WPS June 2021 Meeting highlights

The Women Physicians Section (WPS) met virtually on Sunday, June 6.

Keynote presentation

The WPS hosted an engaging keynote presentation on “Fixing the leaky pipeline—Attrition of women during medical training” by:

- Wendy K. Bernstein, MD, vice chair of education, division chief of cardiac anesthesia and director of simulation for the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center
- Mollie Marr, PhD, MS3, Oregon Health & Science University.

This session covered issues and factors that lead to the attrition of women within the medical profession, barriers to their career advancement and possible interventions that can be implemented both locally and nationally. Drs. Bernstein and Ms. Marr are part of a team that received the 2018 Joan F. Giambalvo, MD, Fund for the Advancement of Women research grant.

Business meeting

The WPS reviewed several items of business before the House of Delegates, including resolutions authored by the section on such issues as:

- Addressing maternal discrimination and support for flexible family leave
- Fatigue mitigation for faculty and residents

The business meeting included an overview of the COVID-19 vaccine, presented by Sandra Adamson Fryhofer, MD, secretary, AMA Board of Trustees.

Also, during the WPS Associates meeting participants discussed the maternal health crisis as well as
the impact of COVID-19 on women in medicine and female patients.

**Governing council elections**

Congratulations to the new 2021-2022 WPS Governing Council officers:

- **American Medical Women’s Association representative**: Roberta Gebhard, DO (re-elected for a second term)
- **Member at-large**: Susan Thompson Hingle, MD
- **Delegate**: Nicole Lee Plenty, MD, MPH, MS
- **Alternate Delegate**: Anna Laucis, MD, MPhil

**Medical Student Section representative**: Sarah Swiezy

Anita Ravi, MD, MPH, MSHP, YPS representative will serve as the next WPS Chair and Joanna T. Bisgrove, MD, member at-large will serve as the next WPS vice chair. Aleesha Shaik, MD, MPH, will continue to serve as the RFS representative on the governing council.

The WPS thanks Niva Lubin-Johnson, MD, (outgoing WPS chair), Josephine Nguyen, MD, MHCDS, (outgoing WPS delegate), and Isabelle Wijangco (outgoing AMA Medical Student Section representative) for their service on the governing council.