



Benefits of AMA-YPS Representation Can Your Society Afford Not to Participate?

Our Society can't afford to send anyone to the AMA-YPS Assembly meeting.

To allow input from valued member societies, the AMA-YPS welcomes electronic participation in its Assembly meetings from those unable to attend. Credentialed representatives receive all AMA-YPS Assembly mailings (even if they are not attending the meeting). Your delegate can submit a resolution for YPS action (which may include submission to the AMA House of Delegates), comment online via pending resolutions, or participate in our online AMA-HOD handbook review. Also, if your AMA-HOD delegate is "young" (under age 40 or within the first 8 years of practice), he/she can participate in the AMA-HOD and the AMA-YPS. There also may be physicians willing to fund their own travel to attend a meeting in order to gain experience and network with their colleagues.

Our society already has several young physicians in leadership positions.

Many of our young physicians are active at other levels of the Federation. Those who are already "mainstreamed" in the AMA and other organizations are encouraged to share their experiences and strategies for advancement with their colleagues. Young physicians are the future of all organizations--it is beneficial to have more physicians with experience and contacts in the house of medicine than fewer. The AMA-YPS prides itself on facilitating contact between young leaders, more established physicians in the AMA-HOD, and AMA leaders.

We can't find a young physician who can take time away from his/her practice.

Policy development is not to everyone's liking, but physicians with an interest in this area can participate online. Also, policy development is only one part of the AMA-YPS Assembly meetings. CME lectures and other sessions help to educate physicians about important medical, practice and legislative issues. Many AMA-HOD members and Council members got their initial exposure to the AMA through AMA-YPS participation. Here, they learned skills and met leaders from their state and specialty who helped them to advance. Lastly, we have re-structured our meeting to minimize the time away from the office by starting on Friday (which, unlike in the past, allows one to work a full day on Thursday), attend the Friday AMA-YPS meeting, participate in Saturday AMA-HOD specialty/regional caucuses, network with AMA leaders and YPS alumni, attend AMA reference committees, and be back in the office by Monday.

The issues that affect young physicians don't appear to be unique.

Young physicians may be impacted differently than older physicians, even though the issue may be the same--if for no other reason than they are at the beginning of their career and cannot afford to retire. Just having an individual in the AMA-YPS can bolster support for one of your society's pending issues in the AMA-HOD by requesting formal AMA-YPS delegate support, sharing your perspective with state caucus members, and helping to identify opposition. If you don't have a younger physician to lobby for your issue, you may be at a disadvantage competing against those societies who are willing to make the investment in their society's future. New YPS HOD Handbook Review Committees allow volunteers to propose an AMA-YPS position on any AMA-HOD resolution; those proposed positions are then discussed and debated by the AMA-YPS Assembly.

Our society doesn't meet the criteria for representation.

All state medical societies automatically qualify for representation. For those national medical specialty societies already seated in the AMA House of Delegates, you're halfway there. You would just need to establish a mechanism that allows for the regular input of young physician views into the issues before your society. The AMA-YPS is willing to work with you to help you reach out to young physicians and set up a structure at minimal cost that will allow your organization to participate in the AMA-YPS.