



April 2009

Spring greetings! We hope you are all enjoying the end of the long winter.

Network meetings at April Conferences

RHAP will host a meeting of the Network at the annual NAF meeting on Sunday, April 26, immediately after the NAF reception. RHAP will also host a meeting at the annual STFM meeting on Friday May 1st in a suite under Linda Prine's name. The goal of these meetings is to develop concrete ideas for supporting mentors and increasing the number of graduates who are able to integrate comprehensive reproductive healthcare into their practices. Many of you have already RSVPed; if you haven't [please let us know](#) if you can join us!

Survey of Graduating Residents

With the coming of Spring, RHAP is about to launch its annual survey of graduating family medicine residents who have received abortion training, so that we can maintain contact and offer support to them as they start their new practices. During the last 12 months we have been able to support a number of graduates in integrating new services into their practices, demonstrating the success of maintaining long-term contact and relationships with trainees.

We will be mailing the survey directly to residents in some programs, and will also send copies to you, in hopes that you will encourage residents in your program to answer the survey.

Remind your Residents!

Please remind your residents that it is extremely difficult to get hands-on training in abortion or IUD insertion after residency due to malpractice constraints and licensing regulations. Please encourage them to get training while covered by residency malpractice. If they cannot train locally, there are resources at [The Reproductive Health Access Project](#) and at [Medical Students for Choice](#).

Please also make sure that your residents know about the [Falencki Fellowship](#). This one-year fellowship based in New York City provides training and mentorship to develop leaders who will promote and teach full-spectrum women's reproductive health care within family medicine. Applications for 2009/10 are being accepted now.

Building State-based Networks

Bringing together local residents and physicians is an invaluable way to build relationships and identify resources for moving forward with advocacy initiatives, clinical services and/or training. Meetings in New York and Boston have resulted in several physicians adding medication abortion to their practices, identification of training resources, and the chance to get to know our colleagues and allies. This year, networks are gathering in NY, Boston, the San Francisco area and Chicago.

RHAP can support you in your efforts to have a similar gathering in your location. It's easy!

- Create an "invitation" list. You can use old-fashioned email or Evite to contact faculty, residents, practicing clinicians and others who might be interested in local networking.
- Find a date and location that would work for the majority.
- Order food or make it a potluck. It need not be elaborate; RHAP can help with a small grant.
- Create a short agenda. This can be as informal as everyone introducing themselves and discussing their practices and how they'd like to expand reproductive health care, or a structured discussion focused on increasing training or introducing medication abortion into community health centers. Leave plenty of time for informal talking as well. Often times the participants make valuable connections with each other regarding new jobs, shared strategies for work related issues, childcare, or exchanges regarding training.

These gatherings are easy, fun and PRODUCTIVE!

[Contact RHAP](#) if we can give you more information or support your efforts in any way. We may have contacts in your area who would like to be involved.

Thank you for all you do to expand access to reproductive health care!

The Reproductive Health Access Project~
Linda Prine, Ruth Lewnewski, Susan Yanow

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