



## 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](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs) for new resources on a variety of personal and professional issues.

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### Feature

#### **Elimination of Benefit Waiting Periods for Residents and Fellows**

Do you think one resident can't make a difference? One resident did by identifying a problem and submitting a resolution to the AMA. This resolution asked that the discrepancies between Graduate Medical Education (GME) training institutions in the provision of healthcare, dental care, vision care, life, and disability insurance be eliminated. Although the majority of GME training institutions provide benefits to physician trainees on the first day of employment, some institutions impose a 60-90 day waiting period. After the resolution was considered and adopted, the AMA worked with the ACGME to amend institutional requirements so that benefits now start on the first day for all residents and their families. This is an example of how one AMA resident member can make a difference and improve the quality of life for thousands of current and future physicians-in-training. This Code Blue article can be found in the March issue of Resident and Staff Physician. [http://www.residentandstaff.com/issues/articles/2008-02\\_15.asp](http://www.residentandstaff.com/issues/articles/2008-02_15.asp)

### RFS Events

#### **Save the date: AMA-RFS Annual Meeting June 12-14**

Your opportunity to make a difference is coming soon. The AMA-RFS Annual Meeting will be held June 12-14, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois. The Assembly Meeting will be an opportunity for you to participate in policy making sessions, educational sessions and networking opportunities with your colleagues. Stay tuned to the RFS listserv for upcoming information on registration, credentialing, schedule of events and resolution submission deadlines.

#### **AMA Medical Student / Resident and Fellow Lobby Day**

On March 31 residents/fellows and medical students will be in Washington, DC for the AMA Medical Student / Resident and Fellow Lobby Day. Lobby Day activities will include educational sessions on effective advocacy and lobbying techniques, briefings on legislative issues currently before Congress, and a full afternoon on Capitol Hill meeting with legislators and their staff. Lobby Day registration is free for all medical students and residents/fellows. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/15898.html> for a schedule.

### RFS Involvement

#### **AMA announces exciting Media Rotation with Discovery Channel**

The AMA, in conjunction with the Discovery Channel, is offering an exclusive four to six week elective rotation for AMA medical student and resident /fellow members. During the rotation, one AMA medical student and one AMA resident /fellow will each work to develop a medical education program that will air on the Discovery Health Channel. This exciting opportunity gives



the student and resident /fellow hands-on experience in the translation of rigorous scientific data into an entertaining and informational program. Visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/discovery](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/discovery) for more information and an application. The deadline for applications is April 17, 2008.

#### **Seeking a resident/fellow representative to AMPAC**

The AMA-RFS is seeking a resident/fellow representative to serve a two-year term on the American Medical Political Action Committee (AMPAC). This 12 member committee was created by the AMA in 1961 to strengthen the cause of organized medicine by making campaign contributions to medicine friendly candidates running for the US House or Senate. Application deadline is May 1. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/189.html> for more information and an application.

#### **Deadline extended for AMA-RFS awards**

The AMA-RFS is extending the application deadline for the following awards:

- Jordan Fieldman, MD Award - For residents with interested and active in advocacy issues
- Paul Ambrose Award for Leadership Among Resident Physicians

Receive funded travel to the June Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois where the award will be presented. The deadline for these awards is March 21, 2008. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/5754.html> for more information on these awards and for applications.

## RFS Specific News

#### **Clinics struggle as IMGs find other paths to residency**

The number of IMGs on J-1 visa waivers is declining as more acquire the more attractive H1-B visas. The J-1 visa requires physicians to return to their home country for two years after residency unless they agree to work in an underserved area for three years. The H1-B visa is less restrictive and doesn't require physicians to return home for two years or to work in an underserved area to remain the U.S. Due to the decline of IMGs on J-1 waivers combined with a national decrease in family medicine graduates, clinics in underserved, particularly rural, areas are faced with a chronic shortage of physicians. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2008/03/10/prsa0310.htm> to read the AM News article.

#### **Deadline for Medicaid tamper-proof Rx pads is April 1**

Under a federal law passed last year, physicians will soon be required to use tamper-resistant prescription pads for most handwritten Medicaid prescriptions. Advocacy by the AMA, state medical societies and others achieved a six-month delay in the implementation date, which is now April 1. Orders for these pads can take up to four weeks to process, so physicians who have not yet ordered them should do so now. While this is a federal law and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has issued some guidance to state Medicaid agencies, each state agency must implement its own requirements regarding the tamper-resistant features of the pads. The AMA has been working with a coalition to bring clarity to the situation. Visit the AMA Web site <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/15559.html> for more details.

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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](mailto:rfs@ama-assn.org) with "Unsubscribe" as the subject. Also visit the AMA-RFS website at [www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs](http://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.