

Section and Special Group highlights

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT)

“Notes from the trenches—treating gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth in Chicago and the need for competent care,” the educational program of the Advisory Committee on GLBT Issues, was well attended by AMA Annual Meeting participants as well as members of Chicago-area GLBT medical student groups. The program featured Gay and Lesbian Medical Association President Robert Garofalo, MD, who practices in Chicago and serves a wide array of GLBT patients.

The committee also sponsored a session for the Medical Student Section on the unique health issues faced by transgendered patients. Led by Rebecca Allison, MD, a member of the Advisory Committee on GLBT Issues, the session was the first of its kind during an AMA meeting.

Group Practice Physicians

The Advisory Committee on Group Practice Physicians met June 22 to discuss a wide variety of issues, with a focus on pay for performance. Committee member Jeffrey Levin-Scherz, MD, gave a presentation about tiered networks, and Michael Kitchell, MD, presented an update on his recent attendance at the meeting of the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement. The Group Practice Advisory Committee hosted a working lunch in collaboration with the Mayo Health Policy Center, including Mayo Clinic President and Chief Executive Officer Denis Cortese, MD. Committee members Don Chaplin, MD, Jon Christofersen, MD, Norman Chenven, MD, and Ben Knecht, MD, completed their service on the committee and were recognized for their contributions.

The committee sponsored an educational program on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) new Physician Quality Reporting Initiative as it relates to group practices. Keynote speakers included CMS’ Thomas Valuck, MD, followed by a reaction panel consisting of Henry Ford Health System Chair and CEO Mark Kelley, MD, and North Ohio Heart Center’s John Schaeffer, MD. More than 100 group practice physicians attended.

International Medical Graduates (IMG) Section

The AMA-IMG Section meeting included multiple venues for IMG colleagues to participate. At the AMA-IMG Congress, the AMA-IMG Section Governing Council (GC) presented an award to Busharat Ahmad, MD, in honor of his work and leadership on behalf of all IMGs.

Other highlights included the ratification of the 2007-2008 AMA-IMG Section GC and the adoption of its first internal operating procedures. Colleagues thanked outgoing GC members Edmond Cabbabe, MD, Bernd A. Wollschlaeger, MD, and Marie-Claude Rigaud, MD, for their years of fine service. AMA-IMG Section Caucus attendees heard candidates’ remarks about issues of importance to IMGs and discussed items of business to be considered by the AMA House of Delegates

(HOD). A “Desserts From Around the World” reception concluded the section’s activities. The section thanks the ethnic medical societies and state IMG sections who cosponsored the reception. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/imgs to view a list of the newly ratified AMA-IMG Section GC.

Section on Medical Schools (SMS)

Now in its 31st year, the AMA-SMS hosted educational sessions on innovative approaches in medical education, global health inequality (cosponsored with the AMA Medical Student Section) and implementing innovation in medical education (cosponsored with the AMA Council on Medical Education).

The section elected its GC. Rodney Parry, MD, dean and vice president for health sciences, Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota, was elected chair; Dewayne Andrews, MD, executive dean, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, was elected chair-elect; Cam Enarson, MD, dean and vice president for health sciences, Creighton University School of Medicine, is immediate past chair. At large members include: Betty Drees, MD, interim provost and dean, University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Medicine; Louis Ling, MD, associate dean for graduate medical education, University of Minnesota Medical School; and Arthur Ross, MD, dean, Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

Medical Student Section (MSS)

Nearly 750 medical students attended the AMA-MSS Annual Meeting. The Assembly considered 22 items of business and held more than 30 educational programs. The section hosted a keynote panel discussion on covering the uninsured, and would like to thank the panelists: Robert Hertzka, MD, past president of the California Medical Association; AMA Trustee Ardis Hoven, MD; Michael Gusmano, PhD, Assistant Professor at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; and B. Dale Magee, MD, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

The section elected its 2007-2008 GC. Mark Pascua, Jefferson Medical College, was elected vice chair; Justin Mistovich, Wright State University, was elected delegate; Peter Ragusa, University of Minnesota, was elected alternate delegate; Meltem Zeytinoglu, Indiana University, was elected at large officer; Kristie Appelgren, Medical University of South Carolina, was elected speaker; and Laura Gephart, Loma Linda University, was elected vice speaker.

At the conclusion of this Annual Meeting, Rana Yehia, University of Florida, will commence her term as chair, and Chris DeRienzo, Duke University, will begin another term as trustee. They were elected last November.

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Minority Affairs Consortium (MAC)

The AMA-MAC focused on HOD resolutions covering critical issues such as Indian health care, strategies for system change on health care disparities and ensuring appropriate interpretive services.

The AMA-MAC presented the winners of its 2007 AMA Foundation Minority Scholars Award program, supported by the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative. Congratulations to these outstanding medical students: Elysia Alvarez, Charles Branch, Adam Castaño, Cherie Cross, Teresa Edwards, Candace Nall, Michael Nevarez, Vernon Rayford, Aisha Jimoh Reuler, Loren Robinson and Jerry Thurman Jr.

