

Richard C. Wender, MD
Thomas Jefferson University

I'm honored to be joining the Board of ADFM and to be a candidate for President. I Chair the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Thomas Jefferson in Philadelphia—a large, comprehensive urban Department committed to education, clinical care, research, community engagement, and disparity reduction.

Ever since becoming a Chair, ADFM has been my organizational home. After multiple years on the Planning Committee for the annual winter meeting, I had the fantastic experience of Chairing the Committee in 2005. Currently, Jeannette South-Paul and I co-direct the ADFM fellowship program for individuals interested in becoming Chairs. ADFM is the right organization to invest in the future leaders of our Departments.

This is a pivotal moment for Departments of Family Medicine and for ADFM. The health care reform debate highlights both the vital role of primary care in a transformed payment and delivery system as well as the entrenched positions of those who are threatened by real change. Hopefully, reform will place a greater emphasis on population level management and achievement of health. Our departments will need to deliver on the promise that primary care can improve outcomes. We need to be relentless advocates for every academic center to address the health of the populations they serve. We must participate in the research revolution, a window that may soon close. Finally, ADFM must create the voice for Departments of Family Medicine to help transform health care priorities, education, and care delivery. I welcome the opportunity to help lead this important work.