



**May-June 2024 *Residency Times***  
**Guest editorial**

During a poster slam, I discussed my [project](#) from National Initiative XIII entitled “RESPITE: Residents Expressing the Stresses of the Profession in a Therapeutic Environment,” implemented in the FM residency during 2022-23. Residents were given a forum to discuss the greatest perceived challenges of their residency training, such as dealing with abusive patients, coping with patient deaths, and addressing racism and sexism towards physicians. At the conclusion of the project, using before/after surveys, residents reported feeling more camaraderie toward one another and having laughed more at work.

Dr. Kenaga shared the GME/Ascension Providence Rochester [storyboard](#) outlining our NI IX project to use **narrative medicine** as a means by which residents can express their responses to providing patient care in a variety of community outreach settings. FM is currently developing a comprehensive community curriculum partnering residents and faculty with organizations to address gaps in care for those who need it most: Street Medicine Detroit, the Student Run Free Clinic, the Older Person’s Commission, Samaritas Senior Living, and others in both Oakland and Macomb Counties. In 2023-24, residents started collecting detailed patient narratives from these sites as well as writing their own reflections as part of the coinciding narrative medicine curriculum.

One especially memorable session during the AIAMC annual meeting was the Keynote Address by LeMenta Conway, MD, MPH, Deputy Chief of Health Services in the Illinois Department of

Corrections. Her presentation explored the political determinants of health, the way in which inequitable historical, institutional, and economic systems in the US have created critical public health challenges, such as the long-term burden of chronic illnesses (physical and psychological) among incarcerated populations.

Overall, the AIAMC meeting in April served as a dynamic venue for practitioners in independent academic medical centers to come together, learn from each other, and collectively address the opportunities and challenges facing their institutions. By promoting collaboration, innovation, and excellence in patient care, research, and education, the event underscored the vital role that these centers play in shaping the future of healthcare in the United States. I plan on attending the next AIAMC Annual Meeting, to be held in March 2025 in New Orleans, to participate in capstone events for the conclusion of NI IX activities.

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