from each state to attend the ad hoc meeting. This group developed the organizational structure that is now known as the National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students. (Student members were included in 1975.)
- Oct. 13, 1974:** The Congress of Delegates approved amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws which allowed seating of delegates to represent residents, students, and Uniformed Services members.
- Oct. 14-17, 1974:** At the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Los Angeles, Lawrence Welk and his "Champagne Music Makers" were the entertainment during the All Member party at the Palladium.
- Sept. 15, 1975:** A press release announced a grant of \$172,623 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to the Family Health Foundation of America (FHFA) to help fund the Residency Assistance Program (RAP). RAP was a new joint project designed to aid family practice residencies in monitoring and improving their educational quality. Four family practice organizations cooperated on this venture – ABFP, STFM, AAFP, and FHFA. By 1979, the first RAP Workshop was held and the first edition of Criteria for Excellence in a Family Practice Residency Program was printed.
- Oct. 5, 1975:** The Congress of Delegates approved the Academy's first official definition of "primary care" – "Primary Care is a type of medical delivery which emphasizes first contact care and assumes ongoing responsibility for the patient in both health maintenance and therapy of illness. It is personal care involving a unique interaction and communication between the patient and the physician. It is comprehensive in scope and includes the overall coordination of the care of the patient's health problems, be they biological, behavioral or social. The appropriate use of consultants and community resources is an important part of effective primary care."
- Oct. 6-9, 1975:** At the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held in Chicago this year, President Gerald R. Ford's personal physician and AAFP member Rear Admiral William M. Lukash, MC, USN, received the AAFP President's Award.
- Oct. 29, 1976:** The first recertification exam was given by the ABFP to nearly 1,400 diplomates. This was the first mandatory recertification exam given by any medical specialty in the US.

- Oct. 9, 1977:** The Board of Directors directed the Committee on Continuing Medical Education to develop a plan for the AAFP Core Curriculum Self-Assessment Program. This program, later renamed the Home Study Self-Assessment (HSSA) Program, was designed to expose subscribers to all components of the core curriculum of family practice over a period of six years. The first learning package was scheduled for completion in the fall of 1978.
- Dec. 29, 1977:** A meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Liaison Conference of Family Practice Organizations was held in Phoenix, Arizona, by invitation of the FHFA. This group evolved into the Family Practice Working Party, which held its first meeting (under that name) in March 1979.
- Sept. 25-28, 1978:** A new “display board” for the Clinical Seminars Registration was initiated at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held this year in San Francisco, greatly simplifying the process of registering for these courses.
- Oct. 4-9, 1980:** WONCA’s 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Family Medicine was held in conjunction with conjunction with the AAFP Scientific Assembly for the first time. The meeting in New Orleans drew over 11,000 registrants.
- Dec. 31, 1980:** AAFP membership topped 50,000.
- Aug. 14, 1982:** The Herb L. Huffington, M.D., Memorial Library was dedicated, in honor of the 1975-1976 President-Elect of the Academy. Operated initially by the AAFP Foundation, it was transferred to the AAFP in 1995.
- Oct. 1-4, 1982:** The first annual AAFP/Parke-Davis Family 6K Distance Run was held at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly held this year in San Francisco. Also during this Assembly, a new, expanded AAFP Services Center was unveiled. The new Center covered 600 square feet to provide members with a centralized area of Academy information. (Previously, many segments of AAFP services had individual exhibit space.)
- Feb. 1983:** The Board of Directors approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Task Force on Women in Family Medicine.
- Sept. 1983:** The AAFP’s Video CME program was initiated. Originally known as the AAFP Home Video Program, participants could select from ten videotapes on an individual selection basis.
- July 30, 1984:** Roger Tusken resigned as AAFP Executive Vice President. R. Michael Miller, J.D., was named Acting Executive Vice President. Before being named Acting EVP, Miller had served as the Academy’s general counsel and as vice president for socioeconomic and legal affairs.
- Oct. 9, 1985:** The Resident Observer to the Board of Directors was given full voting privileges on the Board by approval of the Congress of Delegates. The first Resident Board Member was Richard Hays, M.D., of Durham, North Carolina.

