2021 State Advocacy Summit agenda

SAS meeting: Jan. 6-8 | All times listed are Central.

Meeting access information

The State Advocacy Summit (SAS) will be held on the Zoom virtual platform. Information on how to access the meeting will be posted once available.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Note: All times are Central

1 p.m.

President’s welcome

Speaker: Susan R. Bailey, MD, president, American Medical Association

1:10-2 p.m.

Keynote address: “The Great Acceleration”

Introduction: James L. Madara, MD, executive vice president and CEO, AMA

Keynote speaker: Bruce Mehlman, founder, Mehlman, Castagnetti, Rosen & Thomas

Political strategist Bruce Mehlman will discuss “The Great Acceleration,” exploring how the recent elections and year of pandemic were influenced by long-running technological, cultural and geopolitical trends, and how the events of 2020 will impact those trends going forward.

A highly sought-after speaker and author of a widely-circulated and eagerly-anticipated quarterly analysis” Mehlman frequently appears on television and regularly speaks to business and
government leaders about key trends in politics and policy.

Q&A to follow presentation.

2-4 p.m.

General sessions

Lead moderator: Russ Kridel, MD, chair, Board of Trustees, AMA

2-3 p.m.

COVID-19 vaccine distribution: Where we are & what you need to know

Moderator: Susan R. Bailey, MD, president, AMA

Panelists:
- Michael J. Darrouzet, executive vice president and CEO, Texas Medical Association
- Helene D. Gayle, MD, president and CEO, Chicago Community Trust
- Claire Hannan, MPH, executive director, Association of Immunization Managers
- Anita Patel, PharmD, MSc, co-deputy for data, distribution and pharmacy, COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Issues surrounding COVID-19 vaccines is of tremendous importance to the physician community. It is clear that physicians have numerous questions surrounding distribution. This session is geared at answering those questions.

Q&A to follow presentation.

3-4 p.m.

Rethinking and rebuilding state public health infrastructure

Moderator: Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, associate dean for health equity, University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

Panelists:
- John Auerbach, president and CEO, Trust for America's Health
- Brian C. Castrucci, DrPH, MA, president and CEO, de Beaumont Foundation
- Julie Morita, MD, executive vice president, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the chronic underinvestment in our nation’s public
health infrastructure and with public health at top of mind for policymakers, 2021 may bring opportunities to prioritize public health in state legislatures across the country.

In this session, public health experts will discuss the essential role of public health and discuss ways that state and local policymakers can reinvest in public health systems, alleviate longstanding gaps, advance disease prevention, preparedness and response efforts, and promote health equity.

Q&A to follow presentation.

Thursday, Jan. 7

Note: All times are Central

1 p.m.

Welcome

   Speaker: Russ Kridel, MD, chair, Board of Trustees, AMA

1-4 p.m.

General sessions

   Lead moderator: Russ Kridel, MD, chair, Board of Trustees, AMA

1:05-2:05 p.m

Health insurance in 2021: A conversation with state regulators and policymakers

   Moderator: Joel Ario, managing director, Manatt Health

   Panelists:

   Alison Beam, deputy chief of staff to the governor, Office of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf
   Ricardo Lara, insurance commissioner, California Department of Insurance
   Chlora Lindley-Myers, director, Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance

State regulators and governors have played a critical role in addressing access to health care and health insurance during the COVID-19 pandemic. From expanding coverage and payment of

URL: https://www.ama-assn.org/health-care-advocacy/state-advocacy/2021-state-advocacy-summit-agenda
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telehealth, to reducing administrative barriers to care, to ensuring affordability of care, the pandemic has been met with quick and decisive action by these state leaders.

During this session we will discuss what regulation, deregulation and policy changes have been most impactful in increasing access to care, what is on regulators’ and governors’ agendas for 2021 and what changes maybe codified post-pandemic.

Q&A to follow presentation.

2:05-3:05 p.m.

Protecting and advancing health care in a time of crisis

**Moderator:** Sabrina Corlette, co-director, Center on Health Insurance Reforms, Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy

**Panelists:**
- Aviva Aron-Dine, vice president for health policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Samantha Artiga, vice president and director of the racial equity and health policy program, Kaiser Family Foundation
- Matt Salo, executive director, National Association of Medicaid Directors

2020 brought new challenges to ensuring optimal care for all. In this session, panelists will discuss options and priorities for improving care and coverage for low-income and uninsured patients, strategies to address health inequities and the social and structural determinants of those inequities, as well as ways states can build on the ACA to make coverage more affordable and accessible for everyone.

Q&A to follow presentation.

3:05-4 p.m.

