



AMA Office of Special Groups

Guide to Leadership Opportunities in the AMA

The American Medical Association (AMA) is your organization. It is through your leadership and participation that AMA policies are developed and implemented. It is critical that all members participate to ensure a diversity of perspectives and broad based consensus on important issues for our patients and the medical profession.

Several times a year, the AMA actively candidates for AMA leadership positions on the AMA councils, sections, and special groups. In particular, the AMA seeks increased representation from women and minority physicians, young physicians, international medical graduates, and other physicians with a variety of perspectives and expertise needed on the AMA policy-making bodies. It is vital that such diversity is present at all levels of the AMA and organized medicine. The following document outlines how the process works and the various AMA leadership opportunities available for you to contribute to shaping the future of medicine.

There are many ways to participate in the AMA. The AMA House of Delegates, AMA councils and committees; and the AMA sections and special groups, offer many levels of involvement. Here's how to get involved.

Together we're stronger.

The AMA and its House of Delegates

Founded in 1847, the AMA represents all US physicians across geographic locations, medical specialty, career paths and viewpoints. The AMA core purpose of the AMA is to promote the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health.

The twice-a-year House of Delegates (HOD) meetings represent the framework from which all AMA policies and programs are created. The HOD is composed of over 800 delegates and alternate delegates representing all components of organized medicine -- *states medical societies, specialties, government, public health and special interest physicians* -- who come together to debate and vote on the most timely and critical issues facing physicians and their patients.

Resolutions are submitted by individual delegates or delegations before the meetings. At the meeting, the resolutions are considered and debated at the designated reference committees in which any AMA member can participate, and then by the HOD as a whole. The final actions of the HOD form the basis for all AMA policies and programs. Any delegate or delegation can vote and submit a resolution for consideration. It is truly leadership by democratic process.

The AMA Board of Trustees (BOT) directs the Association between meetings of the HOD and is responsible for the AMA's finances and operations. The BOT elects the executive vice president, who is the AMA's chief executive officer. The executive vice president and a staff of approximately 1,000 are responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the Association.

The AMA Sections and Special Groups; There's a place for everyone in the AMA

- Medical Student Section
- Resident and Fellow Section
- Young Physicians Section
- Senior Physicians Groups
- Advisory Committee on Group Practice Physicians
- Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Issues
- International Medical Graduates Section
- Minority Affairs Consortium
- Organized Medical Staff Section
- Section on Medical Schools
- Women Physicians Congress

The AMA sections -- organized constituency groups representing students, residents, international medical graduates, medical staffs, medical schools, and young physicians - hold their assembly meetings just before the HOD meetings. The section delegates debate and vote on issues of particular interest to their respective constituencies and, when merited, pass on their adopted resolutions to the HOD through their designed delegates.

The AMA special interest groups also contribute to the policy development process by working with the Sections, appropriate delegations, and the AMA councils, although only the Minority Affairs Consortium has formal representation in the HOD. The special groups also link to the AMA Board of Trustees, affecting policy through BOT reports to the HOD.

The AMA sections, life cycle and special interest groups offer many levels of involvement and opportunities to shape policies affecting various physician constituents and their patients. Here's what you can do, and how to do it.

Career/Life Cycle Groups

Medical Student Section (MSS)

With chapters at virtually every medical school in the country, the AMA MSS offers a range of opportunities for involvement at the local and national levels. This active section tackles the full range of issues relevant to medical students—everything from medical education, ethics, legislative awareness and advocacy to topics like debt management and choosing a specialty. In addition to sponsoring an annual Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., where hundreds of students and residents gather to learn lobbying techniques, AMA-MSS members also serve as representatives to all the AMA Councils and to the committees that oversee every aspect of medical education. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/mss for more information or contact mss@ama-assn.org.

MSS Governance/Leadership Opportunities: The AMA MSS provides a direct means for medical students to participate in the activities of the Association through a representative body (the “Assembly”) based on a voting member from each medical school with provisions for schools with multiple campuses, national medical student organizations, and specialty society student sections as well. The members of the MSS Governing Council are elected by the Assembly. The MSS has proportional regional delegate representation in the AMA House of Delegates.

Resident and Fellow Section (RFS)

Dedicated to representing and advocating for residents and fellows, the AMA RFS provides a powerful voice to speak out on issues that affect residents. A driving force for change, it was the AMA-RFS that successfully pushed to make improvements in areas such as resident work hours, working conditions, public health and safety, and resident representation within hospitals and on residency review committees. Participation in the AMA-RFS is the best way for residents to ensure they have an influential voice in the AMA, one that clearly reflects their needs at this critical stage in their career development. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/rfs for more information or contact rfs@ama-assn.org.

