Center for the History of Family Medicine

The Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM) was officially established in 1992 to promote scholarship in the history of the specialty. The Center actively collects, organizes, preserves, and provides access to the records of the leading Family Medicine organizations involved in all aspects of the discipline. It seeks personal and professional papers of doctors practicing the discipline in the centuries long before 1969, when it officially became the twentieth specialty in American medicine. It designs and exhibits materials from its collections that highlight the specialty’s history. CHFM also creates online exhibits and information on its various collections via the Center’s web site:

www.aafpfoundation.org/CHFM

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation
American Board of Family Medicine
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
North American Primary Care Research Group
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The Family Medicine Oral History Project

Oral histories can play an important, fascinating, and colorful role in the documenting of history. Anecdotes, jokes, stories, and other individual recollections can bring the facts and outlines of historical events to life like no other resource available to historians.

The Center for the History of Family Medicine, in a joint project with family medicine organizations across the country, is collecting oral histories, as well as photographs, scrapbooks, artifacts, and other information or materials. In short, we are interested in anything that will help us document the history and evolution of General Practice, Family Practice, and the discipline of Family Medicine in the United States.

Through this project, photographs, artifacts, and other historical information relating to the history of family medicine in America will be collected, organized, and preserved as part of the Center’s permanent collection. Video, audiotape, MP3, DVD, and other recordings of oral histories and stories from family physicians and educators will also be added to the collection. In addition, all donated photographs will be included in the Center’s historical archives, located at the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation in Leawood, Kansas, and made available to anyone interested in the history of the specialty.

If you are a family physician, educator, or other health professional who has been — or is — involved in Family Medicine, and you have photographs, artifacts, scrapbooks, or recollections that you would like to share, we invite you to contribute to this important project.

For more information, please contact:
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Preserving Family Medicine’s Past for the Sake of Our Future