



Congratulations!

As chair of the American Medical Association (AMA) Medical Student Section (MSS), I'm writing to congratulate you on formally beginning your medical career path. I stress "formally" because, as a fellow medical student, I know that you've been working for years to reach this goal. That said, I'd like to share with you why I believe the AMA matters and how it can play an important, empowering role in our lives as medical students and throughout every stage of our medical careers.

An invaluable partner with the clout to help you make a real difference.

The AMA is the most effective physician and medical student advocacy group in the world and the only organization that unites every state and specialty nationwide. From student debt relief and improved work hours for residents and fellows to mandating seat belts in automobiles and increasing access to care for the uninsured, the AMA is a driving force behind positive change in health policy and patient care. This is why I am a member of the AMA, why I volunteer my time as a leader, and why I urge you to join and get involved as well. As medical students, we are the future of medicine. Through the AMA-MSS, we have a powerful voice in shaping that future.

A commitment that begins with your medical school experience.

The AMA understands every phase of a physician's professional development. It recognizes how difficult—and ultimately rewarding—your current medical training will be. I encourage you to take full advantage of the AMA's unique networking and involvement opportunities, resources, and advocacy initiatives—tools that can help you:

- Serve your community and network with peers through AMA chapter activities.
- Create solutions that reduce the financial burden for medical students and ensure reasonable resident work hours.
- Learn about the issues affecting medicine, including the professional, social, economic and policy topics we're often not taught in school.
- Address the most pressing professional and public health issues of our times—such as increasing access to care for the uninsured and underinsured and medical liability reform.
- Implement health policy that will have an impact on your career as a practicing physician and the health of your future patients.

Share your passion and connect with the future of medicine.

With the start of the new year, please join me and more than 44,000 other medical students as we work together to shape health care and improve the medical community. Together we make a difference. Together we are stronger!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alik Widge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alik" and the last name "Widge" clearly distinguishable.

Alik Widge
AMA-MSS chair
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

P.S. When you join today, your four-year membership includes a free copy of *Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary 4th Ed.* with CD-ROM—a guide you will use throughout your career!