

A note from your speakers

We are pleased to provide this edition of the American Medical Association Election Manual. It includes information, as submitted, from announced candidates for election in June 2026. AMA House of Delegates policy requires that each candidate's [conflict-of-interest](#) information be available for your review. This information is posted on our password-protected web page.

Thank you to all candidates for your willingness to serve our AMA.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bohman Egbert, MD
Speaker

John H. Armstrong, MD
Vice speaker

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General election information

Officers and four councils are elected by the American Medical Association House of Delegates (HOD) at the June Meeting. Candidates for these offices are widely solicited throughout the Federation. The elections are conducted during a special Election Session under the supervision of the Committee on Rules and Credentials and the chief teller, who are appointed by the speakers. The speaker and vice speaker are responsible for overall administration of the elections.

Important election dates

April 30–May 9:

A-26 virtual interview window

Candidates may not schedule interviews with groups that are not on the official list of groups conducting virtual interviews compiled by the HOD Office.

June 5, 6 p.m. CT:

AMA Opening Session

Nominations will be accepted on Friday, June 5, 2026, during the Opening Session of the HOD. Uncontested candidates will be elected by acclamation at that time.

June 5–8:

A-26 in-person interview window

Candidates may not schedule interviews with groups that are not on the official list of groups conducting in-person interviews compiled by the HOD Office.

June 7, 5–7 p.m. CT:

AMA Candidate Reception

Candidates may be featured at this reception or at another reception, but not both.

June 9, 8 a.m. CT:

Election Session

All delegates should be seated in the House at least 10 minutes prior to the Election Session. Only credentialed delegates are permitted to cast a ballot. If a delegate cannot participate in the Election Session, they may designate a substitute delegate who must be properly credentialed by Monday, June 8, 2026, at 6 p.m., Central time.

AMA election bylaws and election policy

AMA elections are governed by [AMA bylaws and HOD Policy G-610.090, "AMA Election Rules and Guiding Principles."](#) This democratic process allows delegates ample opportunity to become acquainted with the candidates and their views.

President-elect

Sandra Adamson Fryhofer, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American College of Physicians proudly sponsors Sandra Adamson Fryhofer, MD, MACP, for AMA president-elect.

Personal statement

"This administration and HHS secretary are engaged daily in an unprecedented assault on science, physicians, patients, and our public health system. I speak truth to power and call out the medical foolishness and quackery for what it is. I fight every day for our public health infrastructure, for our patients forgotten by this administration, and for the physicians who take care of them. I also fight to reinstate Medicaid funding, to get Medicare payment reform, and against efforts to harm our LGBTQ+, IMG, and diverse communities. I am in full-time internal medicine private practice. But I also understand network and social media, and have written, produced, and created it for over 20 years at CNN, at other networks, in my Medicine Matters series on Medscape, and in my social media postings. There, you will see I have been calling out these injustices for months, and I will not let up. Too much is at stake. After I came up short in the 2025 election, I never expected to be back on this stage again. But medical students, residents, young physicians, older physicians, and members across this House pleaded with me to run in this election—to speak out and meet this moment in medicine. I have answered that call and respectfully ask for your vote."

Proven Leadership in AMA

- Chair, Board of Trustees (2022–23)
- Chair, AMA Task Force on Gun Violence (2022–23)
- Scope of Practice Partnership Steering Committee
- As Board chair, stood up and appointed AMA's Task Force on Truth, Reconciliation, Healing & Transformation
- Member, Institute of Medicine's Committee on Understanding and Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, resulting in the report, "Unequal Treatment"
- Member, AMA Commission to End Health Care Disparities
- Chair, AMA Council on Science and Public Health
- AMA/ACP Liaison to CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices since 2001
- AMA Liaison to ACS Commission on Cancer
- Chair, AMA Convention Committee on Rules and Credentials
- Joined AMA in 1983; delegate since 2000

Proven Leadership Outside AMA

- President, American College of Physicians (youngest president in ACP history)
- Chair, ACP Committee on Women's Health
- ACP Board of Regents
- Board of Directors, Medical Association of Atlanta

Valuable Work Experience

- Private practice, board-certified, general internal medicine in Atlanta for over 35 years
- Adjunct associate professor of medicine, Emory University School of Medicine

Effective Communicator and Spokesperson

- Testified before Congress and FDA for ACP/AMA
- Medical correspondent for CNN
- Interviewed by network media hundreds of times
- Over 50 appearances on AMA Update and webinar video series
- Medicine Matters video podcast series on WebMD's Medscape
- Host of Your Health Matters on Georgia PBS affiliate

Credible, Credentialed

- BChE, chemical engineering (high honors), Georgia Tech
- MD, Emory University School of Medicine (AOA)
- Internal medicine residency, Emory Affiliated Hospitals
- Mastership in ACP (MACP); fellow, Royal College of Physicians (FRCP)

President-elect

Michael Suk, MD, JD, MPH, MBA

[AMA candidate web page](#)



It is an honor to be nominated for president-elect of the American Medical Association by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. I am grateful for the support and endorsement of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, the AMA Specialty and Service Society, the American College of Surgeons, the Mobility Caucus and the Orthopaedic Section Council, and for colleagues who believe in the AMA's responsibility to unite physicians and help shape the future of our profession.

I am a trauma fellowship-trained orthopaedic surgeon, educator, and physician leader whose work spans frontline clinical care, graduate medical education, and senior leadership within complex health care organizations. Throughout my career, I have trained hundreds of residents, fellows and medical students and continue to mentor physicians at every stage of professional development. Supporting physicians as individuals, creating pathways for underrepresented physicians and helping colleagues sustain meaningful careers in medicine remains central to my work.

In academic and administrative leadership roles, I have led physician driven value-based care and population health initiatives while working closely with multidisciplinary teams across all levels of care delivery. Working alongside colleagues adapting to new care models demonstrated how payment pressures, documentation demands and administrative complexity affect daily practice and physician well-being, and that meaningful change must be shaped with physicians and grounded in the realities of patient care.

