

May 27, 2025

## **Report from the LGBTQ+ Section**

### **Klint Peebles, MD FAAD; Young Physicians Section Representative**

As the YPS representative to the Governing Council of the AMA LGBTQ+ Section, I am pleased to provide the following summary of the section's initiatives and priorities.

#### **Strategy Highlights:**

As a new AMA section, many of our strategic goals this year aligned with the formation and work of our three committees: Membership & Engagement, Research & Education, and Policy. The Policy committee was particularly productive this year establishing the online tools needed to keep our section organized, developing processes for resolution writing and review, hosting monthly committee meetings, and engaging volunteers to reflect the policy needs and initiatives of interest to the entire LGBTQ+ Section. The Policy committee, chaired by our section's delegate and alternate delegate, has successfully constructed a framework and resources needed to launch our online forum and means by which our section creates, disseminates, and designates positions on resolutions. This has resulted in 8 resolutions introduced at A25 along with several collaborative opportunities to cosponsor resolutions with other sections.

#### **Priority Policy Topics for Annual Meeting 2025:**

Among the 8 resolutions submitted for A25, the central themes include the preservation of LGBTQ+ research, education, and evidence-based clinical care. One resolution aims to support the protection and maintenance of federal and state public funding for physicians and institutions engaged in clinical care, research, and medical education focusing on LGBTQ+ populations. Another seeks to protect and reinstate DEI education and research efforts at medical schools and other institutions.

#### **Educational topics for I-24:**

The LGBTQ+ Section identified a lack of programming and policy regarding populations identifying as intersex or living with differences in sex development (DSD) or variation in sex characteristics (VSD). One of our strategic goals for the year has been to address this gap with educational programming. For this meeting (A25), we are hosting a session titled: "Healthcare for the Intersex and Differences in Sexual Development (DSD) Communities." Objectives for this session are to: 1) Analyze the evolution of the medication approach to intersex patients about gender identity and surgical intervention; 2) Build empathy with intersex panelists who can share lived experience in a conversational setting; and 3) Incorporate concepts in diverse sex development into an understanding of patient identities and unique healthcare needs. The session will appropriately center the lived experiences and advocacy efforts of individuals identifying with these communities.

#### **Recent Activities of Interest:**

The Section hosted an open forum event in February 2025 for all members in order to hear updates on recent activities and initiatives from the Governing Council as well as to provide an opportunity for members to bring their questions and discussion items. This was particularly well-received given the substantial anxiety triggered by federal policy changes since the transition to the new Administration.

Given the success and interest in the event, the Governing Council hosted another forum in late April 2025, which was equally successful and has inspired other sections and groups to pursue similar programming for their members.

Additionally, over the last year I have served on the AMA Task Force to Preserve the Patient-Physician Relationship When Evidence-Based, Appropriate Care is Banned or Restricted. While I formally represent my specialty society on this task force, I also represent the needs and interests of the LGBTQ+ community, particularly as it relates to the task force charge to identify structural problems with gender-affirming care access and reimbursement. The task force is in the process of building a Resource Hub, the initial roll out of which is anticipated to occur this Summer. The task force meeting that took place in February 2025 included presentations featuring legislative updates, maintaining and strengthening access to Medicaid coverage for transgender individuals, CPT codes and billing for gender-affirming care, and gender-affirming care in the commercial insurance market highlighting strategies by otherwise successful state regulators. These efforts have expanded our ability to have meaningful conversations about the evolving reimbursement landscape and continue to occur as the task force executes its charge.

**Upcoming Activities of Interest (post-A25):**

Part of the Governing Council's strategic planning session this year was to identify marketing and membership recruitment opportunities to help grow the new Section. The Governing Council identified over a dozen association and health care related meetings they will be attending in 2025 with affiliate audiences that would be ideal avenues for amplifying awareness of the AMA and LGBTQ+ Section. The GC is in conversation with MMX and section staff on developing collateral pieces to bring to meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Klint Peebles', is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

J. Klint Peebles, MD FAAD  
YPS Representative, AMA LGBTQ+ Section Governing Council  
Delegate, American Academy of Dermatology  
Vice Chair, Dermatology Section Council