



Section on Medical Schools Annual Meeting

Summary Minutes

June 12-14, 2009

Hyatt Regency Chicago

Governing Council

Present

M. Dewayne Andrews, MD, Chair
Betty M. Drees, MD
Donald G. Eckhoff, MD
Louis Ling, MD
Rodney R. Parry, MD
Michael J. Reichgott, MD, PhD
Arthur Ross, III, MD, MBA
Maria C. Savoia, MD
Kenneth B. Simons, MD

Guest Speaker

Todd Askew

Staff

Susan E. Skochelak, MD, MPH
Jacqueline M. Drake, MS
Alexis Koran

Section Educational Program

The AMA Section on Medical Schools (AMA-SMS) held its 33rd Annual Meeting on June 12-14. Four well-attended and well-received educational sessions were presented.

- The “Mentoring the Next Generation: How to Cultivate an AMA Student Chapter” session was held with the AMA Medical Student Section (MSS). A panel discussion focused on the characteristics of a successful mentoring relationship and the importance of faculty mentors in each medical school’s AMA-MSS chapter.
- The “Resident Duty Hours: Where are We? Where Do We Want to Be?” session was held with the AMA Council on Medical Education and focused on the consequences of resident duty hour limits, both positive and unintended. This informative discussion highlighted strategies to ensure an appropriate learning environment.
- The “Interprofessional Collaboration in Health Care: Implications for Medical Schools and GME” panel presentation discussed the benefits and value of interprofessional training in promoting patient health and safety. Dialogue focused on strategies to best train health professionals, particularly for primary care practice.
- The AMA-SMS also held a session on innovations in medical education, which included mini-presentations on AMA’s Innovative Strategies for Transforming the Education of Physicians (ISTEP) program; medical education and disaster preparedness; implementation of USMLE’s

comprehensive review recommendations; telemedicine in clinical education; and increasing faculty participation in the AMA-SMS.

Summaries of the educational sessions and the mini-presentations are in **Appendix A**.

Section Business Meeting

Call to Order

The business meeting of the AMA-SMS was called to order by the Chair, M. Dewayne Andrews, MD at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 13, 2009.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Section Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the previous Section meeting. **On motion seconded and carried, the minutes of the November 8-9, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.**

Report of the Section Chair

Dr. Andrews welcomed meeting participants and introduced the members of the SMS Governing Council (GC). Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH, AMA Vice President for Medical Education, was introduced. She remarked that she began her AMA tenure on May 1, 2009 and is looking forward to getting to know the Section members as well as working closely with the SMS Governing Council. Dr. Andrews also introduced Section staff and mentioned that this was Ms. Alexis Koran's first Section meeting.

Before proceeding with the Section business meeting, Dr. Andrews went over a few housekeeping issues, such as the importance of completing the meeting evaluation form and the need for the representatives to sign-in each day they attend the meeting for Section records. He mentioned that there were quite a few new Section representatives attending the meeting and asked that they stand up and be recognized. He invited them to introduce themselves to the GC during the course of the meeting.

He also remarked that the weekly issue of Medical School eVoice, that highlights issues of importance to the medical education community, comes out every Friday and hopes that all Section representatives have opted-in to receive it. He encouraged representatives to check the Section Web site for periodic updates on Section activities. These two vehicles are the primary means of communicating with Section representatives.

Dr. Andrews reported that the Section elections would take place immediately following Saturday's lunch. If anyone is interested in being nominated from the floor, they need to contact Ms. Drake before noon so that their credentials can be verified and their name put on the ballot.

Report of the Section Liaison to the AMA Council on Medical Education (CME)

Dr. Simons reported on the following main topics that were discussed at the June 2009 CME meeting.

A United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) test preparation company that operates under the name "Optima University" has been sued, along with its owner, by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) for using test

preparation materials that were obtained illegally. The Educational Commission on Foreign Graduates (ECFMG) is also participating in the investigation. The USMLE will remove items that they feel have been compromised from the item pool. Individuals who attended Optima's programs or are considering doing so risk having their USMLE scores delayed and/or classified as invalid. They may also be subject to other consequences, including charges of irregular behavior, as a result of their participation. Dr. Simons asked SMS representatives to pass along this news to their medical students.