Through mentoring trainees across the country, I see how educational debt, workforce uncertainty and evolving practice environments influence career choices, access to care and physician well-being. Physicians and patients alike are increasingly challenged by the affordability of care, and sustainable solutions must support both access for patients and stability for physician practices.

My service on the AMA Board of Trustees, including as chair, reinforced an important distinction about leadership in organized medicine. The Board represents the work and policy of the House of Delegates. The president represents the profession itself to patients, policymakers and the public while protecting the patient physician relationship so that medical decisions remain guided by clinical judgment, ethics and the best available evidence. Leadership today requires listening across generations, supporting scientific discovery and ensuring that medicine remains guided by evidence rather than political influence.

Physicians serve patients from every community and every background, and our profession is strongest when grounded in shared professional ethics and compassion. Medicine is entering a period of profound transformation, and our responsibility is not only to protect what defines our profession but to prepare it for what comes next so the next generation inherits a profession worthy of their commitment.

I respectfully ask for your support and your vote. If entrusted with the office of president-elect, I will represent physicians with integrity, judgment and optimism and work to ensure that the AMA remains a trusted voice for our profession and for the patients who depend on us.

Speaker

Lisa Bohman Egbert, MD



The Ohio State Medical Association, its AMA delegation, and the Great Lakes States Coalition enthusiastically endorse the re-election of Lisa Bohman Egbert, MD, for her fourth term as speaker of the American Medical Association House of Delegates.

During Dr. Egbert's tenure as a speaker, she has shepherded significant change in our House. From navigating the special virtual meetings to transitioning to our Online Reference Committees and trialing consent agendas for the in-person hearings, Dr. Egbert is proud to have helped develop the improvements which enable our House to efficiently manage its business. She continues to advocate for IT upgrades which will allow resolutions to be more easily tracked from submission through reference committee hearings and HOD adoption, to policy finder and ultimately, an implementation tracker. This tool will enable delegates to not only more easily identify current policy, but also to learn about AMA activity in response to it.

In addition to her duties as speaker, Lisa continues to serve on the AMA Foundation and the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation boards. She is a member of the Council on Constitution and Bylaws and the Election Committee. She also serves as a liaison to the Medical Student Section. Additionally, she served as a member of the EVP/CEO Selection Committee and is excited to see the new insights and directions that Dr. Whyte has brought to our AMA.

Lisa began her AMA journey as a medical student serving as the student representative on the Women in Medicine Advisory Panel, the inaugural group that evolved into our Women Physicians Section. She was elected to the Resident Physician and Young Physician Sections' Governing Councils, serving as chair of the YPS. She was appointed to serve on the AMPAC Board of Directors and later elected to the Council on Medical Service.

Dr. Egbert's experience in organized medicine includes tenures as president of the Ohio State Medical Association and the Montgomery County Medical Society. She remains an active member of both organizations as well as her local chapter of ACOG where she continues to advocate at the local and state levels.

A double alumna of The Ohio State University, Lisa is a member of the President's Club and serves on the Buckeye Leadership Fellows Board. She is married to the "other" Dr. Egbert, Brad, who is an anesthesiologist, and they have three children: David and his wife Ashleigh, Sarah, and Matthew and his wife Madison.

After 27 years in solo ob/gyn practice, the financial reality of decreasing payments topped by rising practice costs left Dr. Egbert with no option but to close. However, she is excited to have recently taken a position as a clinical instructor and laborist, teaching students and residents at her local hospitals.

Personal statement

"After the painful experience of being forced to close my practice, I am reinvigorated by the opportunity to teach our next generation of physicians. These experiences fuel my passion for our AMA's advocacy, to build a better future in medicine. I am honored to serve as your speaker, helping our House develop the important policy that drives this advocacy. I humbly ask for your vote to serve one last year as your speaker."

Vice speaker

John H. Armstrong, MD



The American College of Surgeons (ACS) and its delegation to our AMA are proud to sponsor John H. Armstrong, MD, for reelection as vice speaker of our AMA House of Delegates. John is endorsed enthusiastically by the Florida Medical Association, Southeastern Delegation to our AMA, and our AMA Specialty and Service Society.

John has worked tirelessly with the speaker to advance inclusiveness, innovation, and efficiency in our House proceedings. He emphasizes AMA policy impact through productive advocacy. From the podium, John demonstrates respect, humility, and parliamentary skill. He remains a member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians.

John is an ex officio member of the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws, a liaison to the AMPAC Board of Directors and the AMA Resident and Fellow Section, and chair of our Board's Awards and Nominations committee. John values different viewpoints, a skill he has refined through his decades of leadership at all levels of our AMA: HOD resident physician alternate and delegate; Hospital (now Organized) Medical Staff delegate; Young Physician Section chair; HOD Army alternate delegate; Young Physician trustee; secretary; Surgical Caucus chair; ACS HOD delegation chair; House Compensation Committee chair; and Council on Long Range Planning and Development member.

John is an active trauma surgeon, professor of surgery, and distinguished educator at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine in Tampa; adjunct professor of surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Md.; chair of the ACS Committee on Surgical Skills for Practicing Surgeons, and member of the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. He is a past member of the U.S. Defense Health Board and the ACS Committee on Trauma executive committee. His wife, Jodie, is an ophthalmologist in private practice.

John graduated from Princeton University with a degree in economics and the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He performed his surgical residency at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, his trauma fellowship at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital, and his Master Educators in Medical Education Fellowship at the University of Florida. As an AMA nominee, he was elected to serve for six years on the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Surgery. John remains committed to protecting, promoting, and improving public health as he draws on his four years of experience as Florida's surgeon general and secretary of health.

Personal statement

"Our House is a remarkable community. I am privileged to serve with you as we shape the future of medicine with balanced, uplifting, and meaningful deliberation and to sustain our House voice at the Board table. We are stronger, together. I ask for your continuing trust and vote for reelection as your Vice Speaker."