- Oct. 10-13, 1985:** At the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly in Anaheim, California, assembly participants were treated to a Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway play for the keynote presentation. The play, *'night, Mother*, was a stark drama of a suicidal daughter and her mother, who desperately tried to prevent her suicide. The original Broadway cast presented the play, with actress Kathy Bates playing the daughter.
- Oct. 13, 1985:** Robert Graham, M.D. took the helm as the AAFP's new Executive Vice President. He was the first Academy member and physician to fill that position. Formerly administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Graham had previously served the Academy as assistant director of the AAFP Division of Education from 1973-1976.
- June 9, 1986:** In *Bowen, Secretary of Health and Human Services, et al. v. Michigan Academy of Family Physicians*, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Medicare's dual fee system that paid family physicians less than other specialists for conducting the same procedures. The AAFP provided a great majority of the funding for the Michigan Academy as it pursued this case through the court system. Mike Miller, AAFP Deputy Executive Vice President and General Counsel, noted: "In my opinion, this result is one of the most important and tangible victories the Academy has ever achieved for family physicians."
- July 1986:** Results of the Annual Survey of Family Practice Residency Programs show that total graduates of three-year family practice residencies since January 1, 1970 topped 20,000.
- Sept. 24, 1986:** The Academy launched a highly-successful advertising campaign targeted to the public, entitled "Ever Wish You Had A Doctor Who Specialized In You?" as part of the *Family Physicians Care for America* program. The AAFP and the ABFP each pledged \$1.5 million over a 3-year period for this program.
- Jan. 1987:** The first episode of *Family Medicine Update* aired on Lifetime Medical Television, with Robert Rakel, M.D., as host. Six half-hour shows appeared during 1987. The show aired until 1993.
- June 10, 1987:** The AAFP celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Academy hosted an anniversary celebration, complete with balloon release, at its headquarters in Kansas City that coincided with the Annual Workshop for Directors of Family Practice Residencies. Founding member Stanley R. Truman, M.D. was a special guest. The celebration included the planting of a plane tree from the Greek state of Kos to represent the birthplace of medicine, the reading of a proclamation from the mayor of Kansas City, and a special meeting for pharmaceutical executives about "Family Medicine: Now and in the Future."
- Oct. 1987:** The AAFP Stop Smoking Kit, developed by the Committee on Health Education, publicly debuted. The development of this kit made the AAFP the only medical

organization with an ongoing program to teach physicians a systematic approach to help patients stop smoking. Efforts by the Academy to support anti-tobacco programs began when the 1985 Congress of Delegates adopted several tough anti-tobacco resolutions.

- Apr. 24, 1988:** The AAFP dedicated its new headquarters at 8880 Ward Parkway in Kansas City. The building had been purchased the previous August for \$11,750,000 through a bankruptcy proceeding.
- June 9, 1988:** The AAFP initiated the Student Interest Initiative with the first meeting of the Subcommittee on Student Interest. This group eventually became the Student Interest Task Force. Purposes of this project were to identify major issues affecting student interest in the specialty and to review and prioritize strategies to enhance student interest for organized implementation within a five-year plan.
- Oct. 3, 1988:** The AAFP Congress of Delegates adopted a resolution allowing members up to 20 hours per year of CME credit for teaching medical students and residents the art and science of family practice.
- Dec. 31, 1988:** AAFP student membership reached 9,666.
- Jan. 1, 1989:** The AAFP began requiring residency completion as a condition for active membership.
- Apr. 27, 1989:** The corporate name of the FHFA was changed to the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (AAFP/F, for short) to better reflect its close relationship to the Academy.
- Aug. 8, 1989:** Prompted by an article in *USA Today*, the AAFP captured extensive media attention with its opposition to the mandatory substitution of generic drugs for critical patients, drugs, and diseases.
- Sept. 17, 1989:** The AAFP committed itself to ensuring “that every American will be assured of having access to a broad range of essential health care services.” After an outpouring of testimony, the Congress of Delegates approved the Board-recommended “AAFP Position Statement on Access to Health Care for the Uninsured,” making the Academy the first medical organization to make access to health care a focused priority.
- Oct. 17, 1989:** Family practice as a specialty marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by commemorating the 1969 establishment of the American Board of Family Practice. A special educational conference was held in Lexington, Kentucky, home of the ABFP.
- Aug. 31, 1990:** The Association of Family Practice Residency Directors (AFPRD) was incorporated after several years of efforts to establish a group to represent the interests of residency directors. Founding members included: Richard H. Layton, M.D.; Alvin J. Haley, M.D.; Norman B. Kahn, Jr., M.D.; Jane L. Murray, M.D.; and Charles Payton, M.D.

