MSS Meeting Highlights

Over 750 medical students from across the country heard reports and resolutions on various health care issues and participated in programming and networking events at the Medical Student Section (MSS) Annual Meeting, held June 8-10 in Chicago.

Guest Speakers and Education Programs

The education, networking and special event component of the meeting featured 18 programs. Highlights included:

- An update on the implementation of the SaveGME Campaign pursuant to Resolution 902 from Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH, AMA group vice president, medical education
- The transition from medical student to resident from Hans Arora, MD, PhD, chair of the Resident & Fellow Section
- A discussion on the work being carried out on behalf of medical students by AMA President Andrew Gurman, MD

Additionally, over 100 students attended a program to gain insight from guest speakers M. Muffadel Hamadeh, MD, board member of the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation and John Kahler, MD, member of the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation on health care delivery in hostile conflict zones.

Students also had the opportunity to develop mentor-mentee relationships at a mentoring session with members and leaders of the Women Physicians Section (WPS) Governing Council. Students piloted a National Service Project for a Medication Take Back Day to reduce opioid abuse pursuant to the guidelines from the AMA Opioid Task Force and have plans to implement the initiative at many medical schools over the coming year. In addition, students received guidance from Board of Trustees member Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, on caring for the transgender patient.

Business of the MSS Assembly

The MSS assembly considered 56 items of business and adopted policy on a wide range of issues. Among the topics covered were:

- The rights of transgender individuals
- The rights of sexual assault survivors
- Immigration
• Mental health

The work of the MSS assembly guides the section delegate and alternate delegate in the discussions and voting during the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) meeting. The MSS authored 18 resolutions that were considered by the HOD.

This meeting represented the 7th implementation of a completely virtual testimony process. The MSS virtual reference committee generated more than 330 discussion posts and continues to provide all medical student members, regardless of their ability to attend the meeting, the opportunity to provide testimony on every item of business.

Clinical Skills Workshop and Specialty Showcase

This was the second meeting that combined the AMA Medical Specialty Showcase and Clinical Skills Workshop, which drew more than 200 students and provided networking and information-sharing opportunities between medical professionals and medical students.

Election of the 2017-2018 MSS Governing Council

The AMA-MSS Assembly elected the following members to its 2017-2018 Governing Council:

Helene Nepomuceno  
Chair  
University of California – Irvine School of Medicine

Karen Dionesotes, MPH  
Vice Chair  
Creighton University School of Medicine

Jerome Jeevarajan  
Delegate  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Kieran McAvoy  
Alternate Delegate  
Medical College of Wisconsin

Anna Yap  
Speaker  
Loma Linda University

Jay Llaniguez  
Vice Speaker  
Wayne State University School of Medicine
Kelly Landeen  
At-Large Officer  
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine

Christopher Libby, MD,  
Immediate Past Chair  
University of Central Florida in Gainesville

Karthik Sarma, UCLA Geffen School of Medicine, begins his term as a medical student member on the Board of Trustees at the close of the 2017 Annual Meeting. The MSS Government Relations Advocacy Fellow William Estes, Texas A&M Health Science Center, begins his 1 year term on June 19, 2017.

**Future MSS Meeting**

The next MSS meeting will take place Nov. 9-11 in Honolulu, Hawaii.