APS June 2021 Meeting highlights

The Academic Physicians Section (APS) met virtually on Sunday, June 6.

**APS resolutions and reports**

Approximately 65 participants—comprising deans and faculty from a wide range of medical schools, graduate medical education programs and academic health systems nationwide—voiced their opinions and reached decisions on recommendations for 27 reports and resolutions to be acted upon by delegates at the June 2021 Special Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD), June 12-16.

Alma B. Littles, MD, APS delegate, led the discussion of these reports and resolutions, and will represent the APS during the HOD meeting.

**APS Governing Council elections and leadership changes**

APS members voted by acclamation to approve the slate of candidates for the 2021 governing council, as developed by the nominations committee:

**Chair-elect**

Mark Meyer, MD, a family medicine physician who serves as senior associate dean for student affairs at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

**APS Liaison to the Council on Medical Education**

Jose Manuel de la Rosa, MD, a pediatrician, who is vice president for outreach and community engagement, and professor of pediatrics, at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.

**Members-at-large (three positions)**
June-Anne Gold, MD, MBBS, a clinical geneticist and professor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine.

Stuart M. Greenstein, MD, a transplant surgeon, who is professor of surgery at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

Neel B. Shah, MB, ChB, a hospitalist, who is director of clinical education at the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine.

At the conclusion of the June House of Delegates meeting, the current chair, Gary M. Gaddis, MD, PhD, professor of emergency medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis, will transition to past chair. His successor as chair for 2021 is Khanh-Van T. Le-Bucklin, MD, MEd, a pediatrician and vice dean for medical education at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine.

As part of its leadership changes, the APS Governing Council also bade farewell to two members:

Cynda Ann Johnson, MD, MBA, a family medicine physician and Founding Dean Emerita, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Dr. Johnson has a long record of service to the governing council, since 2012—most recently as outgoing APS liaison to the Council on Medical Education.

Charles Kent Smith, MD, a family medicine physician, who serves as senior associate dean for student affairs, and professor of family medicine and community health, at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Smith is outgoing APS member at-large, a role he has held since 2019.

The APS also recognized Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH, who earlier this year announced her retirement from the AMA. As the AMA’s chief academic officer and group vice president of medical education, Dr. Skochelak has been a force for change in medical education, epitomized by her leadership of the Accelerating Change in Medical Education initiative.

**Education session**
In collaboration with the Minority Affairs Section (MAS), the continuing medical education component of the meeting, “African, Black and Caribbean Voices: Patient narratives as a means to counter racism and unconscious bias in medicine,” explored narratives from underserved populations, in particular African, Black and Caribbean patients, demonstrating their experiences of systemic racism, bias, prejudice and stereotyping in their interactions with the health care system. Learners gained insights into improving trust within the patient-physician relationship and expanding individual stories to actions combating health disparities at the systemic level.

Faculty for the session were:

- Khanh-Van Le-Bucklin, MD, MEd
- Fatima Cody Stanford, MD, MPH, MPA
- Candice Taylor Lucas, MD, MPH
- Kaosoluchi Enendu, MD, MBA
- Elizabeth Valencia, MD, JD
- Bukky Akingbola, DO, MBA
- Carol A. Major, MD

Visit the education sessions page for additional information on this topic and other sessions.

**Updates on AMA initiatives**

In addition to the education session, APS members heard from:

Niranjan Rao, MD, and Shannon Kilgore, MD, of the AMA Council on Medical Education, on opportunities for service on national medical education organizations.

John S. Andrews, MD, AMA’s vice president of GME Innovations, updated APS members on the ongoing work of the AMA’s Accelerating Change in Medical Education initiative to promote a community of innovation in undergraduate medical education and graduate medical education nationwide.

**APS meeting**

The APS meeting was led by chair Gary M. Gaddis, MD, PhD. Reflecting on the meeting, Dr. Gaddis noted:
“The saying ‘May you live in interesting times’ has never been more true than it is today. Despite the logistical challenges presented by the pandemic, the AMA-APS held a successful virtual meeting that accomplished our core business and brought together an all-star team of physician leaders in advancing health equity, through our first-ever partnership with the AMA Minority Affairs Section on our educational session. Going forward, we hope to build upon the growing awareness of the Academic Physicians Section as a leader in bringing to the forefront key areas of needed change in medical education.”