RFS Governance/Leadership Opportunities: The RFS Assembly is comprised of one or more delegates from each state medical society and medical specialty society. The RFS has proportional regional delegate representation in the AMA

House of Delegates. The members of the MSS Governing Council are elected by the Assembly.

Young Physicians Section (YPS)

Focused on the concerns of physicians under 40 years of age or within the first eight years of professional practice after residency and fellowship training, the AMA YPS works to help members at this important transition point. A centerpiece of this section's efforts is the AMA-YPS Assembly, which consists of representatives from each state and nearly 40 specialty societies. Twice each year the AMA-YPS Assembly convenes in conjunction with the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) to testify and vote on resolutions, establish positions on AMA-HOD items of business, network with peers and participate in various educational programs. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/yps for more information or contact the AMA-YPS at yps@ama-assn.org.

YPS Governance/Leadership Opportunities: The YPS Assembly is comprised of one or more delegates from each state medical society and most specialty societies, as appointed by those respective organizations. The YPS has one delegate and one alternate delegate who is elected to represent the WPC in the House of Delegates. The members of the YPS Governing Council are also elected by the Assembly.

Senior Physicians Group (SPG)

Open to all AMA members 55 years of age or older, the Senior Physicians Group brings together like-minded individuals to share their thinking on topics such as planning for retirement, volunteerism and mentoring the next generation of physicians. The Senior Physicians Group is also responsible for sponsoring activities including group travel programs, networking opportunities with other senior physician groups, the 50-Year Recognition Program, volunteer opportunities and other benefits. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/spg to learn more.

SPG Governance/Leadership Opportunities: Any senior member of the AMA can participate in the SPG. Members of the SPG Governing Council are appointed by the AMA Board of Trustees, based on nominations received.

Special interest groups

Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

The Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Issues is charged with providing timely advice and counsel on policy matters that bear directly on GLBT physicians, medical students and patients, and helping the AMA to better serve this important physician segment. The goals and objectives of the AMA-GLBT Advisory Committee include enhancing AMA advocacy and education on GLBT health and professional issues and providing a dedicated forum for involvement, mentoring and networking for GLBT physicians and medical students. To learn more, visit www.ama-assn.org/go/glbt or contact us at glbt@ama-assn.org.

GLBT Governance/Leadership Opportunities: The GLBT Advisory Committee is comprised of 7 members appointed by the Board of Trustees from an open nomination process. This includes positions for a representative from each of the Medical Student, Resident and Fellow, and Young Physician Sections, and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

Advisory Committee on Group Practice Physicians

Made up of physician leaders from large multi-specialty groups from across the country, the AMA Advisory Committee on Group Practice Physicians tackles issues and disseminates information germane to this important audience. Among its activities and initiatives, the Committee sponsors a CME educational program and networking luncheon at the Annual and Interim Meetings geared specifically to the needs of group practice physicians. All physicians are welcome to attend. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/medicalgroup to learn more.

Group Practice Governance/Leadership Opportunities: This advisory committee is comprised of 11 representatives from academic and group practices throughout the United States, and the executive directors of the Medical Group Management Association and the American Medical Group Association. The members are appointed by the AMA Board of Trustees from nominations.

International Medical Graduates Section

International medical graduates (IMGs) make up 25 percent of the U.S. physician workforce. The AMA-IMG Section responds to this demographic trend by creating opportunities for its diverse membership to share their perspectives in organized medicine, i.e., advocating for equality in state licensure requirements, expanding J-1 visa waiver programs, and fostering equal consideration in leadership, employment and GME programs. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/imgs to learn more about getting involved in the initiatives of the AMA-IMG Section.

IMG Governance/Leadership Opportunities: The IMG Section represents issues of interest to this constituency through its Delegate/Alternate Delegate to the House of Delegates. They are elected, along with the members of the IMG Section Governing Council, through an annual electronic balloting of its members.

Minority Affairs Consortium (MAC)

Eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities, increasing diversity in the profession, supporting young people of color in becoming physicians—the AMA Minority Affairs Consortium (MAC) members are involved in these and other activities dedicated to addressing important minority health issues. The MAC promotes education and advocacy on minority health issues and works to increase diversity in the AMA through involvement programs such as the *Doctors Back to School* program, *Commission to End Health Disparities* and *Minority Scholars Award*. All physicians and medical students interested in minority issues are welcome to join through the sign-up membership process. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/mac to learn more or contact the MAC at mac@ama-assn.org

MAC Governance/Leadership Opportunities: AMA-MAC holds a voting seat in the AMA-HOD and has a nine-member Governing Council that includes appointed representation from the AMA medical student, resident, and young physicians sections; the National Medical Association; Association of American Indian Physicians; and the National Hispanic Medical Association. Nominations for the At-Large positions, and for the MAC Delegate to the HOD, are open to all MAC members. They are elected directly by AMA MAC members via an annual electronic balloting process.

Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)

The only national group that advocates for organized medical staffs, the AMA Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) recognizes the medical staff's critical role in assuring quality care in our nation's. The AMA-OMSS is a strong, credible advocate for medical staffs nationwide as well as federal and state legislators, health care agencies, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and other public and private sector groups. Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/omss to learn more about the AMA-OMSS policy-making efforts, educational programs and networking opportunities.

OMSS Governance/Leadership Opportunities: Hospital, health system or physician organizations may send one or more representatives to attend OMSS meeting, participate in policy debates and influence the AMA advocacy agenda through its role in the HOD. The OMSS Governing Council members are elected by the OMSS Assembly.

Section on Medical Schools

The AMA Section on Medical Schools (SMS) provides all U.S.-accredited medical schools and their faculty an opportunity both to express their opinions through debate and to participate in the formulation of policy through a vote in the AMA-HOD. During each AMA Annual and Interim meeting, the AMA-SMS provides informative educational programs that offer continuing medical education credit to participants while covering current issues of relevance to the medical education community. Uniquely positioned to address key education and practice issues affecting physicians and their patients, the AMA-SMS plays an important role in helping the AMA develop policy in areas such as medical education reform, clinical research, patient care and the financing of medical education.

SMS Governance/Leadership Opportunities: The SMS influences policies on medical education and national health care issues through its Delegate to the House of Delegates. The section is guided by the Governing Council whose members are elected by the SMS participants.

Women Physicians Congress (WPC)

This AMA group attracts physicians and medical students interested in speaking to the concerns of special interest to women and a growing number of male physicians. In addition to bringing forward topics for debate such as professional advancement issues, career flexibility/balancing options and increasing job satisfaction, the AMA's Women Physician Congress (WPC) also develops policy recommendations and builds awareness and advocacy on gender-based health differences and related women's

health issues. The AMA-WPC represents all female members of the AMA automatically and male members can “opt in.” Get involved by visiting the WPC web site, www.ama-assn.org/go/mac or contact the WPC at wpc@ama-assn.org.

WPC Governance/Leadership Opportunities: There is an eight members Governing Council that guides the WPC. The three At-large members are elected directly by AMA WPC members via electronic balloting, based on an open-nomination process. The representatives of the AMA Medical Student Section, Resident and Fellows Section, Young Physician Section and the American Medical Women’s Association, are also elected by the membership but based on nominations provided by their respective groups.

OTHER LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AMA

Positions Appointed by the Board of Trustees:

Council on Legislation, (nomination deadline in March), one year terms, eight term max.

The Council on Legislation reviews federal legislation to ensure consistency with AMA policy and makes recommendations for AMA positions to the Board of Trustees. In the case of conflicts, the Council recommends changes to legislation or policy, and it also works to anticipate future federal legislative needs and develops model legislation for states. (14 members)

American Medical Political Action Committee (AMPAC), (nomination deadline in September) Two year terms, four term maximum

AMPAC was established in 1961 to strengthen the cause of organized medicine through campaign contributions to medicine-friendly candidates running for the US Congress. Over the years, AMPAC has expanded its focus to include maximizing political education and political participation of physicians and medical students, for example, the AMPAC Candidate’s Workshop and AMPAC Campaign School. State medical societies have their own PACs, which support local candidates, evaluate national candidates, and forward these recommendations to AMPAC for funding. (12 members)

Positions Elected by the House of Delegates:

Board of Trustees (BOT)

The AMA-BOT consists of nineteen members, including designated positions for a public member, young physician, resident physician, and a medical student. The Speaker and Vice Speaker serve as ex officio members. Each candidate for the Board of Trustees must be nominated by a member of the House of Delegates. Trustee elections are held at the AMA Annual Meeting in June. (19 members)

Council on Constitution and Bylaws, (nomination deadline in January), four year terms, two term maximum

This Council serves in a fact-finding and advisory role, recommending changes in the AMA’s constitution and bylaws as requested and/or determined to be appropriate by the House of Delegates. (10 members)

Council on Medical Education (CME), (nomination deadline in January), four-year terms, two term maximum

CME works to ensure that undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education will equip physicians to meet the ever-advancing scientific and clinical challenges of health care. This Council also reviews and develops educational policy for the Board of Trustees and House of Delegates, proposes nominees for appointments to national governing bodies, and maintains active liaisons with these groups. (12 members)

Council on Medical Service (CME), (nomination deadline in January), four-year terms, two term maximum

The Council on Medical Service was formed to address how health care services should be delivered and financed in the United States. The Council is focused on establishing clear, nonscientific goals. Today, the Council continues to actively undertake studies and present policy recommendations to the House of Delegates. (12 members)

Council on Science and Public Health (CSPH), (nomination deadline in January), four year terms, two term maximum

The mission of the CSPH is to assure the position of the AMA as the national leader in advancing the science of medicine as the primary mechanism for improving the quality of patient care, enhancing medical progress, and enhancing the health of the public. CSA consists of eleven active members of the AMA, one of whom is a Resident. These members of the Council are elected by the House of Delegates. The Board of Trustees nominates two or more eligible members for each vacancy on the Council, and further nominations may be made from the floor of the House. (11 members).