Board of Trustees

Toluwalasé (Lasé) Ajayi, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American Academy of Pediatrics is proud to nominate Toluwalasé “Lasé” Ajayi, MD, FAAP, FAAHPM, for election to the AMA Board of Trustees. Dr. Ajayi is currently chair-elect of the AMA Board of Trustees and is completing a term as the young physician trustee. She is endorsed by the California Medical Association, National Medical Association, PacWest Conference, Pain and Palliative Medicine Section Council, and the AMA APS, MSS, SSS, and YPS.

A practicing pediatrician and adult/pediatric palliative care physician, she serves as a clinical professor at the University of California, San Diego; directs the UC San Diego–Scripps Health palliative medicine fellowship; and practices at Rady Children’s Hospital San Diego and UC San Diego Health. She brings a steady, collaborative governance style grounded in what physicians need to deliver excellent care: stable payment and access, safe care-team structures, and innovation that reduces burden and expands access.

As a trustee, Dr. Ajayi helps elevate Medicaid and patient access as Board-level strategic priorities. She is committed to protecting access to evidence-based care by advancing physician payment reform and reducing administrative friction that delays care for patients and undermines practice sustainability.

With a focus on patient safety and accountability in team-based care, Dr. Ajayi advances advocacy anchored in appropriate training, clear oversight, and patient-centered outcomes. As a member of the Scope of Practice Partnership Steering Committee, she helps deploy resources such as grants, strategy support, and model policy tools to state medical societies facing scope expansion efforts, enabling timely, patient-safety-focused responses.

Dr. Ajayi prioritizes a sustainable physician workforce by advancing retention, distribution, and training capacity, alongside policies that reduce key burnout drivers such as administrative burden and payment instability. She also supports public trust through evidence-based prevention, including leadership in vaccines and firearm injury prevention.

Additionally, she brings deep expertise in digital health and health equity. She supports smart innovation with guardrails so that AI and digital tools work for all patients, are evaluated for bias, and are designed with physicians so they reduce burden and enhance care rather than repeat the unintended consequences of prior technology rollouts.

Personal statement

“I believe access must be real, not theoretical, and built on stable coverage, fair payment, and fewer barriers to care. I believe in team-based care with physicians accountable for clinical leadership and patient outcomes. I believe in strengthening our workforce by expanding training pathways, supporting diverse trainees, and fixing the friction that drives physicians out of practice. I believe in physician-led, patient-safe innovation that reduces burden and works for every patient. And I believe the AMA is strongest when we stand together, guided by our House of Delegates, as the unified voice of medicine. I respectfully ask for your vote for the AMA Board of Trustees.”

Board of Trustees

Raj Ambay, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



My name is Raj Ambay and I am running for the American Medical Association Board of Trustees because this moment demands experience, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to defending the integrity of medicine and science. I offer a concrete plan—not campaign clichés—and view this role not through the lens of specialty or geography, but through the urgent challenges facing all physicians.

I have served in various capacities within the AMA House of Delegates for over 24 years while maintaining a private practice and being the president of a multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center. I previously served as an AMA trustee during a period of major national health reform and intense public scrutiny.

That experience gave me firsthand insight into how the Board operates, how decisions are made, and how essential credibility, transparency, and effectiveness are to not only AMA members but also to non-member physicians who do not see the relevance of the AMA to their practice.

Beyond the AMA, I served 28 years in the United States Army, beginning with deployment weeks after 9/11 and later commanding a Special Forces GHOST Team across three theaters of combat. Military service reinforced disciplined, team-based leadership, mission focus, and decisive action under resource constraints. As both an AMA physician and servicemember, my loyalty is to our AMA mission and to the physicians that I serve.

My professional background also includes business leadership and health technology. I founded two IT companies, both acquired by Fortune 500 firms, and served on the board of a private equity firm. I have held board roles with Optum, the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins focused on commercial alliances and served as chief medical officer and chief medical informatics officer for a large IT corporation in Washington, DC, involved in the federal sector business.

In recent years, my work has centered on building practical artificial intelligence and digital health infrastructure from ground up. I have developed AI models that are currently in use in more than 300 commercial locations around the country as well as at federal agencies such as the VA, NIH and AHRQ. In 2026, I co-authored an ANSI-accepted standard for the governance of AI in health care and serve on the board of the Health Standards Institute. My strong belief is that the AMA has a responsibility to ensure emerging technologies support physician practices, protect clinical judgment, and reduce administrative burden, while improving patient care. That requires leaders who understand both clinical practice and technical systems not just sit on boards.

If elected, I will bring thoughtful governance, transparency, and action-oriented leadership. The AMA must move beyond broad statements to deliver clear, measurable solutions physicians can experience in daily practice. I seek your vote as a physician leader committed to serving the entire House of Medicine and guiding the AMA through a time of significant change.

Board of Trustees

Alexander Ding, MD, MS, MBA

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The California Medical Association is proud to nominate Alex Ding, MD, MS, MBA, FACR, for **re-election** to the AMA Board. Dr. Ding is endorsed by the PacWest Conference, American College of Radiology, Section Council on Radiology, American Association of Public Health Physicians, Young Physician Section, and the Southeastern Delegation to the AMA.

A practicing board-certified radiologist on faculty at the University of Louisville, Dr. Ding currently serves as secretary of the AMA Board. During his tenure, he has served on the Finance, Governance, and Executive committees and chaired the Audit Committee, focusing on strengthening board effectiveness, transparency, and organizational strategy. He is the co-vice chair of the AMA Firearm Injury

Prevention Task Force.

In his role at Humana and CenterWell, he serves as a physician advocate and chief physician wellness officer, advancing physician engagement, clinician recruitment and retention, workforce sustainability, and reduction of administrative burden. This work provides a nuanced view of value-based care, payer-provider relations, and large-scale organizational change that directly supports AMA advocacy and strategic direction.

