

# What is the AMA's value to a Resident or Fellow?

American Medical Association Resident & Fellow Section (AMA-RFS)

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## Let's Discuss



- The broader value of the American Medical Association; and



- The specific benefits for residents and fellows within the AMA and the AMA Resident and Fellow Section (AMA-RFS).





# Answering your questions



- Why should I get involved in a political organization when I have little interest in this subject and even less free time?



- How are the voices of residents and fellows heard in the AMA?

- How do I get involved in the AMA-RFS?



- Are there AMA resources designed specifically for residents and fellows?





## Where would we be without the AMA?

- Q: Resident and fellows often ask, “Why should I join the AMA? Why not just join my specialty society?”
- A: Without the AMA, who would do the following?
  - Find commonalities among physicians who often have competing interests.
  - Ensure that the interest of other powerful groups, such as lawyers and insurance companies, are not put before those of patients and physicians.
- The AMA is the unifying voice which keeps other national interest groups from dividing and conquering us.





What is the AMA doing for Resident and Fellow physicians?





# Economic Hardship Deferment

What would happen if residents were expected to start paying back loans during the first year of residency?

- In the past, after meeting certain qualifications, medical education loan payments were deferred up to three years.
- On September 27, 2007, in an effort to balance the budget, Congress passed H.R. 2669; this law eliminates the economic hardship rule and only allows residents the option of forbearance on all subsidized loans, **effective October 1, 2007!**

*The AMA-RFS got the deferments temporarily reinstated and are working on a permanent legislative fix. Without the AMA's efforts, residents would now be making large monthly payments on their medical education debt. For more info., visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/18024.html>*



# Improving Your Work Environment



Stopping the unsolicited paging of residents and fellows by physician recruiters.



- The AMA contacted all program directors to alert them to this problem.
- The AMA is currently working with the National Association of Physician Recruiters to discourage this practice.



*The AMA is the only medical organization speaking to this issue, which was raised by resident and fellow members.*





## Elimination of Benefit Waiting Periods

- Some training programs were imposing 30- to 90-day waiting periods before activating benefits (including health, dental and vision).
  - A resident identified the issue and submitted a resolution to the AMA, which was adopted as policy.
  - The AMA and ACGME worked together to close this coverage gap.
- *Now all residency programs seeking to maintain ACGME accreditation are expected to provide benefits on the first day. For more info., visit: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/15732.html>*



# GME Funding

How is your training paid for?



- Medicare and Medicaid are the source of 74% of the annual funding for GME.
- Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services proposed a rule change that would significantly cut federal matching funds payments for state Medicaid GME reimbursements.
- If implemented, this rule change could devastate residency programs across the country.

*The AMA is fighting against this rule change to ensure the future of medical education.*





# SCHIP



What will happen if SCHIP continues to be under funded?



- President Bush has vetoed the bill, and the House was unable to obtain a 2/3 majority to pass it during their recent session.



*The AMA launched a major campaign along with lobbying efforts to expand this program and get children the health care they need.*





# Student Loan Debt



What will happen if medical student debt continues to increase due to tuition increases?



- A medical student filed a lawsuit against Regents of University of California (UC) for failing to honor a contract with medical students that promised no tuition increases subsequent to enrollment.



*The AMA wrote a brief in support of the UC medical student's lawsuit. The medical student won the case!!*





# Medical Liability Reform



Who will fight the American Association for Justice (formerly the American Trial Lawyers Association) on Liability Reform?



- Only the AMA can advocate for a policy fair to both doctors and patients.



*The AMA continues to lead an aggressive multi-year campaign to reduce medical liability premiums and preserve patient's access to care.*





# Care for the Uninsured



Who will address the problem of the uninsured?

- The uninsured have less access to care and, therefore, live sicker than those with health insurance. This problem should not go unnoticed.



*The AMA has a plan to cover America's uninsured and has scheduled a major media campaign during the presidential elections to keep this topic at the forefront of voters' and candidates' minds.*

Visit [www.voicefortheuninsured.org](http://www.voicefortheuninsured.org).





What you should know as you take a fresh look at the AMA.





## Your voice within the AMA



- Do you feel as if you, as one individual, cannot effect change in your work environment, residency program, or the health care system?



- Did you know that your fellow residents have been and are still having an impact on all three areas?



- Over 20,000 resident and fellow physicians are members of the AMA-RFS, which was created in 1974 to focus on graduate medical education and resident and fellow-specific concerns and needs.





# Purpose of the AMA-RFS



With the support of members, the Section works toward the following:



- Improve your working environment;
- Increase graduate medical education funding;
- Reform America's health care system; and
- Create tools to help resident and fellow physicians succeed both personally and professionally.





## How is this Accomplished?



The intangible support of members and their membership.



- The credibility given to AMA advocacy efforts by legislators, regulators, and other organizations depends on membership numbers.



- As membership increases so does the organization's leverage to effectively achieve the desired changes identified by resident and fellow physicians.





# How is this Accomplished?



The tangible support of members and their membership.



- Your \$45 a year membership dues supports resident and fellow specific lobbying efforts, staff, programs, awards and grants, educational initiatives and business meetings.





# How is this Accomplished?

The participation of members!



- Residents and fellow leaders set the AMA-RFS specific agenda each year.



- You can shape the direction of the AMA-RFS and AMA through elected colleagues who serve as resident and fellow leaders.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/7065.html>



- Or, you can become a leader and affect the agenda of the organization personally.





# Varying Levels of Member Participation



- There are several entrance points and levels of member participation, depending on your time, interests and needs.



- The following slides highlight those opportunities but more can be found on the AMA-RFS website at: [www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs)





# Levels of Participation

1) Take advantage of career development resources, which include:

- Dozens of International opportunities
- Public Health Resources
- Financial management tools
- Legal Resources
- Graduate Medical Education
- What you need to know before transitioning into practice
- And much more.





# Levels of Participation



2) Benefit from AMA-RFS grant, award and internship opportunities like:



- **Seed Grant Research Program:** Receive up to \$2500 to conduct small research projects
- **Discovery Health Internship:** Health communication rotation to develop health related programming-\$3000 stipend
- **RFS Legislative Awareness Internship:** Spend two weeks in DC learning about how it all works
- **Poster Research Symposium Competition**





# Levels of Participation



## 3) Become a leader and directly influence the organization's direction!!



- The AMA-RFS has a Governing Council composed of seven residents and fellows that meet four times a year to implement policy initiatives.
- The AMA-RFS also has two Assembly meetings per year in which policies are debated and established.
- The Assembly consists of 150 resident/fellow delegates from state and specialty associations from around the country.





# Levels of Participation



- The AMA-RFS Assembly elects 10 sectional delegates and 10 alternates to serve in the AMA House of Delegates.
- The Section nominates resident/fellow member representatives to serve on the AMA Board of Trustees (BOT) and Councils/Committees throughout the AMA.
- The Section also nominates resident/fellow member representatives for positions in the ACGME, AMPAC, NPME, NBME, etc.





# AMA-RFS Website & Listserv



- For more information and resources about the AMA-RFS, visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs)



- To receive opportunities as they become available and keep up on the Section's initiatives, visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/7091.html> to join our listserv.





- **Only those who fail to act, or fail to give others the support to act on their behalf, are powerless.**
- **Through the AMA-RFS, you have a powerful voice....you just have to choose to use it!**
- **To join us, go to <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/12896.html>**