The NBME has begun to focus on providing assessments targeted to the sub-internship experiences for fourth-year medical students. The NBME has developed two forms of a Medicine sub-internship exam in collaboration with the clerkship directors in Internal Medicine. The exam is currently in a pilot phase, which is expected to continue until the last quarter of 2009. Test development work has begun on a Surgery sub-internship exam, which will be available for pilot testing during the second quarter of 2010. A Pediatric sub-internship exam will be developed in 2010. There has been some discussion about the use of the sub-internship exams and how residency programs may want to use the scores during the selection process.

Additional items highlighted at the CME meeting, included physician workforce issues, specifically ongoing legislative efforts such as the Kennedy bill; AMA Physician's Recognition Award (AMA PRA) credit system enhancements; and the expansion and creation of medical schools through the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). Dr. Simons reminded representatives to look for the Council's report on the availability of clinical sites at the 2010 AMA Annual Meeting.

The Council was introduced to Keya Sau, ScM, PhD, its new student member from Albany Medical College. Dr. Sau replaced Mr. Tim Craft, from the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

AMA Washington Update

Todd Askew, AMA Director of Congressional Affairs, informed the participants that the AMA and 59 national medical organizations recently endorsed a set of joint recommendations on eliminating Medicare's sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and supporting efforts to promote health care quality and appropriateness. Developed with input from the Federation of Medicine, the AMA Council on Medical Service and the AMA Council on Legislation, the joint recommendations underscore that the SGR should be repealed this year and replaced with updates that reflect practice cost increases.

If Congress adopts a transitional approach to replacing the SGR, payment updates would be linked to the Medicare Economic Index for five years while innovative financing and delivery systems are further developed and tested. The recommendations oppose any mandatory physician participation in new models, support antitrust reforms to allow physicians to collaborate around health information technology and quality improvement initiatives, and call for testing programs that provide liability protection to physicians who participate in Medicare quality incentive programs. The joint recommendations are being shared with key policymakers in Congress, the Obama administration and the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

AMA President Dr. Nancy Nielsen and AMA President-elect Dr. James Rohack recently were in Washington, DC to meet with Members of the Senate Finance Committee. Dr. Nielsen and Dr. Rohack spoke with Senators about the importance of permanently repealing Medicare's sustainable growth rate formula for establishing updates to physician payments as part of health system reform. The Senate Finance Committee plans to mark up health reform legislation later this month.

Over the past few weeks, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) released for comment three papers containing policy options for comprehensive health system reform. The first paper outlines proposals to reform the health care delivery system and addresses key physician policy issues such as Medicare physician payment. The second paper addresses options for expanding insurance coverage, and the third discusses potential sources for financing reform efforts. AMA's comments on each paper will be posted on the AMA Web site as they are completed.

In a sharp contrast with recent years when payment updates for Medicare Advantage plans have ranged from 3.5% to more than 7%, the Obama Administration announced a final Medicare Advantage (MA) payment update of less than one percent for 2010. One factor that contributed to the lower update is the assumption that Medicare physician payment rates will be reduced by 21% in January. In addition, next year is the first year of a phased adjustment aimed at reducing MA plan payments for indirect medical education. When the update is combined with a negative adjustment being made to the plans' risk scores to account for coding differences between MA and Medicare fee-for-service providers, the managed care industry projects that its capitation payments will be reduced by about 5 percent. In its March 2009 report to Congress, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission noted that MA plans are paid an average 14% more than Medicare fee-for-service costs, and that fee-for-service enrollees help subsidize MA overpayments through higher Part B premiums.

In a March 24, 2009 letter, the AMA, the American Osteopathic Association, 50 state medical associations, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia and 15 national medical specialty societies stated their concerns to the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) about its involvement in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) certification examination process. This involvement has been used to draw untrue comparisons of equivalency between physician and DNP examinations and the respective competencies of physicians and DNPs. The letter asked NBME to change its language about the DNP exam in order to clarify NBME's position regarding claims of equivalency.

Question and Answer Session

Speaker Unidentified

Q: What is the AMA's position on the patient-centered medical home?

A: The AMA is supportive of the concept. The challenge will be in defining who participates in this model. AMA expects that Medicare will drive other payment reform. As mentioned, the AMA is pushing for repeal of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and for alternative payment mechanisms to emerge. Accountable care organizations and medical homes are being considered as options. The AMA expects to see each emerging bill from Congress containing substantial investment in the medical home concept.

Speaker Unidentified

Q: What is the alternative to the public plan? If the AMA opposes this, what reform does AMA support?