Dr. Ding is nationally recognized in health care innovation. He serves on the HL7 DaVinci Project steering committee in establishing interoperability standards, represents the AMA on the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation's AI committee, is faculty advisor to the Kentucky Bluegrass Biodesign program, a former clinical lead for radiology AI at Google, and an advisor to the FDA's Total Product Life Cycle Program. Across these roles, his focus is ensuring technologies are clinically valid, ethically governed, and physician-led.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Ding was a leader in his physician-owned private practice and held medical staff leadership roles across two health systems. He was a gubernatorial appointee to California's clinician workforce board and is a U.S. Navy veteran.

Service in organized medicine has defined his career since medical school. He has served as president of the San Mateo County Medical Association, trustee of the Massachusetts Medical Society, member of the AMPAC Board, AMA Council on Legislation, and chair of the AMA Council on Science and Public Health during the COVID pandemic.

Personal statement

"I believe deeply in the mission of the AMA and in the power of our HOD to shape the future of medicine. Physicians today face unsustainable workforce pressures, chronic payment instability, administrative burden, and rapid technological change.

"Our AMA must remain the unifying voice for the profession: advancing payment reform, defending the physician-led team, reducing burdens and barriers to care, and ensuring that innovation strengthens rather than undermines the patient-physician relationship.

"During my service on the Board, I have worked to elevate physician wellbeing, responsible technology governance, and trust in science as central priorities. If re-elected, I will continue to strengthen our federation, support physicians across all practice settings and generations, and help position the AMA to lead with clarity, credibility, and strategic focus in the years ahead."

Board of Trustees

Stephen K. Epstein, MD, MPP

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American College of Emergency Physicians and the Section Council on Emergency Medicine proudly nominate Stephen K. Epstein, MD, MPP, for election to our AMA Board of Trustees.

Steve is a practicing emergency physician: creative, data-driven, working within the system to find ways to benefit physicians and patients. He champions the use of data to drive better health care and served as the founding chair of the Clinical Emergency Data Registry, a CMS-approved qualified clinical data registry. For the past decade, over 20% of U.S. emergency departments have used it to earn positive MIPS updates and put dollars in physicians' pockets. As lead author of the National Report Card on the State of Emergency Medicine—an evaluation of the emergency care environment—Steve provided states with data that drove improvements in emergency care nationwide. Reflecting this same commitment to public health, he has been elected to his local board of health for over 15 years, championing a nicotine-free generation, addressing vaccine hesitancy, and leading his town through the COVID pandemic.

Dr. Epstein has a long record of service to our AMA and the Federation. A past chair of the AMA Specialty and Service Society, he led efforts to make our HOD a stronger voice for the full breadth of the Federation. He now serves on the Council on Medical Service as immediate past chair and leads the Section Council on Emergency Medicine. Steve also chairs the Massachusetts Medical Society's Committee on Nominations and is a past president of both the Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians and the Norfolk District Medical Society.

Steve graduated from Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and completed his residency at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. He practices emergency medicine in the Boston area. Mirroring many physicians' career transitions, he taught students and residents for over 25 years and is now an external health care advisor and subject-matter expert at McKinsey & Company. He continues to provide pro bono strategic consulting services for Boston-area nonprofits. He is board-certified in emergency medicine, a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and a senior certifying examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine. An avid skier, Steve also volunteers as a physician with the U.S. Ski Team.

Personal statement

"For the past 29 years, it has been a privilege to work with a dedicated team of colleagues within this House and on the Council on Medical Service to advance health care for our patients, addressing the undue influence of government, corporations/private equity, and social drivers of health on our patients and fellow physicians. I chose to practice emergency medicine to care for patients at some of their most vulnerable moments, when our health care system has often failed them.

"I would be honored to bring this experience and perspective to implement HOD policies on our AMA Board of Trustees, making health care better for physicians and our patients."

Steve's wife, Laura, is an orthodontist in private practice. They are the proud parents of two recent college graduates, one a teacher and the other a spacecraft engineer.

Board of Trustees

Marilyn Heine, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



Marilyn Heine, MD, FACEP, FACP, FCPP, is a champion for physicians, patients, and public health. She was elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in 2022 and has a proven track record as an exemplary leader, accomplished advocate, and passionate mentor. She strategically builds coalitions and motivates grassroots on advocacy priorities. She is a keen listener, an accessible and responsive communicator, and a consensus builder who is inclusive of diverse perspectives. Marilyn is uniquely qualified for re-election to our AMA Board.

Marilyn is in clinical practice, primarily in urgent care in Abington, Pa. She has expertise in emergency medicine and hematology oncology, and has worked in private practice and employed models, urban and non-urban locations, community-based, hospital, and academic settings. She is clinical assistant professor of medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine.

Marilyn is an esteemed leader with a tireless work ethic. She served as chair of the AMA Board's Awards and Nominations Committee where she played an instrumental role in strengthening AMPAC and enhancing the awards program. She served as chair of the AMA Council on Legislation; and member of the AMPAC board, Private Practice Physicians Congress Governing Council, and Mobility Caucus Executive Committee. She represents AMA on the CAQH CORE Board and the Da Vinci Clinical Advisory Council where she works to enhance interoperability and fix prior authorization. She has held leadership roles in national specialty societies and the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Marilyn served as president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED), president of the Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians, and chair of PAMPAC. Pennsylvania's governors appointed her to the Commonwealth's Health Care Reform Implementation Advisory Committee, Pennsylvania's eHealth Collaborative, and the State Board of Medicine whose members elected her to serve as chair.

Marilyn is a tenacious advocate. Marilyn testified before Congress and the state legislature. She advised a U.S. president, inspires members of Congress to advance issues essential to physicians, and chairs a Congressional Physicians Advisory Board where she is a strong bipartisan leader. Marilyn advocates expertly on social media.

Marilyn is a dedicated mentor for medical students and physicians, featured as a top mentor in the AMA Foundation Leadership Development Institute, and presented "What I Wish I Knew in Medical School." She serves as national faculty on health policy, AI, scope of practice, medical student and physician advocacy.