Fireside chat: Medical association leaders—Setting an advocacy agenda amid COVID-19

**Moderator:** Gene M. Ransom, III, chief executive officer, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society and chair-elect, Executive Committee, AMA Advocacy Resource Center

**Panelists:**
- Claude Brunson, MD, executive director, Mississippi State Medical Association
- Jennifer Hanscom, CEO, Washington State Medical Association
As the pandemic continues across the country, organized medicine continues to have a unique opportunity to influence policy across state governments. How can organized medicine prioritize their advocacy agenda to maximize their influence with key lawmakers to help improve access to care for patients and safety and stability for their physicians.

Q&A to follow presentation.

4 p.m.

Virtual cocktail reception (sponsored by AMA Ambassador Program)

Grab a beverage and snack before you mingle with your fellow AMA State Advocacy Summit participants. Smaller breakout rooms will be randomly assigned to maximize mingling and networking.

Everyone is welcome to attend (kids, pets, partners, spouses, etc.).

Learn more about the AMA Ambassador Program.

Friday, Jan. 8

Note: All times are Central

1 p.m

Welcome

Speaker: Russ Kridel, MD, chair, Board of Trustees, AMA

1-4:30 p.m.

General sessions

Lead moderator: Russ Kridel, MD, chair, Board of Trustees, AMA
1:05-2:05 p.m.

Health care priorities in 2021: Conversation with state legislators

**Moderator:** Tim Storey, executive director, National Conference of State Legislatures

**Panelists:**
- Brad Barrett, MD, state representative, Indiana
- Patrick Hope, state representative, Virginia
- Laurie Lickley, state representative, Idaho

State legislators continue to play a critical role in ensuring access to safe care during the pandemic. With pre-pandemic legislative agendas long gone and post-pandemic agendas up in the air and intertwined with state budget shortfalls, legislators will talk about the challenges and opportunities that this year’s sessions will bring.

Q&A to follow presentation.

2:05-3:05 p.m.

Hot Topic: Advancing telehealth for patients and physicians

**Moderator:** Jared Augenstein, director, Manatt Health

**Panelists:**
- Meg Barron, MBA, vice president, digital health innovations, AMA
- Kenneth B. Simons, MD, chair-elect, Federation of State Medical Boards
- Zeke Silva, MD, co-chair, Digital Medicine Payment Advisory Group (DMPAG), AMA

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated advancements of telehealth at every level of practice and setting. While telehealth is clearly here to stay, the swift adoption over the last year has provided us with a unique opportunity to better understand the needs of patients and physicians as well as the overall impact of telehealth on the delivery of health care.

During this session we will discuss key issues for state lawmakers to consider in 2021, including how to define telehealth, the importance of expanding coverage of telehealth while ensuring continuity of care, ensuring equitable and fair payment of services provided via telehealth, and promoting broad access regardless of zip code or digital literacy. We will also address licensure of health care professionals, which telehealth has brought to the forefront.
Q&A to follow presentation.

**3:05-3:50 p.m.**

**Hot Topic: The growing overdose epidemic: Why we need better data and comprehensive harm reduction**

**Moderator:** Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA, immediate past president, AMA  
**Panelists:**  
- Beau Kilmer, PhD, director, RAND Drug Policy Research Center and senior policy researcher, RAND Corporation  
- Kim Sue, MD, PhD, medical director, National Harm Reduction Coalition

It’s time to get real about the fact that the opioid epidemic has become a much more deadly and complicated polypharmacy drug overdose epidemic—and millions need help for an untreated mental illness or substance use disorder.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a major factor in increasing drug-related overdose and death even while there are new federal flexibilities for prescribing buprenorphine and providing access to methadone. Patients with pain remain stigmatized and largely without access to non-opioid pain care, systemic health inequities continue, and while naloxone has saved tens of thousands of lives, widespread access to sterile needle and syringe services remains elusive at best.

This session will recommend what medical leaders, policymakers and key stakeholders can do—turning evidence-based practices into action.

Q&A to follow presentation.

**3:50-4:30 p.m.**

**AMA leaders: The role of medicine in supporting physicians this year**

**Moderator:** Russ Kridel, MD, chair, Board of Trustees, AMA  
**Panelists:**  
- Todd Askew, senior vice president, Advocacy, AMA  
- Susan R. Bailey, MD, president, AMA  
- Marilyn Heine, MD, chair, Council on Legislation, AMA

With a new year come big questions for medicine. 2020 will be year we will never forget. And yet, we
must immediately pivot to 2021 and recognize that there is much work to be done and many problems to solve on behalf of physicians and their patients. Hear from AMA leaders as they discuss the challenges and the opportunities that exist for physicians and organized medicine in the year ahead.

Q&A to follow presentation.

4:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned

SAS resources

Visit the SAS page for more meeting resources.