

May 17, 2024

**Report from the Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues
Klint Peebles, MD FAAD; Young Physicians Section Representative**

As the YPS representative to the Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues, I am pleased to provide the following summary of committee initiatives and priorities.

Strategy Highlights:

The committee aims to facilitate member involvement, mentorship, leadership development, and networking for LGBTQ physicians, medical students, and allies, creating an inclusive environment in the AMA for all gender and sexual diverse identities. Our listserv reaches 1,800 individuals and relays important information about the activities of the advisory committee, leadership opportunities, and important LGBTQ health and conference resources for physicians.

The Advisory Committee continues to offer meaningful educational events to improve health care delivery and understanding of LGBTQ patients and communities. At Interim 23, the committee offered an update on the LGBTQ legislative landscape at both the federal and state levels, featuring nationally recognized speakers, Kellan Baker from the Whitman-Walker Institute and Alex Sheldon, Executive Director for GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality.

We are also committed to engaging internal and external stakeholders to amplify AMA policy and enhance education and awareness of LGBTQ health and well-being. Our partnership efforts include the Howard Brown Health Center, Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians (BNGAP), Northwestern University's Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health (ISGMH), the Human Rights Campaign, and GLMA through regular communication, attending conferences and educational events, and collaborating on presentations.

Priority Policy Topics for Annual Meeting 2024:

For Annual Meeting 2024, we have collaborated with the Senior Physician Section on a resolution designed to raise awareness regarding the unique healthcare needs of and best practices for caring for LGBTQ older adults. We continue to focus policy efforts on preserving access to evidence-based gender-affirming care. A resolution at I-23 established a task force dedicated to exploring appropriate reimbursement and payment for gender-affirming care and the development of necessary guidelines and recommendations. The task force is currently being recruited by Advocacy and Federation staff. I encourage interested members of the YPS to reach out with any feedback or suggestions for the task force.

Educational topics for A-24:

Our goal for this meeting's educational session is to highlight the healthcare needs of Indigenous gender diverse people. These communities are substantially underserved and illustrate the importance of a critical intersectional approach to addressing care gaps within the LGBTQ population more broadly. Our session will feature a diverse, representative panel of Indigenous voices who will discuss appropriate terminology used within Indigenous populations, the role of identity saliency and dimensions of identity affirmation, the historic and ongoing health disparities Indigenous peoples face, and the fundamentals

of how healthcare delivery to Indigenous individuals is structured in the United States, including an overview of the Indian Health Service. Our hope is that attendees will be able to outline a culturally humble and intersectional framework for the creation of safe spaces and unbiased healthcare delivery for Indigenous gender diverse people.

Recent Activities of Interest:

The Council on Long Range Planning & Development has recommended that the AMA transition the Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues to the LGBTQ Section as a delineated section and that the AMA develop bylaw language to recognize the LGBTQ Section (CLRPD Report 1, Reference Committee F). Our committee has worked diligently to reach this goal, and we have also shared draft Internal Operating Procedures for section status with the Council on Constitution and Bylaws at the recommendation of CLRPD in the event that section status is granted by the House of Delegates during A-24.

Finally, one of the goals of the Advisory Committee this year was to expand our work and collaboration with community groups and physician experts focused on intersex individuals and those with differences of sex development (DSD). We are pleased with our work and outreach to date. Short-term priorities include identifying policy priorities and creation of educational opportunities for our members and physicians nationwide. Ultimately, we hope to influence conversations on these issues in the House of Delegates and to bring policy recommendations to mitigate significant gaps.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or feedback regarding the activities and initiatives of the Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues as we continue working toward a better healthcare landscape for gender and sexual diverse people across the lifespan.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray rectangular background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "J. Klint Peebles".

J. Klint Peebles, MD FAAD
YPS Representative, AMA Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues
Delegate, American Academy of Dermatology
Vice Chair, Dermatology Section Council