Marilyn has received many accolades including AMPAC's Award for Political Participation, the AMA-WPS Inspiration Award, and ACEP's awards for Excellence in Health Policy and Outstanding Contribution to Emergency Medicine.

Marilyn is enthusiastically sponsored by PAMED; endorsed by ACP, Cancer Care Caucus, AMA-MSS, Mobility Caucus, Section Council on Emergency Medicine, AMA-YPS.

Personal statement

"This is a time of significant change and challenge in medicine. The AMA's role to shape the future of medicine is evermore essential. My experiences as a leader, advocate, and mentor strengthen my ability to serve you, to ensure your voice is heard. I ask for your vote."

Board of Trustees

Tripti Kataria, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Anesthesiology Section Council proudly nominate Tripti C. Kataria, MD, for election to the AMA Board of Trustees. She is honored to have endorsements from the SSS, the Mobility Caucus, and the Pain and Palliative Medicine Specialty Section.

Dr. Kataria brings more than 25 years of leadership in organized medicine at both the national and state levels. For the past seven years, she has served on the AMA Council on Legislation and currently serves as its chair. In that role, she has helped shape AMA strategy to protect patient access, safeguard both physicians and patients in the use of AI, and position physicians at the center of health care decision-making.

Tripti believes the AMA must lead not only in defending medicine, but in defining its future.

At a time when payment instability, administrative complexity, rising medical education debt, workforce strain, and rapid technological change threaten the sustainability of practice, **Dr. Kataria is committed to advancing a bold vision: a health care system in which physicians lead care teams, innovation strengthens rather than replaces clinical judgment, and policy supports both current and future generations of physicians.**

Tripti will work to secure stable physician payment that keeps pace with inflation, reduce regulatory and administrative friction, and address the growing burden of medical education debt that influences specialty choice, practice setting, and long-term workforce stability. **Her focus is not simply on incremental change, but on restoring professional stability, autonomy, and purpose to the practice of medicine.**

Dr. Kataria brings a rare and powerful combination of private practice credibility, academic distinction, and national policy leadership. She understands the realities facing physicians and possesses the strategic insight to navigate complex federal policy, health economics, workforce dynamics, and system transformation. Few candidates can speak with equal authority to frontline physicians, academic leaders, trainees, and policymakers and translate those perspectives into durable solutions.

She brings deep expertise in health care economics, understanding that payment policy determines whether practices survive, patients maintain access, and if the next generation chooses medicine as a career. **She is prepared to lead at a moment that demands clarity, courage, and coalition-building across the House of Medicine.**

Dr. Kataria earned her MD from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health, and her MBA from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. She completed her anesthesiology residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital and a cardiac fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine.

Personal statement

"Medicine is at an inflection point. As a Trustee, I will work to ensure that physicians lead healthcare, physician payment keeps pace with inflation, medical education debt does not undermine the future of our profession, and that the practice of medicine remains sustainable, independent, and worthy of those who choose to serve. The future of our profession must be shaped by physicians, and I am committed to help lead that effort."

Board of Trustees

Heather A. Smith, MD, MPH

[AMA candidate web page](#)



Heather A. Smith, MD, MPH, FACOG, is a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist, health system quality leader, and long-standing AMA member whose career reflects **strategic leadership, coalition building, and measurable results.**

Active in the AMA since 2002 and in the House of Delegates since 2008, Dr. Smith has developed her leadership through sustained engagement across sections, councils, and state and specialty societies. Early in her career, she served as the second AMA Government Relations Advocacy Fellow and as a U.S. Senate health policy fellow, deepening her understanding of federal policy and institutional strategy. As chair of the Council on Legislation, she advanced practical federal and state policy solutions while increasing transparency and building collaboration across the Federation. As president of the Rhode Island Medical Society, she led efforts to strengthen primary care, reduce administrative burden, and protect physician-led decision-making, guiding the organization through complex legislative and operational challenges.

Dr. Smith brings significant fiduciary and governance experience. During a decade of service on the AMA Foundation Board of Directors, including as president, and through state-level board roles, she engaged in strategic planning, CEO transitions, financial oversight, and leadership development initiatives that strengthened organizational stability and long-term sustainability. Her background in public health and health services research, shaped by early work in community engagement before medical school, reinforces her commitment to data-driven policy, broad stakeholder engagement, and systems-level problem solving.

A full-time academic OBGYN generalist and hospitalist, she serves as director of OBGYN quality at Women & Infants Hospital, one of the nation's highest-volume obstetric centers. She leads interdisciplinary initiatives to improve outcomes and reduce disparities across a large clinical enterprise. Working daily on the labor floor, in the operating room, and in a full-service emergency department co-led with emergency medicine colleagues, she understands firsthand the operational, financial, and regulatory pressures affecting physicians across practice models.

She is proud to be nominated for election to the AMA Board of Trustees by American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Personal statement

"The practice of medicine stands at a consequential moment. Payment instability, administrative burden, scope challenges, and rapid system change are straining physician sustainability and patient access to care. Addressing these pressures requires more than advocacy. It calls for steady leadership, institutional credibility, and durable coalition building.

"As a practicing physician and experienced board leader, I understand both the realities on the front lines and the fiduciary responsibility entrusted to the Board of Trustees. I will serve as a steward of the AMA's mission, bringing states and specialties together to advance practical solutions that strengthen membership value and protect physician-led care.

"I am prepared to do this work, eager to listen, and honored to serve. I respectfully ask for your support and one of your votes."

Board of Trustees, young physician

Amar Kelkar, MD, MPH

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American Society of Hematology is excited to announce the candidacy of Amar H. Kelkar, MD, MPH, FACP, for the Young Physician seat on the AMA Board of Trustees. He is endorsed by the Specialty and Service Society, American College of Physicians, New England Delegation, Cancer Care Caucus, National Medical Association, Pain and Palliative Medicine Specialty Section Council, American Association of Clinical Urologists, Medical Student Section, American College of Radiation Oncology, and American Association of Public Health Physicians.

