The DARTNet Institute Forms Collaboration with American Academy of Family Physicians for Ongoing Practice-Based Research

<u>News Release</u>
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The DARTNet Institute and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) have formed a new collaboration to continue advancing high-quality patient care through effective family medicine research. The collaboration transfers research awards and employees in the Practice-Based Research, Innovation and Evaluation Division (PRIED) of the AAFP to DARTNet.

The AAFP was instrumental in the formation of DARTNet in 2011. Ever since, the two entities, DARTNet and the AAFP, have worked closely together on many projects. This move will allow the two organizations to further integrate their activities, complete works in progress and apply for new grants that deepen health care knowledge and improve patient care.

"We are pleased to welcome the AAFP research staff and their impressive portfolio of research projects to DARTNet Institute," said Dr. Wilson Pace, the Chief Medical and Technology Officer of DARTNet Institute. "This move allows us to engage with family medicine, practice-based research in new and exciting ways and to continue to tap into the AAFP's National Research Network (NRN), a group of physicians and practices who engage in practice-based research projects."

"As a part of this development, Dr. Christina Hester, the AAFP's PRIED director, will become Vice President of Research for DARTNet Institute and play a key role in the transition and integration of the AAFP staff into DARTNet," Dr. Pace said.

The DARTNet Institute is a not-for-profit research and clinical care support organization that focuses on the use of electronic health data to improve health outcomes. The DARTNet Institute was formed from research spearheaded through the AAFP NRN and the University of Colorado over 11 years ago. DARTNet has become known for its ability to obtain or extract electronic health record data from a wide variety of clinical organizations, from solo doctor's offices to large integrated health systems. DARTNet provides advanced solutions to standardize these data into datasets ready for both research and clinical care. DARTNet supports clinical decision-making activities with a focus on primary care, population registries, patient reported outcome collection tools, advanced data analytics, including artificial intelligence/machine learning activities and research data collection and project management tools. DARTNet collaborates with multiple academic health centers, private research organizations and hundreds of clinical organizations to advance knowledge and track health outcomes. DARTNet is also a registered Patient Safety Organization with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Founded in 1947, the AAFP represents 129,600 physicians and medical students nationwide. It is the largest medical society devoted solely to primary care. Family physicians conduct approximately one in five office visits -- that's 192 million visits annually or 48 percent more than the next most visited medical specialty. Today, family physicians provide more care for America's underserved and rural populations than any other medical specialty. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship focused on integrated care. To learn more about the specialty of family medicine and the AAFP's positions on issues and clinical care, visit www.aafp.org. For information about health care, health conditions and wellness, please visit the AAFP's consumer website, www.familydoctor.org.

This collaboration between DARTNet and AAFP will essentially double DARTNet's research portfolio and will increase DARTNet's staff by approximately a third. Through this collaboration, DARTNet will have expanded capabilities to seek a wider portfolio of funding and enhanced support for large complex research projects that benefit primary care.