

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

AMA-RFS Annual Meeting in Chicago

The AMA-RFS Annual Meeting will be held June 21-23 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/12156.html> for more information and to register online. Please keep the following deadlines in mind:

- May 11 Resolutions due
- May 18 Annual meeting pre-registration due
- May 18 Convention Committee applications due
- May 18 Governing council applications due
- May 25 Special room rate deadline for hotel reservations at the Palmer House Hilton

Surgical Caucus Executive Committee

Deadline: May 4

The Surgical Caucus discusses issues and AMA House of Delegates resolutions relevant to the surgical field. The resident member participates in the surgical caucuses at the AMA Annual and Interim meetings and serves as a member of the Surgical Caucus Executive Committee. This is a one-year position appointed by the AMA-RFS Governing Council. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/189.html> for an application.

AMA-RFS Governing Council

Deadline: May 18, 2007

The AMA-RFS Governing Council is responsible for directing the programs and activities of the RFS. Governing Council members attend the AMA Annual and Interim meetings (at least four days each) and four Governing Council meetings (two weekend days each). The term for these positions is one year. Application materials must be emailed to sharyn.grose@ama-assn.org by the deadline. We are currently accepting applications for: Vice Chair, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Membership and Outreach Officer, Speaker, and Vice Speaker. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/189.html> for an application.

AMA-RFS Standing Committees

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 4 committees: 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.

AMA-RFS Regional Chairs

Deadline: June 2

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. This position is a one-year term. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/189.html> for an application.

RFS-Specific News

Resident duty hours has recently been a hot topic on the RFS communications listserv. Every e-mail was read by your RFS Governing Council and your contribution helps your colleagues in leadership positions make important decisions that impact legislation and policy at a national level. Another key to change is keeping all RFS members informed about important topics so they can influence key contacts within each program. The following are important sources to consider as we continue to address this important issue.

ACGME FAQs on Duty Hour Standards

The following document is a set of frequently asked questions and answers related to the interpretation and enforcement of the duty hour standards. This document was updated by ACGME in April 2007 and can be found at http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/dutyHours/dh_faqs.pdf (PDF, 21KB).

Confidentially Reporting Duty Hour Violations - Your RFS Shows you How

A productive and sustainable working environment that is conducive to professional development and the safe delivery of patient care remains the highest priority of your AMA-RFS. The following document created by your RFS tells you how to report duty hour violations to ACGME and points to consider when submitting your formal complaint: http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/16/acgme_wkhr_complaint.pdf.

Lawmakers urge probe on doc hours, error

The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee members have requested a study of the link between medical errors and the many hours and long shifts that medical residents, interns and some other doctors must work, according to an April 11 *United Press International* article. Visit http://www.upi.com/Health_Business/Briefing/2007/04/11/lawmakers_urge_probe_on_doc_hours_error/ to read the article.

AMA efforts to improve enrollment process for medical residents

The AMA has been working throughout the year to address numerous Medicare issues, including the recognition of residents as physician providers when enrolling in the program. In anticipation of the July 1 start of residency programs, the AMA convened a discussion with the Association of American Medical Colleges, Medical Group Management Association, and CMS to underscore the need for resolving several issues including the enrollment of residents. As a result of the discussion, CMS agreed to conduct additional outreach with the academic medical centers to proactively address concerns prior to July 1, 2007. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/x-ama/upload/mm/399/advocacy041607.pdf> for more information on this AMA Advocacy issue.

CMS clarification on National Provider Identifier (NPI)

CMS has stated that the May 23 compliance date for NPI still stands even though it recognizes that much of the healthcare industry is unprepared. CMS has issued a "contingency plan" for compliance with the NPI for the 12 months following the NPI compliance deadline of May 23,

2007 clarifying that no penalties will be levied for non-compliance between May 23, 2007, and May 23, 2008, IF a physician has made “good faith effort” to comply with the May 23, 2007, deadline through “reasonable and diligent efforts.” The AMA continues to urge the Medicare program, as the largest payer of health care benefits, to adopt the maximum contingency plan allowed by CMS of 12 months. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/x-ama/upload/mmm/399/advocacy041607.pdf> for more information on this AMA advocacy issue.

Research/Educational Information

Discovery Health Medical Student and Resident Rotation

Deadline: May 15, 2007

Discovery Health, part of Discovery Communications, is offering an exclusive four to six week elective rotation for American Medical Association (AMA) medical student and resident members. During the rotation, one AMA medical student and one AMA resident will each work closely with all members of the Discovery Health CME team to develop a medical education program that will air on the network and be viewed by over 2 million people. Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/5754.html> for more information and an application.

Life After Training: Options for J-1 Physicians

If you are a foreign medical graduate currently in J-1 or H-1B status participating in your residency or fellowship program, this symposium will provide you with valuable information regarding your options. Presentation topics include: How to navigate the process of obtaining a J-1 waiver position; Available J-1 waiver programs and processing time; Alternative visa options; Permanent residence process. Visit <http://www.duanemorris.com/events/event1080.html> for registration information.

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, 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.

*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.