

Virtual FamMed Forum Report 2020

Last year, Mike Cascarina, the 2020 meeting chair, said “We’ve been holding the Scientific Assembly in pretty much the same format... for well over 20 years (and if you want the real truth, probably over 70 years). It was definitely time to shake things up a bit. I mean how many years can you sit in a dark room and listen to someone talk about the pathophysiology of diabetes? So, when the staff came to me and said “We have this great idea...” I said, “Let’s do it!” And thus, the FamMed Forum was born.”

COVID-19 forced us to shake things up even more! NJAFP held its first Virtual FamMed Forum and it was a great success. True, the virtual FamMed looked different than the live version – the KSA was pulled out as a separate event held the week before the meeting, the meeting occurred over a Friday and 2 Saturday mornings, everything was recorded for attendees to access after the event, and we had a virtual exhibit hall and poster display. In case you didn’t know, the virtual exhibit hall will be open through the end of the year and I encourage all of you to drop in and explore those organization that supported our meeting.

Some things didn’t change. The CME sessions provided a deep dive into different therapeutic areas – public health, chronic disease, cardiovascular disease, and infectious disease. We had an awesome line-up of speakers and we were able to interact with them through the chat feature in Zoom. Sure, we missed the personal interaction with each other, but we did get great education.

The Virtual FamMed Forum would not have been possible without our dedicated and creative staff. They became Zoom experts practically overnight, reworked the agenda, rehearsed all the speakers, and made sure the moderators were fully briefed on how the meeting was going to unfold. A BIG shout-out to our NJAFP Staff Team.

We are looking forward to planning our next meeting in April of 2021. Live, Virtual, or both, we hope to see you there.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Ussery-Kronhaus
FamMed Forum Chair