The AMA-MAC GC finalized plans to expand the “Doctors Back to School” program and other AMA-MAC involvement programs. During the meeting, AMA-MAC elected a new vice chair, Ada Stewart, MD, and re-elected Diana Ramos, MD, to chair.

Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)

The AMA-OMSS held its 49th Assembly to discuss and shape policy on a variety of issues affecting the medical staff. The section considered 43 items of business, including those on the need for: 1) legislative relief from antitrust constraints; 2) policy regarding the types of personal proprietary information hospitals can request for “conflict of interest” disclosure; 3) AMA leadership in addressing the nursing shortage as a patient safety concern; 4) a model “CMS-compliant” informed consent form; 5) medical staff authority in approving hospital/managed care organization hospitalist programs; 6) improved two-way communication between hospitalists and primary care referring providers as well as legible and timely data entry and transmittal; and 7) public policy, liability insurance and current procedural terminology (CPT®) codes for post-operative care related to medical outsourcing abroad.

With the adoption of the AMA-OMSS Transformation Task Force Report, the section will seek to be more inclusive and improve hospital communications to increase membership, participation and interaction with other AMA sections and external organizations.

Resident and Fellow Section (RFS)

More than 200 resident and fellow physicians attended the AMA-RFS Assembly Annual Meeting. The Assembly discussed a near-record number of business items, including 15 resolutions. Three were immediately forwarded to the HOD. They include opposition to any legislative proposals that would criminalize the provision of health care to undocumented residents, that our AMA reaffirm its support of an all-payer system for graduate medical education as detailed in current policy, and that the AMA request and summarize the health care proposals of all candidates for president of the United States.

The Assembly elected the AMA-RFS GC. Seemal Desai, MD, was elected vice chair; David Rosman, MD, was elected speaker; Stephanie Stanton, MD, was elected vice speaker; Kimberly Ruscher, MD, was elected delegate; Michelle Powers, MD, was elected alternate delegate; Janet West, MD, was elected membership outreach officer. The AMA-RFS would like to

thank its chair, Sunny Ramchandani, MD, for leading a successful meeting. The section would also like to congratulate former AMA-RFS GC member Ronald M. Davis, MD, on his upcoming term as president of the AMA.

Senior Physicians Group (SPG)

The AMA-SPG sponsored its first caucus, led by AMA-SPG Vice Chair William Jacott, MD. The AMA-SPG GC recognized two of its longtime members who are leaving the council: Howard Harrison, MD, and Albert Miller, MD. In addition, the GC recognized two new members: Arthur Eberly Jr., MD, and John Knotte, MD. The AMA-SPG also sponsored the 50-year luncheon celebrating physicians who graduated medical school in 1957. This year, more than 60 guests attended the event, which featured guest speaker Joanne Disch, PhD, chair of AARP’s National Board of Directors.

Women Physicians Congress (WPC)

Presenting the “new AMA-WPC” as a special group that includes all women members of the AMA, GC Chair Erin Tracy, MD, welcomed its growing number of participants. She showed how the AMA-WPC caucus is an opportunity to build consensus on issues to be considered by the HOD and share strategies for advancing women in medicine. The AMA-WPC recognized Patricia Turner, MD, Ethan Jewett, and Reshma Jagsi, MD, winners of its Joan F. Giambalvo Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports research into professional issues facing female doctors. Dr. Jagsi, who won in 2006, presented her research results on the reality of gender differences in journal publication rates. She thanked the AMA-WPC for establishing “this important award for researchers, women physicians and the profession” and stressed the credibility the award has brought to her research.

The AMA-WPC also re-elected Erin Tracy, MD, for a second term as AMA-WPC GC chair, and elected Jolie Holschen, MD, as its new vice chair.

Young Physicians Section (YPS)

Young physicians from across the country met to network with colleagues, provide direction to their AMA-YPS delegate and shape AMA policy. The AMA-YPS Assembly adopted several resolutions with public health implications that were forwarded to the HOD. Also, the AMA-YPS is proposing a new innovative delegate structure for its Assembly. A major part of the meeting was an HOD handbook review and formalization of AMA-YPS positions on key items of business that affect young physicians.

The AMA-YPS elected Devdutta Sangvai, MD, a family physician from North Carolina, as chair-elect; re-elected Patricia Turner, MD, as alternate delegate; and elected both Ravi Goel, MD, and John Ratliff, MD, as members at large. Gary Katz, MD, will chair the AMA-YPS GC. Other members of the GC include: Tripti Kataria, MD, delegate; and Brigitta Robinson, MD, immediate past chair. The AMA-YPS honored Samuel Solish, MD, a former AMA-YPS chair, with its Young At Heart Award. Lastly, the AMA-YPS presented its Community Service Awards to: Joseph Cangas, MD; Randolph Capone, MD; Britt Hatfield, MD; and Rahul Jandial, MD.