A: The AMA does not oppose the public plan, but requires a firmer definition before we support it. There are other alternatives, besides a Medicare model, under consideration. The AMA's primary goal is to provide care for the country's uninsured. Under AMA policy, we support the provision of substantial subsidies for those who purchase insurance. The greatest challenge will be to make insurance affordable.

An option that is in alignment with AMA policy would be the health exchange. In this model, substantial government regulation of insurance will reduce costs to make plans affordable. However, funding remains the biggest challenge in reform.

Myron Genel, MD
Yale Child Health Research Center

Q: There has been a lot of attention paid to the recent article in *The New Yorker* (“The Cost Conundrum: What a Texas town can teach us about health care” by Atul Gawande. June 1, 2009). How is this issue being addressed?

A: Dr. Gawande wrote an article looking at the cost of healthcare in McAllen, Texas, which is the most expensive care in the country. There is a great variation in healthcare spending across the nation, as high as \$15,000 per year in Texas to \$4,000 per year in Iowa. Unfortunately, there is no definitive explanation of this, though high healthcare costs have been linked directly to poverty levels. Sometimes, a greater cost will actually bring you lower quality of care.

How do we decrease the discrepancy to bring down cost of healthcare? One potential solution is to implement the use of feedback reports, which compare physicians to colleagues locally and nationally. This system works on the premise that once physicians understand they’re an outlier, they will try to improve. The feedback reports haven’t been fully developed yet, but there is a lot of potential there. This is a much talked about article in Washington, however, no one has answers.

The AMA’s efforts include the support of the implementation of feedback reports, as well as the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI), which is developing guidelines and clinical performance measures to enhance patient care and safety. The AMA supports the creation of healthcare collaboratives for greater cooperation and cost efficiency. To propel such a model, we’re working to reform anti-trust laws that would allow physicians to work together to find solutions in increasing efficiency and decreasing unnecessary costs, while providing a greater quality of care.

Section Election

Dr. Rodney Parry, Immediate Past Chair of the Section’s Governing Council and Chair of the Nominating Subcommittee, reported on the recommendations of the Subcommittee. **On motion seconded and carried, the Section supported the recommendations of the SMS Nominating Subcommittee.**

The AMA-SMS 2008-2009 Governing Council is - **Chair:** Betty Drees, MD, Dean, University of Missouri- Kansas City School of Medicine; **Chair-Elect:** Kenneth Simons, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Medical College of Wisconsin; **Immediate Past Chair:** M. Dewayne Andrews, MD, Executive Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine; **Delegate:** Michael Reichgott, MD, PhD, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Graduate Medical Education, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University; **Alternate Delegate:** Donald Eckhoff, MD, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Colorado School of Medicine; **At-Large Members:** Arthur Ross, III, MD, MBA, Dean and Vice President for Medical Affairs, Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science; Maria Savoia, MD, Vice Dean for Medical Education, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine; and Robert J. Sokol, MD, Director of the C.S. Mott Center for Human Growth and Development, Wayne State University School of Medicine. **SMS Liaison to the Council on Medical Education:** Louis Ling, MD, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, University of Minnesota Medical School.

Section Resolution

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the SMS Assembly voted to submit 1 resolution to the AMA House of Delegates for consideration, Resolution 325 – Support for Graduate Medical Education. Substitute Resolution 314, Inclusion of Workforce Components to Any Federal Health Care Reform Policy, was adopted in lieu of Resolutions 314, 321 and 325 with a change in title – “Increasing Graduate Medical Education Positions as a Component to Any Federal Health Care Reform Policy.”

Reports and Resolutions on Medical Education Issues

The SMS representatives reviewed and discussed 3 Board of Trustees Reports, 14 Council on Medical Education Reports, 3 Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs Reports, 1 Council on Long Range Planning and Development Report and 59 resolutions that had relevance to the medical education community, and which were considered by the House of Delegates. **Appendix B** summarizes the Section’s recommendations and final actions for the reports and resolutions that went before the various reference committees.

Adjournment

The Section meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm on Saturday, June 13 and reconvened at 7:15 am on Sunday, June 14. During the Sunday meeting, the Section representatives considered late reports and resolutions to come before the AMA-HOD and discussed appropriate testimony to be presented before the assigned Reference Committees. The Sunday meeting adjourned at 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline M. Drake, MS
Section Director

Alexis Koran
Supervisor, Administrative Staff