WPS members and news highlights

A note from the WPS chair

June 2023

From WPS Chair Aleesha Shaik, MD, MPH

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There is something about AMA meetings. Though this Annual Meeting was far from my first, I was struck again by how lucky we are to have such a passionate and dedicated group of colleagues who are committed to improving health care. Despite the many early mornings and the very late nights, AMA members consistently showed up to section meetings, reference committees, and the House of Delegates, not to mention the numerous side meetings, ready to fiercely advocate for their patients and for each other.

Accolades, resolutions and effecting change

Two extraordinary women that I must recognize are our delegate, Dr. Nicole Plenty, and alternate delegate, Dr. Anna Brown, who led the immense advocacy efforts on behalf of our section. As a result of their tireless work, and that of our members, our resolution on “Advocating for Increased Support to
Physicians in Family Planning and Fertility” was passed at the House of Delegates.

In addition, we held one of our most well-attended business meetings with much discussion on resolutions and our positions. Looking around, I remember feeling grateful for the number of women (and men!) who were adamant that we can effect change. We also launched our WPS GroupMe, through which insightful dialogues on challenges women face in medicine have already been flourishing. I have no doubt that new ideas and solutions will stem from those discussions and am excited to watch the conversation grow. If you are interested in joining, please send us an email.

Our annual speed mentorship program also continues to expand and thrive. The unique mixer allowed women in different stages of life to have honest discussions about various topics, including fertility planning, contract negotiations, career transitions, and more. Attendees shared how valuable they found the experience and how grateful they were to have such a forum. We look forward to continuing these conversations over the coming year.

A thank you to colleagues

The success of this meeting would not have been possible without the tremendous work of our outgoing and incoming governing council, our amazing Board of Trustee liaisons, Dr. Madelyn Butler and Dr. Willarda Edwards, as well as our incredible staff, Harley Grant and Wilda Knox. There aren’t enough words to express my gratitude to you all. Thank you for everything.
Finally, I would like to conclude with a powerful statement from our new AMA President, Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld. Many words will be written about the significance of an openly gay man holding this position (and how long it took to get here), but I would like to encourage all of us to reflect on his words and take on the charge of using our platforms to lift others.

“Standing on this stage tonight and accepting the honor of the AMA presidency is proof that our organization can evolve. This is why visibility matters,” he said. “This is why, when you have a platform like this one, you have a responsibility to use it for the greater good and to try and lift up those who
haven’t yet found their voice.”

Contact us

Have information about WPS members doing great work? Email us at wps@ama-assn.org.