AMA Academic Physicians Section takes action on AMA policy at meeting in Maryland

AMA policy review, educational sessions and networking opportunities with academic physician colleagues were part of the Academic Physicians Section (AMA-APS) meeting, Nov. 9-10 in National Harbor, Maryland.

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 several reports and resolutions to be acted upon by delegates at the Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD), Nov. 10-13. Their work guides the section delegate and alternate delegate in the discussions and voting during the AMA meeting.

Issues covered included such topics as:

- Moonlighting for international medical graduates in fellowship training programs
- Medical student debt
- Increasing rural rotations during residency training
- Physician and medical student mental health and suicide

In all, the AMA-APS reviewed more than 15 business items to go before the AMA HOD.

Educational sessions and updates on key nationwide medical education activities

On Friday, Nov. 9, the APS joined the Young Physicians Section for an educational session on wellness for young physicians. John P. Fogarty, MD, dean, Florida State University College of Medicine, joined a panel discussion and offered ways for medical schools and academic medical centers to implement policies that support wellness institution-wide.

At the APS business meeting, led by Hal B. Jenson, MD, MBA, chair of the APS and founding dean of the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, a number of speakers covered key issues affecting academic physicians (presentations are available on the APS website). Topics included:

- The AMA’s three strategic arcs: Accelerating Change in Medical Education, Improving Health Outcomes, and Professional Satisfaction and Practice Sustainability
- The new AMA One website
- Leadership opportunities on national medical education organizations/boards

After the Friday meeting concluded, a number of meeting attendees served as judges on the AMA Research Symposium, to evaluate the poster presentations of medical students, resident/fellow physicians and international medical graduates.

On Saturday morning, meeting participants honed their communications skills as leaders in medical education through an educational session featuring Tyeese Gaines, DO, a media strategist and a board-certified emergency medicine physician, who presented on ways to improve one’s personal brand and develop an effective elevator speech.
Saturday’s segment also featured a first-ever joint meeting of the APS and the Academic Medicine Caucus, which brings together members of the AMA HOD with interest in medical education issues.

After the business meeting concluded at noon, attendees joined the Senior Physicians Section (SPS) for an educational session, “Older and Wiser: Assessing Competency of Elder Physicians.”

Next AMA-APS meeting

The next meeting is the APS Annual Meeting June 7-8, 2019 in Chicago.