Graduate Medical Education Advisory Committee

This committee reviews and recommends to the Council on Medical Education, acceptance, rejection or modification of proposed changes in the standards for the accreditation of residency programs. GMEAC also reviews and recommends to the Council on Medical Education policy positions related to graduate medical education either on the GMEAC's initiative or as requested by the Council on Medical Education. The Committee meets 3-4 times a year. One year appointments. (10 members)

Positions Appointed by the Board of Trustee and the Speaker of the House of Delegates

Council on Long Range Planning and Development, (nomination deadline in March), four year terms, two term maximum

The CLRP&D serves as the focal point for the study of the environment of medical practice, organizational structure and government, and the AMA policy-development system. (10 members).

Positions Nominated by the President and Elected by the House of Delegates

Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA), seven year term, one term maximum. CEJA has original jurisdiction in all questions involving the Principles of Medical Ethics of the AMA, as well as the constitution, bylaws, and rules of the Association. The Council

also investigates unethical behavior, conflicts, or complaints from the AMA, specialty societies, and state societies. (10 members)

Other

National Medical Board of Medical Examiners, (nomination deadline in December), two year commitment, \$1100 stipend, one 3 day meeting per year (expenses are covered), category 1 CME credit, 50 hrs. work per year, candidates are chosen based on their areas of expertise and if there is an opening on that committee. The Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc., and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) have established a single, three-step examination for medical licensure in the United States. USMLE provides a common evaluation system for applicants for medical licensure. Call (215) 590-9500 for more information.

Residency Review Committees (RRC) and American Medical Specialty Boards, nominations

Each year the American Medical Association (AMA) solicits recommendations for appointments to RRCs or nominations to American Medical Specialty Boards. In addition, fifteen of the American medical specialty boards periodically ask for recommendations for their respective Board of Directors. The RRC proposes requirements for revising residency program accreditation standards and ensure compliance with standards by individual programs. Membership on each RRC consists of an equal number of representatives appointed by the American Medical Association, the appropriate medical specialty board, and for most, the designated national medical specialty society. The Council on Medical Education reviews all nominations and ranks the candidates; the Board of Trustees, however, actually makes the selection.

The AMA Election Process

AMA Officers, Trustees, and members of four Councils are elected by the House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting. This democratic process allows the delegates ample opportunity to become acquainted with the candidates and their views. Nominations for these offices are widely solicited throughout the Federation. The campaigns are often spirited and are conducted under rules established by the House, which are modified from time to time.

Nominations: The Board of Trustees solicits nominations for the four elected Councils twice a year, i.e., Council on Constitution and Bylaws, Council on Medical Education, Council on Medical Service, and Council on Scientific Affairs. The deadline for receipt of nominations is usually mid-January of each year, so that the Board can consider the nominations at its February meeting. Once the nominees are notified and have agreed to seek office, the campaigns begin.

Officers and Trustees are nominated by their sponsoring societies during the Opening Session of the Annual Meeting; not by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees. These candidates, however, usually announce their intention to seek office well in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Elections: The elections are held at the House of Delegates Annual Meeting and are by secret ballot under the supervision of the Convention Committee on Rules and Credentials and the Chief Teller, who are appointed by the Speaker and Vice Speaker.

American Medical Political Action Committee (AMPAC) Candidates Workshop and Campaign School

At the candidate's workshop you will learn from Republican and Democratic political experts how to unlock the mysteries of politics. You will learn how and when to make the decision to run, the secrets of effective fundraising, the role of the spouse and family, and how to become a better political speaker. Get the answers to your questions, and determine if this is the path to follow. Learn what makes a winning candidate. Bring your spouse, it's a family affair.

At campaign school you will obtain insider tactics and political training are taught by experts from both ends of the political spectrum. Campaign School teachers are the people who are currently advising and assisting campaigns at every level around the country. You will develop a new understanding of how campaigns are run. And you will become an invaluable source of ideas and wisdom that can help your candidate reach out to voters, inspire them to commit to your candidate, and bring in the winning votes.

Contact the AMA's Division of Political Education at 202-789-7466 for more information about either training session. **The registration fee is waived for all members of the AMA and their spouses who are not presently candidates for federal office. Special rules and fees apply to candidates for federal office. There is a \$1000 registration fee for all non-AMA members.**

Attachment: HOW THE AMA MAKES POLICY:

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2007/images/gprsf0611a.pdf>

**For more information, visit the AMA web site:
www.ama-assn.org**

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