Dr. Kelkar is a clinician first, who understands the realities of modern practice. Specializing in stem cell transplantation at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, he leads the adult gene therapy program and is the director of the BMT Survivorship Clinic. Having trained and practiced in a variety of communities, from rural Illinois and suburban Florida to urban New York and Boston, he has seen the challenges felt across diverse practice environments. He now sees patients referred from across New England, upstate New York, and elsewhere, giving him a daily view of the systemic barriers to accessing health care.

Dr. Kelkar has deep experience in all aspects of the AMA, having served in the House of Delegates for a decade, and in leadership roles as the RFS delegate, chair of Reference Committee B at the 2025 Annual Meeting, and on the Council on Legislation. He knows how to turn policy into action by building coalitions to write consensus resolutions on contentious topics like reproductive health, vaccines, and health system reform, and focusing on implementation after they pass.

Outside the AMA, he is a recognized expert in physician payment, serving as the RUC advisor for hematology and on several committees focusing on practice issues, reimbursement, and government relations. He previously served on the Massachusetts Medical Society Board of Trustees.

He is also leading the way in ensuring AI in health care is safe, ethical, and physician-led, conducting research on AI supportive care, as well as on drug pricing and health outcomes. His work in public health includes collaborating with the Illinois Department of Public Health to first describe a synthetic cannabinoid coagulopathy outbreak that was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and recently serving on the ASCO guideline panel for vaccination of adults with cancer.

He lives in Boston with his wife, Dr. Noopur Ghade, a practicing OB-GYN, their son, and their golden doodle.

Personal statement

"It would be a privilege to represent early-career physicians on the AMA Board. Facing existential threats to practice viability, public health, science, and the patient-physician relationship, I am committed to building a true two-way dialogue between the Board and both the HOD and the thousands of physicians who have never attended an AMA meeting. My door will always be open to hear your priorities. We must fiercely defend patient access and public health as core to our mission. When the public trusts that we are fighting for them, our advocacy for payment reform becomes what it truly is: a fight to preserve access to care.

"I respectfully ask for your vote for the Young Physician seat on the AMA Board."

Board of Trustees, young physician

Sam Mathis, MD, MBA, MPH

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The Texas Medical Association proudly nominates Samuel E. Mathis, MD, MBA, MPH, for election as Young Physician Trustee on the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. Dr. Mathis is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, where he serves as vice chair of clinical operations and director of the Integrative Medicine Fellowship. In these roles, he advances innovative models of care, strengthens clinical systems, and mentors future physician leaders—demonstrating the vision, integrity, and effectiveness essential for service on the AMA Board.

Dr. Mathis has exemplified an unwavering commitment to organized medicine throughout his career. He has served as chair, chair-elect, and immediate past chair of the AMA Young Physicians Section Governing Council. As chair, he led initiatives to strengthen member engagement, expand leadership development pathways, and elevate young physician perspectives within the AMA. He also guided the review and successful modernization of the section's internal operating procedures, improving governance and positioning the YPS for continued growth and effectiveness. His endorsement by the Young Physicians Section affirms his record of trusted leadership and proven ability to represent physicians nationwide.

Locally, Dr. Mathis served as president of the Galveston County Medical Society, strengthening physician engagement and advocacy. At the state level, Sam has served as the young physician trustee on the TMA Board of Trustees, where he contributed to membership engagement, retention, and long-term organizational vitality. He serves on the TMA Foundation Board of Trustees, the Texas delegation to the AMA, and the Council on Socioeconomics. He served on the Council on Constitution and Bylaws and chaired the TMA YPS. Nationally, Sam served on the American Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors as a new physician member, where he defended the patient-physician relationship amid growing government intrusions. This experience strengthened his ability to navigate high-stakes policy environments while upholding the profession's ethical and fiduciary responsibilities.

Within academics, Dr. Mathis contributes to curriculum leadership, faculty recruitment, and student advisory committees, demonstrating his commitment to medical education and the development of future physician leaders.

Dr. Mathis brings national governance experience, fiduciary oversight, and frontline clinical leadership. His sound judgment, integrity, and sustained record of service make him exceptionally well prepared to serve on the AMA Board of Trustees and to represent physicians and patients nationwide.

Personal statement

"With the rapidly evolving health care landscape and ongoing threats to the patient-physician relationship, I am prepared to engage policymakers and the public in advancing AMA policy. I will continue to champion the AMA mission and House of Delegates directives on payment reform, access to care, physician autonomy, protections for vulnerable patients, and ensuring the success of future physicians."

Board of Trustees, young physician

Avani Patel, MD, MHA

[AMA candidate web page](#)



As the oldest child in her family, Avani Patel, MD, MHA, was used to setting an example for her siblings, never dreaming it might one day include their choice of careers. Currently, her sister is completing a plastic surgery residency and her brother an internal medicine residency, making her interest in serving as the Young Physician on the Board of Trustees deeply personal.

A board-certified psychiatrist with a Master in Healthcare Administration and a certification in sports psychiatry, she brings a clinical and executive-level perspective representing and advocating for medicine at local, state and national levels on issues spanning private practice, public sector systems and academic medicine.

She is the founder of Mississippi Psychiatry & Wellness, a private practice serving physicians, athletes, and other high-achieving professionals. She also works in a grant-funded community rehabilitation program serving post-incarcerated and homeless individuals and serves as a consultant to her state health officer's rehabilitation center on complex dual-diagnosis psychiatric care. In addition, she is a behavioral health medical director overseeing a Medicaid managed care contract. She is an affiliate professor with the University of Mississippi Medical Center Department of Psychiatry, where she teaches and mentors residents. She is a graduate of the AMA-SHLI Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellowship.