- Oct. 29, 1990:** The Academy's Washington Office was moved into an AAFP-owned, renovated townhouse to ensure a higher profile for the AAFP's ambitious and growing lobbying efforts on behalf of members and the public.
- Jan. 1991:** The results of a 1989 Gallup Poll were reported in the 1990 *Annual Review*, showing that out of 100,052 households, 75 percent of U.S. household used family physicians.
- The Academy launched the Practice Support Initiative (PSI). The first group of products and services included a free monograph on "Coding for Physician Reimbursement."
- Oct. 1991:** The first AAFP catalog was published with more than 300 offerings, including large sections on Practice Management, Patient Education and Public Health, and Continuing Medical Education. The catalog contained materials ranging from manuals to brochures to items reflecting the AAFP seal and family practice symbol.
- Jan. 1, 1992:** The Archives for Family Practice (later renamed the Center for the History of Family Medicine) joined the AAFP/F, becoming the principal resource center for the history of family medicine in the United States.
- Apr. 8, 1992:** The AAFP issued "Rx for Health: The Family Physicians' Access Plan," calling for, among other things, universal health coverage for all Americans. The plan was unveiled at a press conference at The National Press Club in Washington, DC.
- Apr. 15, 1992:** The Guam Academy of Family Physicians was chartered, bringing to 55 the total number of AAFP constituent chapters.
- June 1, 1993:** The AAFP acquired the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) Program from the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Practice. In the first year with the AAFP, the two-day ALSO course helped more than 600 health care providers expand and refresh their understanding of emergencies related to pregnancy.
- Oct. 1993:** The first issue of *Family Practice Management* was published. The 150-page inaugural issue was packaged with *AFP* and included articles on topics such as health care reform, managed care negotiations, colposcopy in family practice, and electronic claims filing.
- Oct. 6, 1993:** Women, minority and new physician delegates were seated in the Congress of Delegates. For the first time, "slotted seats" were approved for these constituencies for a period of five years, in order to allow these groups' voices to be adequately heard when establishing AAFP policy.
- Oct. 10, 1993:** The first Physicians with Heart airlift, carrying \$5 million in medical supplies, equipment and medication, was shipped to St. Petersburg, Russia as a joint

project of the AAFP, AAFP/F, and Heart to Heart International. The airlift transported 26 tons of materials to Russia.

- Dec. 31, 1994:** AAFP student membership topped 20,000.
- Jan. 1, 1995:** The Academy joined forces with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) to develop a new schedule for childhood immunizations, replacing three separate schedules previously recommended by the organizations.
- Mar. 19-21, 1995:** The Residency Assistance Program (RAP) observed its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the RAP Workshop. By September, the 800<sup>th</sup> consultation had been conducted.
- Jan. 1996:** Family practice became the first specialty in American medicine with residency programs in all 50 states, when the Residency Review Committee for Family Practice accredited Alaska's first family practice residency.
- May 16, 1996:** The AAFP launched its website ([www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)) with the goal of enhancing the scientific and professional basis of family practice. The website contained more than 4,500 pages of information.
- Oct. 3, 1996:** The Congress of Delegates adopted a resolution that the AAFP should begin to approve CME credit for computer literacy training and medical informatics courses.
- May 2-3, 1997:** The name of the State Officers' Conference (SOC) was changed to the Academy Leadership Forum (ALF) to reflect the meeting's broader focus. ALF combined the former SOC and the Leadership Skills Development Conference.
- June 10, 1997:** The AAFP celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special events and products were offered throughout the year, including a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, a free poster, anniversary apparel and gift items, and videos to highlight the specialty and the history of the organization. At the Scientific Assembly in Chicago that year, a "birthday party" served as the All Member Event, and a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Room contained displays of materials highlighting the history of the Academy.
- Sept. 17, 1997:** The Congress of Delegates approved a Board of Directors recommendation to launch a \$7.7 million, 5-year research initiative called the "AAFP Plan to Enhance Family Practice Research."
- Sept. 17-21, 1997:** The AAFP launched the first Annual Clinical Focus (ACF) on "Prevention and Management of Cardiovascular Disease" in cooperation with the American Heart Association. The objective of the ACF campaign was to give the AAFP and family medicine leadership and visibility in a series of clinical areas; to provide the AAFP with an opportunity to bring its members "up to speed" in specific clinical areas; and to generate revenue for the AAFP. Grants committed for "core elements" in the first year totaled \$1,200,000.

