



## 2007 Annual Meeting Highlights for the AMA House of Delegates

Wednesday, June 27

# “We must do this together”

In an inaugural address that was touching at times, AMA President Ronald M. Davis, MD, called for unity among physicians as they drive fundamental reforms to the nation’s health care system.

Surrounded by several members of his family, including his wife, Nadine, and three sons, the preventive medicine specialist from East Lansing, Mich., urged the House to mobilize physicians at the grassroots level to defend against problems that adversely affect America’s patients. With problems chief among those, he noted congressional reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program as a first step toward providing coverage for more of the nation’s 45 million uninsured patients.

“Let’s see to it that this becomes the springboard toward meaningful progress on covering the uninsured,” Dr. Davis said.

He also recognized the need to redesign the nation’s health care system so that it embraces prevention as much as it does diagnosis, treatment and palliation. Such a shift in thinking would cure the country from a condition he called “prevention deficit disorder.”

“During my presidency, I’ll highlight a number of remedies to mitigate that malady,” Dr. Davis said.

Dr. Davis described the accomplishments and achievements of two past AMA leaders with whom he shares a surname—the AMA’s founder, Nathan Davis, MD, and Jim



Joined by his wife, Nadine, Ronald M. Davis, MD, became the 162nd president of the AMA Tuesday evening.

Davis, MD, the AMA’s 143rd president—while discussing the various challenges physicians now face, such as looming cuts in Medicare physician payments. He called on delegates to strengthen coalitions, engage in the political process and enroll their patients in the AMA’s Patients’ Action Network to ensure that their voices are heard.

“We must do this together, across all organizations, all specialties—and all across America,” Dr. Davis said.

## A note from your speaker

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for the privilege of serving you from the podium for the past eight years. I truly consider this House to be my extended family and am thankful for the commitment, wisdom and collegiality each of you have shown throughout the years. As I said from the podium Tuesday, I love you all.

—Nancy Nielsen, MD, PhD

### Restrict data via PDRP

Delegates are reminded that they can prevent pharmaceutical sales reps from accessing prescribing data by opting out via the AMA’s Physician Data Restriction Program (PDRP). The PDRP offers you a choice while ensuring that information on prescribing patterns remains available for beneficial public health purposes such as evidence-based medical research, structuring clinical trials, efficient drug recalls and aiding the FDA’s ongoing post-approval assessment of drug benefits vs. risks. Visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/pdrp](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/pdrp) to learn more.

# Election results are in

On Tuesday, the House of Delegates elected to the AMA Board of Trustees William A. Dolan, MD, an orthopaedic surgeon from Rochester, N.Y. The House re-elected to the Board Cyril M. Hetsko, MD, an internist in Madison, Wisc.; Edward L. Langston, MD, a family physician in Lafayette, Ind.; and Rebecca J. Patchin, MD, a pain medicine physician in Riverside, Calif.

Also on Tuesday, delegates elected Altoona, Pa., hand surgeon Andrew W. Gurman, MD, to vice speaker. They also elected Pawleys Island, S.C., family physician Gerald E. Harmon, MD; and Rochester, N.Y. psychiatrist John McIntyre, MD, to the Council on Medical Service. Albuquerque medical oncologist Barbara L. McAneny, MD, and Mountain Grove, Mo., family



**William A. Dolan, MD,** was newly elected to the AMA Board of Trustees on Tuesday.

physician David O. Barbe, MD, were re-elected to the Council.

The House elected Stuart Gitlow, MD, a New York City psychiatrist and addiction medicine specialist; and Russell W.H. Kridel, MD, a Houston facial plastic surgeon; and Atlanta internist Sandra Adamson Fryhofer, MD, to the Council on Science and Public Health.

To the Council on Medical Education delegates elected Toledo, Ohio, surgeon Jeffrey P. Gold, MD. They re-elected Earlysville, Va., anesthesiologist Claudette E. Dalton, MD; and Sacramento, Calif., pediatrician Richard J. Pan, MD.

By acclamation on Saturday, Buffalo, N.Y., internist Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, PhD, was elected president-elect and Denver psychiatrist Jeremy A. Lazarus, MD, was elected speaker. Samantha L. Rosman, MD, a resident in pediatrics in Boston, was re-elected to the resident position on the Board of Trustees. Duke University medical student Chris DeRienzo was re-elected last November to serve a second term as the student member of the Board.

## Balloting made easy

The recommendations in Board of Trustees Report 17 adopted in Reference Committee F require that the AMA immediately undertake efforts to expand awareness and use of the designation mechanism for specialty society representation in the House of Delegates, working whenever possible with relevant members of the Federation. Delegates are encouraged to invite members of their societies to visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/ballot](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/ballot) to make a selection. The AMA will continue to provide societies with sample newsletter articles and graphic links for their Web sites to facilitate balloting. Contact Terri Marchiori, AMA Federation Relations, at [terri.marchiori@ama-assn.org](mailto:terri.marchiori@ama-assn.org) to obtain these tools.

## Collaborate on the Web

Many AMA members are exchanging observations about clinical cases, medical ethics, new treatments and devices—even job fulfillment—as part of Sermo, a rapidly growing online community of doctors.

Sermo's discussion posts by thousands of physicians include many opinions about issues on the 2007 AMA Agenda, from stopping Medicare physician pay cuts to improving patient safety. Sermo provides a medium for physicians to ask questions of one another, challenge or corroborate each other's opinions, report unusual events and accelerate the discovery of emerging trends. The site has no advertising and membership is free. Visit [www.sermo.com](http://www.sermo.com) to enter Sermo.

### Medicare Advantage: Now what?

With more than 7.5 million patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans in 2006—and an expected 19 million by 2013—if you haven't yet encountered an MA patient, chances are you will. Monday morning, guest speakers Jeffrey Kelman, MD, of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and John Gorman, of the Gorman Health Group, presented an overview of how MA plans function and the strategies doctors can use to overcome common problems they and their patients encounter with the insurers who administer the plans.

"The HMO movement has changed," said Dr. Kelman. "It's much more provider-friendly than people used to feel."