

I am honored and humbled to lead this organization.

Let me start by saying my youngest daughter is doing very well and thank you for all of your well wishes. She is now 4½ years cancer free. Several of you have heard me relate the story of driving home from the hospital after her first round of chemotherapy. We were listening to one of our favorite Beatles album when *Yesterday* started playing. She said “Big Daddy”– she calls me Big Daddy... I don’t know why – “Big Daddy, turn this song off. It makes no sense. Why would anyone live for yesterday? You live for tomorrow. It’s all we have.”

Like many of us here, I was driven...forward thinking...looking so far down the road I was missing the scenery. The wisdom of a ten year old girl changed that. I slowed my pace down, never looking more than a day or two ahead at my outlook calendar, no longer sweating the small inconveniences that disrupt my day-to-day routine. And I am happier and I think healthier for it.

But this summer I hit a few milestones. I will turn 50. I will be a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine for 20 years, and I believe a member of the AAFP for 25. And as I await what I hope to be the first of many colonoscopies and the start of at least 25 years as a member of the ~~AARP~~, I do start to think about legacies.

I see there are several of *my* former faculty in attendance, and for the good...or bad, my election as President is part of *your* legacy and I thank you. There are also former residents of mine here, some now program directors, and I thank you as well.

For my legacy, personally I hope that my two daughters become successful and happy women. Maybe a grandchild or two, but that is looking waaaay down the road.

During my tenure as President I hope to continue supporting the great work this organization has done over the past year as shown in the video earlier. I hope to shepherd a smooth transition as our colleagues at osteopathic programs gain ACGME Accreditation.

I wish to emulate Mike and keep our members informed; we are after all an organization of educators and as such should educate one another. And as we end one successful strategic plan, the Board will be starting another three year outline this fall.

Undoubtedly, after today, I will be asked by my family and friends why I went to medical school if I was just going to become an administrator. And I will reply as I always have:

Every family physician impacts the lives of 10,000 individuals. If we train our resident physicians well they will positively impact 10,000 more. After 17 years of teaching, I estimate I have trained over 150 residents with the potential to affect 1.5 million lives – or more than the population of my state of Maine. With the 213 Program Directors here today, that is 325 million lives – or the equivalent of the population of the United States. And that is why Family Medicine and our organization matters.

So my question to you is – “What will be your legacy?” Nothing grand – but the small ones that matter most. Go home and encourage a faculty member to contribute to the residency resource curriculum. Or send one to NIPDD.

Have that difficult conversation with your administration that your faculty be paid at least as much as your graduates they hire. Don't they want the best trained physicians? Quality costs a little more. Join an AFMRD Task Force or be brave and run for the Board. Speak to your local or state representatives. Inform them that while flawed, the Affordable Care Act is better than the current alternatives. Some healthcare is better than none and preventive medicine saves more lives than coronary artery bypass grafts.

And lastly, I ask each of you to sit down with some medical students. Tell them why you went into family medicine...and stay there. Not because it is easy....or hard. But because it is right.

Because every family needs a family physician. Every person needs our comprehensive approach to healthcare, and because every individual deserves to be able to live for tomorrow.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

James Jarvis, MD, FAAFP

President AFMRD