

AMA Resident & Fellow Section (AMA-RFS) Communication

The AMA-RFS, **as the largest national organization of resident and fellow physicians with over 20,000 members**, gives Resident and Fellow Physicians a voice in the fight to reform America's health system, improve medical education, and help physicians succeed personally and professionally. Stay informed of upcoming events, opportunities to get involved, and RFS advocacy initiatives. Also, please visit the AMA-RFS website at www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs for new resources on a variety of personal and professional issues.

AMA-RFS Involvement

RSVP for AMA-RFS Welcome Reception by June 15

As prelude to the Annual Meeting, the AMA-RFS is sponsoring a welcome and networking reception for all resident and fellow physicians. Connect with your colleagues over drinks and hors d'oeuvres on Thursday, June 21 at the Palmer House Hilton. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/rfsmeeting to RSVP by **June 15** and find more information about the AMA-RFS Annual Meeting.

Annual Assembly Handbook now available online

View the AMA-RFS Annual Assembly meeting handbook online for the meeting agenda, resolutions, applications of Governing Council candidates and other information pertinent to the meeting. Some notable events of the Annual meeting are the following:

- Thursday, June 21 at 8:00 pm: Network with colleague resident and fellow physicians over drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the welcome reception.
- Friday, June 22 at 1:30 pm: Attend educational sessions on the Uninsured, AMA's Initiative to Transform Medical Education, Preparing for practice and more.
- Friday, June 22 at 10:25 pm: Participate in the reference committee hearings on submitted resolutions.
- Saturday, June 23 at 7:00 am: Elect your Governing Council representatives.

Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/12156.html> to view the online handbook and receive more information on the AMA-RFS Annual meeting.

AMA-RFS Regional Chairs: Become a Leader!!!

Deadline: June 15

Regional Chairs are responsible for maintaining contact with state leaders, fostering communication between local and national RFS leaders, recruiting new RFS members and developing new methods to increase resident/fellow participation at the Annual and Interim meetings. Regional Chairs will be elected by their respective regions during the Annual Meeting and will conduct the business of the Regional Meeting at both the Annual and Interim Meetings. These positions are for a one-year term. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/189.html> for an application.

AMA-RFS Standing Committees: Become a Leader!!!

Deadline: July 2

The standing committees are appointed by the AMA-RFS Governing Council to help further the mission of the Section. The term is one year. We are currently accepting applications for 5 committees: Committee on Medical Education, Committee on Long Range Planning, Legislative Advocacy Committee, Membership Committee and Public Health Committee. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/189.html> for more information on these committees and an application.

RFS Specific News

Resources for Residents and Fellows

The AMA-RFS website has been redesigned to offer more resources for resident and fellows through every phase of their career. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/15.html> for information about improving your work environment, financial management, finding residency positions, advocacy and policy, RFS events, leadership opportunities, awards and grants, how to become involved and more.

AMA expresses support of the Medical Education Affordability Act

If enacted, this legislation would require the Secretary of Education to extend the economic hardship deferment period to cover the entire length of a medical residency instead of the current three year limit. For those who can demonstrate economic hardship, the Medical Education Act would help physicians with residency programs beyond three years better manage their significant debt burden. Furthermore, it would alleviate some of the financial pressure young physicians face in deciding whether to choose a specialty that requires a residency program of more than three years. Visit http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/16/med_ed_afford_ltr.pdf to read the letter from Dr. Maves.

AMA expresses support of Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2007

With the U.S. facing a future shortage of physicians, the AMA supports the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2007, which would expand the number of Medicare-supported physician residency training positions in states with a shortage of residents. Legislative initiatives include providing new money for graduate medical education and lifting the current cap on Medicare-supported residency positions in physician shortage/underserved areas and in undersupplied specialties with the greatest need. Visit http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/16/res_short_reduct_ltr.pdf to read the letter from Dr. Maves.

Immigration Bill Includes Physician Visa Reform

On May 21, Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) introduced a substitute amendment (S.AMDT.1150) to the "Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007" (S.1348), which had served as a placeholder on the Senate calendar. The new language includes changes to the laws governing H-1B visas, J-1 visas, and the Conrad 30 waiver program for physicians. Of particular importance to academic medicine, the new language excludes "graduate medical education and training" from eligible specialty occupations under the H-1B visa. Visit <http://www.aamc.org/advocacy/library/washhigh/2007/060107/start.htm#4> for more information.

Research/Educational Information

AMA-RFS Health Care Education Initiative

Your AMA-RFS Governing Council has developed presentations to help resident and fellow physicians educate themselves and others on important health care topics. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/7092.html> to see the presentation topics available.

Fund for Better Health

Deadline: July 16, 2007

Individuals and organizations are eligible to apply for grants which further the charitable and educational purposes of the AMA Foundation. Grants made in 2007 will support programs addressing three public health issues: Healthy Lifestyles, Public & Patient Safety, and Uninsured/Underinsured Projects. A maximum of \$2,000 will be distributed to each grant recipient. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/7608.html> for more information and an application. Applications must be received at AMA Foundation Headquarters by July 16, 2007.

Resident Physicians Recognition Award

Deadline: Open

Physicians who participate in continuing medical education (CME) have been recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA) with the Physician's Recognition Award (PRA). Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2922.html> for an application and more information.

The AMA Resident and Fellow Section offers this listserv for sharing information on a variety of topics including policy, advocacy, achievements, projects, council and committee positions, etc. **You can join our listserv at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/7091.html> so you can be informed of AMA-RFS activities.** To unsubscribe from the AMA-RFS listserv, send an email to rfs@ama-assn.org with "Unsubscribe" as the subject. Also visit the AMA-RFS website at www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs for current information and resources relevant to resident and fellow physicians.

Important: Please be advised that this listserv is intended solely to communicate and discuss important issues relevant to the practice of medicine and our membership. It is not to be used for commercial purposes or to promote a commercial product.