



**For Immediate Release**

January 16, 2023

**CONTACT:**

Rebecca Bouck, Project Manager  
Family Medicine Education Consortium  
[rebecca.bouck@fmec.net](mailto:rebecca.bouck@fmec.net)

**FMEC 2023 Learning Collaborative on Hereditary Breast Cancer/Narrative Medicine**

DAYTON, OHIO – Today, the Family Medicine Education Consortium (FMEC) announced the kickoff of its 2023 cross-institutional Learning Collaborative on Hereditary Cancers in Women and Narrative Medicine.

“Learning collaboratives have been recognized, and strongly encouraged within the new ACGME guidelines, as a powerful tool in family medicine training and the subsequent enrichment of patient care. FMEC has a long history of successful learning collaboratives, and we are excited to utilize this approach to teach about narrative medicine and hereditary cancers in women,” said Leon McCrea II, MD, FMEC President. “We hope what we learn through this new initiative that will be shared with training programs nationally.”

Through funding provided by the [National Association of Chronic Disease Directors](#) (NACDD) and utilizing tools from the CDC’s [Bring Your Brave](#) campaign, FMEC will be convening several family residency programs to participate in the learning collaborative, including but not limited to Howard University, LewisGale Medical Center, Mercy St. Elizabeth Youngstown, United Health Services/Wilson, Geisinger Health System - Lewistown and Temple University.

Participants will explore how narrative medicine can lead to effective conversations between patients and practitioners and will experiment with tools such as stories, videos, and podcasts to catalyze conversations between patients and physicians, specifically around women’s hereditary cancers. Participants will also be exploring how new tools can be integrated into residency training.

The collaborative’s impact and success are being boosted with guidance from an Advisory Committee of subject matter experts, which includes:

- Tracey Conti, MD, Chair, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC
- Philip G. Day, PhD, Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Education, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, UMass Medical School
- Susanna Evans, MD, Temple Health Chestnut Hill, TUHS Northwest Community Family Medicine Residency; Associate Professor and Chair, Family, Community, and Preventive Medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine
- Adam E. Perrin, MD, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Faculty Co-Director, Student Affairs, UConn School of Medicine



- Sarah Inés Ramírez, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Penn State Health

“This is an excellent opportunity for faculty and residents from different institutions to work together to develop interventions that improve awareness of, and counseling about, early onset and hereditary cancer risk,” said Dr. Conti, who is also a member of the FMEC Board of Trustees. “In true FMEC fashion, we are looking forward to the power of convening diverse family medicine residencies throughout the northeast.”

The learning collaborative is being held between January and July 2023. In addition to five virtual learning sessions, “action periods” between learning sessions will allow participants to share information with other residents and faculty at their programs, experiment with tools and take ‘deeper dives’ into the issues by doing presentations in the community, planning elective experiences or capstone projects, and more.

Visit [Learning Collaborative on Hereditary Breast Cancer/Narrative Medicine](#) to learn more.

#### **About the Family Medicine Education Consortium**

The Family Medicine Education Consortium, Inc. (FMEC) is a catalyst, convener, and incubator that connects family physicians and other stakeholders to improve the health communities by strengthening family medicine, primary care and medical education. The FMEC serves 14 states and the District of Columbia in the northeast region of the U.S., working with 60 medical school departments of family medicine, 195 family medicine residency programs, and thousands of family physicians and other health care providers in community settings. Through an Annual Meeting for nearly 1,000 health professionals, annual awards, learning communities, and quality improvement projects, the FMEC inspires medical students to seek careers in family medicine, strengthens academic family medicine through faculty development and leadership experiences, and stimulates innovative approaches to primary care service delivery.

###