



June 22, 2023

Dear Gema Paloma Rivera Ayala MD and Carmen Mares,

It is my honor to inform you that the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine Family Medicine Interest Group has been chosen as a recipient of the **2023 AAFP Program of Excellence Overall Award** as one of the top family medicine interest groups in the country. I am extremely pleased for this opportunity to celebrate the creativity and commitment of this FMIG. Family medicine is stronger because of the leadership and values that the interest group has demonstrated on your campus.

For decades, the AAFP has recognized high-performing FMIGs as Programs of Excellence. The students, faculty, and staff at your institution who have dedicated their time and effort to building a strong FMIG have truly set themselves apart. I applaud your outstanding achievement.

FMIGs are highly valued by the family medicine community, and these student-led organizations become even more critical as the U.S. faces a growing primary care physician shortage. Increasing student interest and choice in family medicine is one of our nation's most pressing issues in creating an equitable health care system. Growing a diverse family physician workforce is one of the top goals of the American Academy of Family Physicians. FMIGs, having an immediate connection to daily student life and our esteemed educational institutions, are a critical component of the work that will go into seeing this goal through.

I know first-hand the meaningful impact FMIGs can have on students—joining a social event that the family medicine club at my medical school had organized is influenced my own fulfilling journey in family medicine. The chance to meet students who were passionate about community and health early on in my medical training had a profound effect on my life.

It is through similar FMIG experiences that many students are introduced and become committed to the specialty still today. The Program of Excellence Award that your FMIG has won reflects a year of exemplary work. As you celebrate at all you have accomplished, I hope you will also look forward and imagine the long-standing effects of your efforts and how your FMIG can have a long-term impact on health equity through workforce development.

Thank you for all you have done to advance family medicine through your school's FMIG, and congratulations to all on this.

Sincerely,

Karen B. Mitchell MD, FAAFP
Vice President, Medical Education

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