

While our culture of advocacy is baked into all that we do, our health advocacy curriculum empowers each of our residents to find their voice as healers and leaders. We firmly believe that empowering and supporting residents in physician advocacy helps foster fulfillment and a sense of purpose in medicine.

Advocacy Curriculum

All interns are exposed to core advocacy principles through a formal curriculum, which includes the following components:

1. **Advocacy Workshops:** Taking place on Wednesday mornings during the +1 week, each workshop is designed to support interns in developing knowledge and skills for effective physician advocacy. Topics covered include interacting with legislators, engaging with media, writing for change, among others.
2. **Community Advocacy Project Tool:** Each intern spends time during their Social Medicine rotation on a topic that they are passionate about. Using a specific tool, and with weekly mentoring sessions, residents develop a framework for creating change in an area of their own personal interest. While the expectation is that interns develop and complete the project on paper as a thought exercise, some carry out their projects in the real world, making a true impact on the community. Others have used the tool as a jumping off point for advocacy scholarship. For example, Dr. Emma Deloughery met with her state legislator to put her advocacy plan in motion (see below).

Electives

Residents can choose to use elective time to further develop their advocacy skills and to advance advocacy projects, including engaging in local, regional, and/or national efforts by partnering with various professional organizations.

ACP Advocacy Day

Each year, our program supports interested residents in attending Oregon ACP Advocacy Day, where they engage with legislators at the state capital and learn from advocacy experts.

Resident Impact

In recent years, our residents have led advocacy efforts that have helped pass legislation at the state and national levels promoting public health in areas of health care access reform, firearm injury prevention, climate change harm mitigation, tobacco regulation, and prescription drug pricing, as well as adoption of public health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing access to addiction treatment services. Resident advocacy has also promoted physician mental health, including through revisions to the Oregon Medical Board's medical

license application that [eliminated stigmatizing language](#) about mental illness. They've promoted COVID vaccines in local [newspapers](#) and [TV news](#) for the sake of public health. And they've published advocacy pieces on [climate change](#) and its impact on [vulnerable populations](#).