Her 10-plus years in the House of Delegates include two years on the AMA Foundation board, the Young Physician representative on the Women Physicians Section Governing Council and member of the Mississippi delegation. Her governance experience includes six years on the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) Board of Trustees, service on the American Psychiatric Association Board of Trustees, and leadership roles in specialty and regional societies. She has served during executive leadership transitions and search processes, strengthening her experience in fiduciary duty, governance, and strategic continuity.

If elected, Dr. Patel would bring her unique perspectives and training to the Board. There are many strong viewpoints and emotions about the state of our profession; however, Dr. Patel's training has taught her to listen carefully and process these ideas to build consensus to help enact the best outcomes. Her priorities include innovation, physician advocacy across practice settings, strong governance during changing federal and state landscapes, and preparing the profession for the future of care delivery. Nominated by the MSMA and endorsed by the Psychiatry Section Council and the Southeastern Delegation, Dr. Patel respectfully asks for your vote.

Personal statement

"I am running because organized medicine must remain grounded in the lived reality of physicians and patients. I have cared for the high-performing and the forgotten, worked in boardrooms and at the bedside, and served during times of leadership transition. I have the experience to bring the voice of young physicians to the AMA BOT while also representing the entire HOD during these challenging times. I pledge to serve with humility, clarity, and conviction to ensure our profession not only endures, but evolves with purpose."

Council on Constitution and Bylaws

Stuart J. Glassman, MD, MBA

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) proudly nominates Stuart J. Glassman, MD, MBA, for election to the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws (CCB). Dr. Glassman is endorsed by the Specialty and Service Society (SSS) and the Mobility Caucus.

Dr. Glassman is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at New York University Medical Center/Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine. He has practiced in urban and rural health care settings in multiple states throughout his career.

Dr. Glassman is currently the vice-chair of the AMA's PM&R Section Council. He is the immediate past chair of SSS, and is the past chair of the Mobility Caucus. Dr. Glassman is a board-certified PM&R physician. He is the president of Granite Physiatry, PLLC, a solo physician practice based in New Hampshire. He is also the chief of the PM&R service for the Bay Pines (Fla.) Veterans Administration Healthcare System. He is on the faculty of Tufts University School of Medicine. He has been a member of the teaching faculty of various medical schools in multiple states, teaching medical students, residents and fellows. He is a past-president of the New Hampshire Medical Society, and has served on the AAPM&R Board of Governors.

Dr. Glassman has a career passion for adaptive sports, and is a member of the National Medical Team for the Veterans Administration Golden Age Games. He is also a member of the Physician Medical Pool for U.S. Ski and Snowboarding, and has covered events for the U.S. Para Alpine and Para Snowboard teams.

Dr. Glassman has focused on improving the rehabilitation care and quality of life for patients throughout his career. He has emphasized the importance of the teamwork concept of PM&R care, and has been an advocate for disability health care equity. He received the AAPM&R Distinguished Public Service Award in 2020, after helping physician colleagues access health care funding sources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Glassman has been involved with ethics, bylaws and policy activity at various health care levels including hospitals, medical societies, state governments and national health care organizations. He is committed to adding insight and value to the crucial work that will be accomplished by CC&B, including bylaws changes, policies and procedures updates, and reviewing internal operating procedures of our AMA sections. He is committed to full collaboration and coordination working with the other members of CC&B and members of other AMA councils.

Personal statement

"The impact of institutional ethics, bylaws and policies is crucial to an organization's success. No one individual sets that vision in our AMA. The value of teamwork within this mission is essential. The work of our AMA Council on Constitution & Bylaws will continue to be successful, with an ongoing focus on policy review, stakeholder inquiry, and innovative assessment, while understanding where healthcare, and our AMA, is headed in the future. I look forward to being part of this important Council, and hope that my experience and knowledge will add valuable ideas to this Council, on behalf of all of our AMA colleagues."

Council on Constitution and Bylaws

Steven C. Thornquist, MD



The New England Delegation proudly nominates Steven C. Thornquist, MD, for re-election to the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws. Dr. Thornquist's candidacy is endorsed by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the AMA Medical Student Section, and the Connecticut State Medical Society.

Dr. Thornquist graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned his medical degree from the University of Arizona. He completed his residency and fellowship training at Yale-New Haven Hospital, the University of Pennsylvania Scheie Eye Institute, and Temple University St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

Dr. Thornquist has been a long-standing and active member of the AMA House of Medicine since his first year of medical school. He has served on the Bylaws Committee of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and has been a member of the Connecticut State Medical Society Bylaws Committee for more than 10 years, participating in two significant revisions to the CSMS Bylaws. He also oversaw the rewriting of the bylaws of the state Political Action Committee. Dr. Thornquist has completed multiple trainings in parliamentary procedure in preparation for leadership roles in organized medicine and has applied that expertise in presiding over town meetings in his Connecticut community.

He has served as president of the New Haven County Medical Association, the Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians, and the Connecticut State Medical Society. He previously served as chair of the New England Delegation to the AMA House of Delegates and currently serves as chair of the Connecticut Delegation to the AMA House of Delegates.

Personal statement

"It has been my profound honor to serve as a member of the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws (CC&B) for the past 4 years.

"I have always been impressed with the democratic nature of the AMA and its openness to differing viewpoints. My early attendance at AMA meetings during medical school sparked an enduring interest in organizational structure and parliamentary procedure as effective tools for reaching thoughtful and representative decisions. Serving on CC&B for the past four years has only strengthened that conviction.

"I continue to view the bylaws as the bedrock of our AMA's actions. Our fair and transparent processes are fundamental to the legitimacy of the decisions made by the House of Delegates. During my time on CC&B, I have seen how careful, impartial interpretation of our bylaws protects both the rights of individual members and the integrity of the AMA as a whole.

"These remain challenging times for deliberative bodies. We face new methods of technology and communication as well as members who are continually stretched by professional and personal demands. Yet, we must always strive to preserve the democracy and openness that define us.

