

Tulane Resident and Fellow Congress Meeting Minutes - June 9th, 2022, 7pm CST

FOR CLARITY/TRANSPARENCY: These meeting minutes are not transcriptions. We are creating these minutes in order for there to be insight into the ongoing discussions of the TRFC. The summaries are not intended to be, nor are they capable of being, exhaustive. The commentary described below is not intended to reflect direct quotes and may not be comprehensively inclusive of all comments/questions/thoughts. Additionally, sensitive discussions/information may be omitted in the interest of respect for the persons coming to speak with us.

I. Call to Order

II. Old business

- a. **Bylaws Update:** Approved by TRFC and GMEC. Available on TRFC website. <https://medicine.tulane.edu/graduate-medical-education/resident-and-fellow-congress-trfc>
- b. **QR code flyers linking to TRFC website** have been distributed at TMC. Some flyers already distributed may have an expired QR code, working on getting out new copies with working QR code. Please post these flyers in resident workspaces to encourage resident and fellow communication and engagement with TRFC. [QR CODE Flyer - TRFC website.docx](#)
- c. **Resident & Fellow workspace at TMC:** *deferred to next meeting (8/11/22).*
 - i. TRFC leadership has reached out to CMO at TMC for advice and advocacy. 4/14/22 meeting, suggestion proposed to repurpose unused space in the hospital for trainee workspace with computers and printers for completing clinical duties. Specialties in need of workspace identified as needing trainee workspace include Adult Infectious Disease Fellows, Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry in the Emergency Department, Internal Medicine.
- d. **Plan for Elections of 2022-2023 TRFC representatives:**
 - i. Please encourage your colleagues to nominate themselves and others to run for TRFC representatives for 2022-2023. The goal is to have as many programs as possible represented.
 - ii. If you are interested in participating as a TRFC representative for your program for the 2022-2023 term, please fill out the application you received via email (**Deadline July 15th at 5 pm**). The deadline has been extended so that incoming interns and fellows may also apply. Ballot to be sent out to all residents and fellows **Monday, July 18th** and will close **July 22nd at 5 pm**. Please VOTE!

III. New Business

- a. **Clarification on Tulane Parental Leave Policy for residents and fellows:** *deferred to next meeting (8/11/22). Leave policy is included in trainee contracts for your review.*
- b. **Topics discussed at TRFC Executive Committee meeting with GME leadership (6/9/22):**
 - i. Possibility of independent TRFC Bank Account: GME working with TRFC to open separate TRFC bank account to ease access to TRFC funds.

- ii. Food trucks to be available at Tulane Hospital to increase options available (outside of Hutchinson).
- iii. Concerns at training sites discussed, please reach out to your TRFC representative or GME with any concerns.
- iv. Concerns brought up at TRFC open forum: need advocacy for hiring more multidisciplinary staff, particularly nurses, translators, and social workers. Discussed possibility of advocating for on-site in-person Spanish translators. Tulane Hospital may already have this in place but unclear knowledge of availability or how to access this resource.
- v. Plans to increase communication and further facilitate collaboration between TRFC and GME including quarterly meetings with TRFC and GME leadership.
- vi. Possibility of trainee discounts at newly opened downtown gym. <https://campusrecreation.tulane.edu/tu-fitness-center>
- vii. Ideas for GME advocacy for opportunities (e.g. moonlighting) to supplement trainee income in context of inflation and rising local cost of living in comparison to other locations our salaries are compared to and based on.

- IV. **Open floor for new business** (*Open floor is an opportunity for committee members to present items for new business to be addressed at the next TRFC meeting. This is an excellent opportunity for TRFC Representatives to bring resident and fellow concerns to the committee and add them to the agenda.*)
- a. Approved purchase for Tulane Pediatrics resident work room couch. *The motion to approve couch purchase for additional training sites will be addressed at the next meeting.*

V. Adjourn

VI. Attendance:

1. Andy Pham (Anesthesiology, TRFC President 2021-2022)
2. Megan Lerner (Urology, TRFC Vice President 2021-2022)
3. Leslie Miller (Triple Board; TRFC Secretary 2021, President-Elect 2022-2023)
4. Mary Jenkins (Internal Medicine-Pediatrics, TRFC Vice President 2021-2022)
5. Danae Brierre (Triple Board)
6. Austin Hansen (Nephrology)
7. Cathy Luo (General Surgery)
8. Allison Key (OBGYN)
9. Mei Yang (Neurology)
10. Michael Gio (general Surgery)
11. Claire Mickey (Internal Medicine)
12. Sahithi Kothamasu (OBGYN)

Upcoming Events:

- **July 2022:** TRFC representative elections
 - Nominations close **July 15th at 5 PM.**

- Ballot to be sent out to all residents and fellows **Monday, July 18th** and will close **July 22nd at 5 pm**. Please VOTE!
- **9/8/22, 6-7 pm:** TRFC Open Forum via zoom
- **12/8/22, 6-7 pm:** TRFC Open Forum via zoom

Resource List:

- **Mental Health Resources:**
 - Find resources via Tulane Companion App: Wellness (top right list menu) > Support > Trainee > Psychotherapy and Psychiatry in New Orleans.
 - Compilation of Mental Health & Wellness Resources for Medical Professionals: https://docs.google.com/document/d/18kawS_YixGrXrNRo_rAsW0VcdGjU66b4tYznJh6PvU/edit?usp=sharing
- **TRFC Website:** <https://medicine.tulane.edu/graduate-medical-education/resident-and-fellow-congress-trfc>
 - Please visit our website to find out who your TRFC reps are and reach out to them with any questions or concerns. If you are interested in leadership, please consider running for TRFC!
- **Professional Reporting System:** <https://medicine.tulane.edu/student-affairs/professionalismenvironment-learning-program>
- **Professionalism Reporting System Reports:** <https://medicine.tulane.edu/student-affairs/professionalismenvironment-learning-program/program-statistics>
- **Professionalism Task Force website:** <https://medicine.tulane.edu/student-affairs/professionalismenvironment-learning-program/professionalism-task-force>
- **GME website:** <https://medicine.tulane.edu/education/graduate-medical-education>
- **Tulane Retirement Plans** are available, but Tulane does not match contributions. TIAA customer service representatives have been helpful to individual residents in setting up retirement plans. [https://hr.tulane.edu/benefits/retirement#:~:text=Tulane%20currently%20offers%20four%20retirement,c\)%20tax%2Dexempt%20organizations](https://hr.tulane.edu/benefits/retirement#:~:text=Tulane%20currently%20offers%20four%20retirement,c)%20tax%2Dexempt%20organizations)
- PSLF presentation recording can be found at: <https://financialaid.tulane.edu/resources/additional-resources/presentations>