

Section and Special Group highlights

Advisory Committee on Group Practice Physicians

The Advisory Committee on Group Practice Physicians met June 13 to hear presentations from committee members on pay for performance, accountable physician practices, hiring and retaining physicians, health system reform and patient safety issues. Committee chair Mark Kelley, MD, of Henry Ford Health System, completed his term, and was succeeded by Michael Kitchell, MD, president, McFarland Clinic.

The committee also presented a continuing medical education program highlighting the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Medicare Physician Group Practice Demonstration Project. CMS' John Pilotte presented current data on the project, and a reaction panel consisting of physician leaders from two of the 10 participating physician groups shared their experiences with the project.

International Medical Graduates (IMG) Section

AMA-IMG Section members held several events focused on IMG issues, networking and developing leadership skills. At the AMA-IMG Section Congress, attendees heard from James Thompson, MD, president and chief executive officer of the Federation of State Medical Boards. Attendees also voted to ratify the AMA-IMG Section Governing Council officer selections and the newly revised international operating procedures.

The AMA-IMG Section Caucus featured a candidates' forum and a discussion on the future of the section and a "Desserts From Around the World" reception, co-sponsored by more than 15 medical organizations and attended by more than 350 people.

Section events concluded with the inaugural Busharat Ahmad, MD, Leadership Development Program, featuring AMA President Ronald M. Davis, MD. The program featured an interactive roundtable discussion where attendees shared their successes and lessons learned on their quest for leadership positions.

Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Issues

The educational program "Lesbian health care—what you don't know is harming them," hosted by the AMA-GLBT, was well-attended by AMA Annual Meeting participants, as well as members of Chicago-area GLBT medical student groups. The program featured Kathy Oriel, MD, a Madison, Wis., family physician and past president of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

The AMA-GLBT also hosted a session with the AMA Medical Student Section Minority Issues Committee, entitled "Medical students making change." The program focused on Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center, the nation's leading GLBT health center founded in 1974 by Chicago-area medical students.

Election results: Rebecca Allison, MD, a Phoenix, Ariz., cardiologist, as chair, and Gal Mayer, MD, an internist from New York, as vice chair.

Section on Medical Schools (SMS)

Now in its 32nd year, the AMA-SMS hosted an educational session on teaching teamwork and its impact on patient care, and co-sponsored a session with the AMA Councils on Medical Education and Science and Public Health on the challenges and solutions of the state of the faculty. AMA-SMS also co-sponsored an educational session with the AMA Medical Student Section on recommendations from the comprehensive review of the United States Medical Licensing Examination and implications for licensure.

Election results: M. Dewayne Andrews, MD, executive dean and vice president for health affairs, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, chair; Betty Drees, MD, dean, University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Medicine, chair-elect; Rodney Parry, MD, dean and vice president for health sciences, Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota, immediate past chair; Michael Reichgott, MD, associate dean for clinical affairs and graduate medical education, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, delegate; Donald Eckhoff, MD, professor of orthopaedic surgery, University of Colorado School of Medicine, alternate delegate; Louis Ling, MD, associate dean for graduate medical education, University of Minnesota Medical School, Maria Savoia, MD, vice dean of medical education, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, and Arthur Ross, MD, dean and vice president for medical affairs, Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, at-large members.

Medical Student Section (MSS)

Nearly 700 medical students attended the AMA-MSS Annual Meeting, where the Assembly considered 22 items of business and held more than 25 educational programs. The AMA-MSS hosted its fifth annual Medical Specialty Showcase, and would like to thank the 50 medical specialty societies and global health organizations that participated. The section thanks keynote speaker, J. Edward Hill, MD, Council of the World Medical Association chair and AMA past president, who spoke of his experience as a leader.

As part of the AMA-MSS National Service Project and the AMA's "Voice for the Uninsured" campaign, more than 350 medical students and residents traveled to U.S. Cellular Field to distribute materials to Chicago White Sox fans, and encourage them to vote in the upcoming election with this issue in mind.

Election results: Reid Orth, Jefferson Medical College, vice chair; Peter Ragusa, Medical School at the University of Minnesota, delegate; Laura Faye Gephart, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, alternate delegate; Kunal Mitra, Duke University School of Medicine, at-large officer; Anjali Dogra, the State University of New York Stony Brook School of Medicine, speaker; and Kyle Edmonds, University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix, vice speaker.

Michael Chapman, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, will commence his term as AMA-MSS chair and Kendall Allred, University of Arizona College of Medicine, as trustee.

Resident and Fellow Section (RFS)

The AMA-RFS held its 32nd Annual Assembly Meeting to discuss and shape policy on a variety of issues. Of the 23 items of business considered, three were immediately forwarded to the House of Delegates. The items covered midwifery scope of practice and licensure, payment for the cost and administration of all vaccines covered under Medicare Part D, and global human immunodeficiency virus/AIDS prevention.

