

APPNA Young Physician's Committee (YPC) Report for Spring Meeting May 2015

The YPC year 2015 is comprised of 25 members in total. Six major goals were set-up for this year: assistance during the residency match and SOAP, assistance with visa issues, streamline APPNA houses, organize different YPC seminars during the year, provide mentorship-in-person (US clinical experience), and mentorship on-line (educational material at the YPC website). So far, YPC has held a total of four teleconferences: two major (all members) and two subcommittees.

The first task was to assist the young physicians with residency match. A subcommittee was assigned under Dr. Faheem and comprised Drs. Khosa, Aized, Habib, Tariq, and Khan. It started working two weeks before the actual match date. A list of residency programs that remained unmatched in the last four years was formulated, and posted on the YPC Facebook page shortly before the match day to enable the unmatched candidates to have a better idea of what programs to target. The entire team remained available during the post-match SOAP week from March 16-21, 2015. The team was contacted by a number of individuals for assistance. As our long-term goals, lists of current foreign medical graduate friendly programs, Pakistani Descent program directors, and Pakistani Descent residents/fellows are being collected to assist next year match applicants. Moreover a day after the match (March 17th, 2015), a post was placed on the YPC Facebook page with information how to contact APPNA for assistance with visa issues. Dr. Chaudhary along with the Advocacy and Legislative Affairs Committee will continue to help with the visa issues. All such requests are being kept in file with central APPNA office, and will be presented during Day on the Hill on April 30th, 2015.

Another task is to streamline different houses sponsored by APPNA in New York and Michigan areas. The financial burden on APPNA was decreased at both areas. The local management will take more financial responsibility. An online application and payment system will soon be implemented to centralize the houses. A financial support system (Qarz-e-Hasana) is being planned by Dr. Aized for the deserving young physicians. An application form has been generated. Fund-raising will be organized during the upcoming APPNA Spring Meeting during May 1st-3rd, 2015 in Baltimore, MD.

An YPC seminar will be held during the APPNA Spring meeting on May 1st, 2015 at Baltimore, MD. Drs. Khalid and Asif are currently finalizing the program. It's intended for medical students, residents, and fellows; and is free of cost. Besides traditional topics, a lecture will be held on alternate careers in public health. A separate session to answer individual questions will also be included in the program.

YPC has so far received a number of requests from young physicians to obtain US clinical experience. These requests have been referred to individual mentors. This year YPC will work together with Adhoc Committee for Electives, and ultimately develop a centralized web-based application process for electives, externships, observorships, and research. Another task is to provide on-line mentorship to the young physicians with the help of Drs. Tariq and Khan. An educational section will be created at the YPC website where all the educational material and videos will be added. It'll be available to all the young physicians free of cost.

Sincerely,
Shahzad Iqbal, MD
Chair YPC 2015