



Polaris North America region

Autumn in North America has been a busy time for Polaris. We joined the American Academy of Family for their Global Health Summit in Albuquerque New Mexico where we hosted our 2019 preconference entitled "Health Equity Across Borders"

Dr William Ventres from Little Rock Arkansas delivered a stimulating keynote on his personal journey with global health and what he believes are some of the best ways to achieve health equity. Bill has extensive work experience in global health. With experience in Thailand, Venezuela and in El Salvador. In 2016 he was a scholar in global health ethics at the Brocher Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland and then served as a visiting professor at the Nelson Mandela university in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Dr Ventres shared his experiences and gave his "recipe for health equity" which starts at home by providing excellent primary care and advocating for our patients right within our own borders.



The preconference then moved on to discussing health equity and the impact it has on patient care and the general health of society. Discussions were diverse but all Polaris members in attendance agreed that it is crucial to advocate for our patients, eliminate systemic barriers on the micro and macro levels, and include education on health equity in all medical schools and residency programs. Out of these discussions we developed the "Polaris Statement on Health Equity" which is a series of principles that Polaris believes all young physicians should fulfill in within their practices. The full statement can be found on wncapolaris.org.

Our annual business meeting was this fall where we welcomed three new faces from the USA; Dr Margarete Ezinwa, Dr Steffano Mottl, and Mr Brett Lewis. We bid adieu to Dr Megan Guffey, Dr Lauren Bull, and Dr Kiera Hays; Polaris is very grateful for these three women's strong leadership over the past three years and the tremendous value they brought with them to our executive.

Please watch online for or "Docs in Practice" series which highlights the diversity of careers in family medicine! New episodes are coming to Facebook and Instagram soon!



Cheyenne Vetter - chair