Election results: Stephen Sherick, MD, as vice chair; Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, as speaker; Diana Shiba, MD, as vice speaker; Michelle Powers, MD, as delegate; Erick Eiting, MD, as alternate delegate; and Adrian Thomas, MD, as membership and outreach officer. The AMA-RFS would like to thank its speaker David Rosman, MD, vice speaker Stephanie Stanton, MD, and chair Raj Ambay, MD, for leading a successful meeting.

Minority Affairs Consortium (MAC)

The AMA-MAC focused on its resolutions before the House of Delegates on critical issues such as health disparities in cancer, maternal mortality among minority women and a proposal to rename the AMA-MAC as an AMA section in reflection of its existing voting status in the House of Delegates.

The AMA-MAC was pleased to present the winners of its 2008 AMA Foundation Minority Scholars Award program, supported by the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative. Congratulations to Keri Allen, La Shawna Clark, Jose Figueroa, Nevine Hanna, Marcus Iwane, Marcus Jennings, Rigoberto Ramirez, Martina Sanders-Spight, April Singleton, Justin Taylor, Elizabeth Alm and Sarah Lewis.

The AMA-MAC educational program consisted of presentations on mental health disparities in minority communities, featuring psychiatrist Patrice Harris, MD, as well as the National Hispanic Medical Association's Antonio Delgado, MD, and the Association of American Indian Physicians' Adrian Begay, MD.

Election results: Ada Stewart, MD, chair; Shanda Lohse, MD, vice chair.

Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)

The AMA-OMSS held its 51st Assembly, celebrating 25 years. The section considered 29 items of business, including issues with the need for: (1) The Joint Commission Medical Staff Standard (MS.1.20) and (2) Medicare "Never Events" Policy.

The AMA-OMSS also held four continuing medical education programs, including "Physician-owned hospitals: Reclaiming quality patient care through physician leadership," and a presentation on "Keys to the successful implementation of MS.1.20." The AMA-OMSS thanked its outgoing chair, Stephen House, MD, for his leadership and continuing commitment to the section.

Election results: Jay Gregory, MD, Oklahoma, chair; Robert Pugach, MD, California, vice chair; James Goodyear, MD, Pennsylvania, secretary; Arthur Snow Jr., MD, Kansas, and Louito Edje, MD, Ohio, at-large members. *Re-elected:* Brian Johnston, MD, California, delegate; Lewis Yecies, MD, New York, alternate delegate.

Young Physicians Section (YPS)

Young physicians from across the country met to network with colleagues, provide direction to the AMA-YPS delegate and shape AMA policy.

After adopting a series of AMA-YPS reports and resolutions, the AMA-YPS Assembly forwarded two resolutions to the House of Delegates for consideration at its Annual Meeting. The first resolution directs the AMA Board of Trustees to write a letter asking the American Board of Medical Specialties to work with its 24 member boards on a number of improvements to the maintenance of certification process. The second resolution directs the AMA to commit to actively decreasing the organization's paper use, and to take necessary measures to increase the ability of members to participate in AMA Annual and Interim Meetings without using paper.

Assembly participants also attended an educational program for continuing medical education credit that focused on leadership for smooth patient flow.

Election results: Dawn Buckingham, MD, chair-elect; Jennifer Wiler, MD, as the first AMA-YPS speaker; Katie Lozano, MD, delegate.

Senior Physicians Group (SPG)

The AMA-SPG sponsored its caucus "Life after practice and organized medicine leadership," which spotlighted three former AMA presidents, including Lonnie Bristow, MD, Daniel Johnson Jr., MD, and Robert McAfee, MD. The event drew more than 50 senior physician attendees.

During the AMA-SPG Governing Council meeting, the group recognized members leaving the council, including Irwin Kline, MD, and Harrison Rogers Jr., MD, and welcomed its two newest members, Claire Wolfe, MD, and Joseph Murphy, MD. The AMA-SPG Governing Council also discussed working to expand its outreach to senior physicians 65 years of age and older through involvement and communications. To formalize policy for senior physicians, key House of Delegates reports and resolutions were discussed.

Women Physicians Congress (WPC)

At its business meeting, the AMA-WPC elected young physician Jolie Holschen, MD, as chair, and Jennifer Wiler, MD, as vice chair for the 2008–2010 term, and recognized its outgoing chair, Erin Tracy, MD, for a job well done.

Later that evening, the AMA-WPC Caucus celebrated the impending presidency of Nancy Nielsen, MD, and presented a look at new data from recipients of the AMA-WPC grant that supports research on women in medicine professional issues. Patricia Turner, MD, reported on her study of women surgeons and Ethan Jewett spoke about re-entry barriers for inactive physicians. Also featured was a discussion of Board of Trustees Report 19, "Gender disparities in physician income and advancement" and other items of interest to the caucus.

The AMA-WPC sponsored its annual breakfast honoring the AMA-WPC liaisons—women leaders appointed by their state, specialty society or delegation to serve in this advocacy role. Representatives shared strategies and experiences for advancing the women in medicine agenda.