



## **Young Physicians Section Delegate's Report from the 2014 Interim Meeting**

The Young Physicians Section (YPS) of the AMA was again an active part of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Dallas, Texas. The preliminary handbook review committee recommendations were made available to members of the YPS assembly prior to the meeting. This process affords each YPS assembly member an opportunity to review each resolution prior to coming to the Assembly. Our vigorous debate on these issues is key to developing the YPS position on each resolution and report. Testimony on behalf of the YPS was offered in several HOD reference committees based on the Assembly's direction to actively support or actively oppose relevant reports and resolutions. Our team approach allows more young physicians to speak on behalf of the YPS in their state and specialty caucuses, as well as in HOD reference committees. An action document with talking points for all YPS active positions was created for members to use throughout the meeting. Without the assistance of members of the assembly, the delegate and alternate delegate would have been unable to speak to all of these items as well as other resolutions deemed relevant to the section.

The YPS considered three reports:

- *Report A: Governing Council Activities/Action Plan Update*

Report A is a compilation of activities accomplished by the AMA-YPS since the 2014 Annual Meeting. Updates on AMA-YPS objectives are organized under five main categories: focus; communications; leadership development; membership; and participation.

- *Report B: Increasing Specialty Society Representation in the AMA-YPS (Specialty Society Representation in the AMA-YPS Assembly, AMA-YPS Report C-A-14)*

In June 2014, the YPS Governing Council presented a report, "Specialty Society Representation in the AMA-YPS Assembly," which enumerated the criteria for specialty society representation in the AMA Young Physicians Section (YPS) Assembly and provided an update on the level of specialty society representation. Report B discusses initial strategies to increase the number of societies represented in the AMA-YPS.

Your YPS Governing Council proposed a course of actions to orient new Assembly members, communicate better with existing representatives, and educate all young physicians and Federation staff about AMA products, services and activities will create stronger relationships and lead to more active participation. To encourage additional specialty society representation, the following recommendations have been proposed:

1. Provide information packets on representation in the AMA-YPS to young physician leaders (i.e., board members, etc.) within specialty societies that do not have representation;
2. Connect with AMA members that are part of the specialties not represented in the AMA-YPS and encourage them to serve as a liaison to the young physicians in their society or identify someone in their society for further outreach;
3. Conduct an outreach to residency and fellowship programs in the specialties where the AMA-YPS lacks representation; thereby generating interest in involvement in the YPS for future young physicians;
4. Reach out to societies that are eligible for representation in the AMA-YPS Assembly that have not sent a representative in the past two years; and
5. Provide a listing on the AMA-YPS webpage that identifies the names of societies eligible for representation in the AMA-YPS along with information on their allocated number of seats.

- *Report C: AMA-YPS Advocacy Efforts*  
Report C describes AMA and AMA-YPS advocacy efforts undertaken since the 2014 Annual Meeting.

The **final actions** of the YPS items of business may be found in the enclosed document.

As directed by the YPS Assembly, the section also testified on other important items of business, including:

Reference Committee B: *Legislative Advocacy*

Resolution 210: AMA Promotion of Improved Electronic Health Records (active support, **adopted as amended**);

Resolution 219: Opposition to Insurance Company Policies that Interfere with Appropriate Outpatient Laboratory Services (active support, **adopted as amended**);

Resolution 226: Extension of Deadline to File Claim for FICA Tax Refund (active support, **referred for decision**);

Reference Committee F: *AMA Finance and Governance*

Resolution 606: Creation of the AMA Super PAC (active oppose for referral, **referred**);

Reference Committee J: *Medical Service, Medical Practice, Insurance*

CMS Report 1: Hospital Admissions and Patient Management Contractors (active support, **adopted as amended**);

CMS Report 2: Privacy Issues Regarding Insurance Company Explanation of Benefits (Resolution 801-I-13) (active support, **adopted as amended**);

CMS Report 5: Medicaid Expansion Options and Alternatives (active support, **adopted as amended**);

CMS Report 7: Medicaid Primary Care Payment Increases (Resolutions 116-A-13 and 103-A-14) (active support with amendment, **adopted as amended**);

CMS Report 9: Regulation of Provider-Performed Microscopy Procedures (Resolution 715-A-14) (active support, **adopted as amended**);

Resolution 808: Access to Psychiatric Services (active support, **placed on reaffirmation calendar**);

Resolution 811: Health Plan Coverage for Outpatient Obesity Primary Care Visits (active support, **adopted as amended**);

Resolution 812: Health Plan Coverage for Hearing Aid Devices (active support, **referred**);

Resolution 813: Medicaid Enhanced Rates (active support with amendment, **adopted as amended**);

Resolution 816: Burdensome Impact of Medicare's Face-to-Face Form Requirements (active support, **placed on reaffirmation calendar**);

Resolution 817: Medicare Coverage of Hearing Aids (active support, **referred**);

Resolution 819: Price Transparency (active support, **referred**);

Reference Committee K: *Medical Education, Science and Public Health*

Resolution 904: Equal Paternal and Maternal Leave for Medical Residents (active support, **adopted as amended**);

Resolution 907: Promoting Education of Electronic Health Records in Undergraduate Medical Education (active support, **referred**);

Resolution 908: Providing Greater Emphasis on the Social Determinants of Health in Medical School Curriculum (active support, **adopted as amended**);

Resolution 923: Transparency of Pharmaceutical Manufacture (active oppose with amendment, **not adopted**);

Resolution 926: Maintenance of Certification (active oppose, refer, **substitute resolution adopted**);

Resolution 928: Cancellation of Maintenance of Certification (active oppose, **substitute resolution adopted**)

Late Resolution 1002: Evidence-Based Policy for Health Care Workers Returning From West Africa (active support of first, second, and third Resolved clauses; proposed amendment for the fourth and fifth Resolved clauses, **adopted as amended**).

Complete final actions on each of these can be found on the AMA HOD website at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/sub/meeting/reportsresolutions.html>.

As you can see, as a section we are very successful advocates, and the HOD was aligned with the YPS positions on almost every single item of business. The YPS testified on 23 items of business, and we were successful in all but one of our active items of business. Great job to the team of HOD Delegates who worked to achieve this goal!

For future meetings, I would like to personally encourage everyone to stay for as much of the HOD meeting as possible. Your testimony and influence in your states, specialty societies, caucuses, sections, and councils are an essential part of achieving our objectives in the HOD, multiplying the voice of young physicians in our AMA. By staying for the HOD, you play an integral part in making sure young physicians' needs are heard and considered in every decision the AMA makes.

In addition, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the HOD handbook review process, particularly if you participated in a handbook review committee. This important process lays the groundwork for our positions and makes sure that every issue is looked at for YPS relevance. I hope that everyone will consider volunteering some of your valuable time to this important YPS function. Most importantly, our positions as a Section are an important part of ensuring that AMA policy remains relevant for young physicians.

If you have any questions on the actions of the YPS or would like to become more involved in the YPS policy process, please do not hesitate to contact me at [hilaryfair@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryfair@gmail.com) to find out more.

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