- Feb. 10, 1998:** The U.S. Senate confirmed AAFP member David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D. as surgeon general and assistant secretary of health. He was sworn in February 13, 1998, and was the first family physician to fill that position.
- June 1998:** Academy member Nancy Dickey, M.D. was elected the first female AMA president.
- June 8, 1999:** The Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care was established to provide a family physician perspective to policy deliberations in Washington, DC, and also to conduct research to support the development of and advocacy for AAFP policies. The following year, the Center was named in honor of retired AAFP Executive Vice President Robert Graham, M.D.
- Sept. 15, 1999:** Hurricane Floyd caused the Scientific Assembly in Orlando to shut down for one day for the first time in its 50-year history.
- Oct. 5, 1999:** The AAFP moved into its new headquarters building located at 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway in Leawood, Kansas. The building was dedicated on November 4, 1999. The cost of construction was \$28 million.
- Apr. 1, 2000:** *AFP* celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication.
- Aug. 1, 2000:** Douglas E. Henley, M.D., of Fayetteville, North Carolina, became the new AAFP Executive Vice President. Dr. Henley was the first practicing family physician to fill that role. He had served as AAFP President from 1995-1996 and served two terms as AAFP Board Chair.
- Sept. 2000:** Warren Jones, M.D. of Potomac, Maryland, a captain in the Navy, was installed as the first African-American president of the AAFP.
- Oct. 4-8, 2000:** The Keystone III meeting was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. With a theme of “The Role of Family Practice in a Changing Health Care Environment,” this family practice “think-tank” involved representatives from the seven sponsoring organizations that were part of the Family Practice Working Party.
- Mar. 21-24, 2001:** The first convocation of the AAFP’s National Network for Family Practice and Primary Care Research met with an aim of encouraging at least 10% of AAFP active members to be involved in research.
- Sept. 11, 2001:** Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City resulted in the deaths of two family physicians: Frederick Rimmele, M.D., of Marblehead, Massachusetts, and Paul Ambrose, M.D., MPH, of Washington, DC.
- Jan. 2002:** The Future of Family Medicine project was launched to develop a strategy to transform and renew family practice. This project was a result of discussions at Keystone III in 2000. A final report was issued in 2004 in a supplement to the *Annals of Family Medicine*.

- Oct. 2002:** Cynthia Romero, M.D., was approved as the first member of the AAFP Board of Directors to represent new physicians – those in practice up to 7 years.
- May 30, 2003:** The *Annals of Family Medicine*, a new peer-reviewed research journal, debuted as a collaborative effort of six organizations: AAFP, ABFP, STFM, ADFM, AFPRD, and NAPCRG.
- Sept. 12, 2003:** The AAFP Board of Directors approved the creation of a Center for Health Information Technology (CHIT). CHIT’s mission was to promote and facilitate the adoption of health information technology by AAFP members and other office-based clinicians.
- Oct. 1-5, 2003:** Americans in Motion (AIM) kicked off at the Scientific Assembly. This 10-year initiative was developed to address the increase in overweight and obesity levels among children and adults.
- Oct. 2004:** Mary Frank, M.D., of Mill Valley, California, became the first female president of the AAFP.
- Jan. 1, 2005:** The ABFP changed its name to the ABFM – American Board of Family Medicine, in keeping with recommendations made in the Future of Family Medicine project report. Other organizations, including AFMRD, made the same change to their names to reflect the use of “family medicine” rather than “family practice” terminology.
- Jan. 17, 2005:** The METRIC program went live. This program, whose acronym meant Measuring, Evaluating and Translating Research Into Care, was a new AAFP practice performance program that offered CME credit for completing practice-based performance measurement projects.
- June 2005:** FamMedPAC, a new federal political action committee, was launched. It was formed to advance the interest of family physicians in government policy.
- Sept. 29, 2005:** TransforMED, a new AAFP subsidiary, announced the hiring of a CEO. This project provided consultation and support to primary care practices looking to adopt the new model of care outlined in the Future of Family Medicine report. The initial offering of products and services was targeted for 2006.
- Sept. 30, 2005:** AAFP president Larry Fields, M.D., announced the launch of the AAFP President’s Challenge: Physician Disaster Assistance Program, in cooperation with the AAFP Foundation. This relief effort was a direct result of the effects of Hurricane Katrina on family physicians and their practices in the hurricane-affected areas. By November 2005, over \$200,000 had been raised by AAFP members and staff.
- Apr. 3, 2006:** TransforMED announced the launch of a national demonstration project designed to test an innovative practice model using 18 family medicine practices as test cases.

- Sept. 27, 2006:** Family medicine leaders and practicing family physicians converged on Capitol Hill for a rally called Vote for America's Health, to emphasize to lawmakers the urgent need for health system reform.
- Feb. 15, 2007:** Preparing the Personal Physician for Practice, or P<sup>4</sup>, named programs in its national demonstration project. P<sup>4</sup> was a six-year project overseen by TransforMED to lay the groundwork for restructuring family medicine residency training.
- May 10, 2007:** AAFP President Rick Kellerman, M.D., testified before the House Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Health to encourage Congress to adopt a Medicare physician payment system that reimburses physician practices for providing a patient-centered medical home to manage and coordinate care.
- June 10, 2007:** The AAFP celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of operation.