"My four years of service on CC&B have reinforced my commitment to ensuring that our processes allow all voices to be heard fairly and that our actions affect all members equitably, respecting the full diversity of our House of Medicine. It would be an honor to continue this work and to serve the AMA House of Delegates through re-election to the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws."

Council on Medical Education

P. Travis Harker, MD, MPH

[AMA candidate web page](#)



A Multigenerational Commitment to Medical Education

Dr. Harker's grandfather, an internist, taught physical diagnosis to medical students at The Ohio State University in the 1970s. His parents, both public school teachers, instilled the value of prioritizing students and supporting colleagues. For the past two decades, Dr. Harker has honored this legacy by fostering environments where medical students, residents, and attending physicians thrive, pushing for structural change in the medical workforce, and advocating for the integrity of the profession.

Dr. Harker brings three key qualifications to the AMA Council on Medical Education:

- **EXPERIENCE – A leader in medical education:** Dr. Harker has a proven track record of institutional innovation extending across 20 years. From the ground up he built three new ACGME-certified residency programs (FM, IM, & Psychiatry) at Portsmouth Regional Hospital and serves as its inaugural Designated Institutional Official (DIO). His leadership successfully secured initial accreditation for these programs and brought 78 additional residency positions to New Hampshire, thereby expanding the state-wide resident workforce by 20%. These programs continue to flourish, meeting or exceeding all ACGME standards without citations.
- **ADVOCACY – A champion for the profession:** Dr. Harker's advocacy began in 1999 as a medical student testifying before the LCME on the medical student learning environment. His work as president of the New Hampshire Medical Society and his subsequent service on the state's Legislative Commission to Expand Medicaid are examples of a career dedicated to systemic, physician-led change. He mentors residents in advocacy at every opportunity, such as recently co-authoring with his trainees an op-ed on the dangers of Kratom. Furthermore, Dr. Harker authored AMA policy regarding the preservation of the primary care relationship, which passed in 2024 and is currently shaping legislation in New Hampshire.
- **INNOVATION – A vision for our medical workforce:** Dr. Harker advocates that we leverage AI to improve our bedside care and individualize learning, even while ensuring that the essential human elements of medicine—autonomy, belonging, and competence—remain at the center of medical training. We must define our vision as we evolve our practice of medicine in an AI world.

Priorities for the council

1. Protecting academic integrity
2. Expanding the physician workforce
3. Supporting International Medical Graduates
4. Restoring joy and meaning in medicine

Personal statement

"My mission is to foster medical education ecosystems that prioritize evidence-based science, honor and grow our physician workforce, and cultivate the deep meaning found in the doctor-patient relationship."

Council on Medical Education

Mark Milstein, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) are proud to sponsor Mark J. Milstein, MD, FAAN, for election to the AMA Council on Medical Education.

A currently practicing neurologist, Dr. Milstein is also an experienced teacher who has committed his entire career to the education of students and trainees. As chief resident during his training, he served as an ombudsman for the trainees, ensuring that the educational environment was that of support and growth. After training, he was first named associate program director and then program director for the neurology residency at Montefiore Medical Center. He is an associate professor of neurology and medicine at both Montefiore Medical Center (MMC) and Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM).

As neurology program director, Dr. Milstein has had a special focus on trainee well-being while maintaining rigorous standards of education. Dr. Milstein successfully fought to expand the size of his training program by 33% to better support his trainees' individual career goals. At the medical school, he works closely with the dean of student affairs, serving as chair of the medical school's Committee on Student Promotions and Professional Standards and has been a champion for students and trainees since the beginning of his career.

Dr. Milstein graduated from AECOM and completed his neurology residency and clinical neurophysiology fellowship at MMC before joining the faculty. He is director of the neurology consultation team as well as the neurology residency continuity clinic and the Myasthenia Gravis Clinic, both of which serve a predominantly underserved population in the Bronx, N.Y.

Dr. Milstein has been active in organized medicine since his first year of medical school in 1998, serving as a delegate to the MSS, RFS, and YPS before becoming chair of the YPS. He joined the AAN delegation, becoming vice chair and then chair of the AAN delegation and the Neurology Section Council. He has broad experience, having served on numerous reference committees as well as active leadership across multiple AMA sections and caucuses. He is president of the New York County Medical Society and an active member of the Medical Society of the State of New York. He has been directly involved in mentoring students and residents in advocacy, supporting them in organized medicine and lobbying activities at the state and federal level.

He is a passionate fighter for the future of our profession and promises to continue this on the AMA Council of Medical Education.

Personal statement

"I am committed to the education, well-being, and growth of medical students, trainees, and practicing physicians. Raised in an environment that supported inquiry and education, I strive to bring this to my work every day. I am grateful for the advocacy of this Council in protecting and advancing the interests of our inspiring students, trainees, peers, and patients and I look forward to privilege of crafting strong AMA policies on the Council for Medical Education."

Council on Medical Service

Ravi Goel, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



As an ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon in private practice, Ravi knows the daily challenges facing physicians.

As a student of history, he notes that CMS was formed “to streamline medical practice in America with changing times” and has guided our House since 1943 as challenges to practice often rhyme.

From private practice viability and third-party interference to administrative burdens and federally required quality measures, Ravi works to keep a small practice viable in a changing world. What happens beyond the exam room is as important as what happens within it.

An AMA member since his first year in medical school, Ravi is a past YPS chair, served on Reference Committees B and F, chaired Reference Committee J, and received the AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Leadership Award.

Currently, this New Jersey native is a member of CMS and the chair of the AMA Ophthalmology Section Council. He is a past trustee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, a past president of his state specialty society, and a seasoned advocate on scope of practice.

He financed his education at Yale and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School through scholarships, loans, and work-study. He understands the impact of education debt on physician wellness and career choice.

He completed his residency at Greater Baltimore Medical Center, is an instructor at the Wills Eye Hospital, and practices in an independent, two-physician group.

With a broad understanding of the issues affecting daily practice and the need for action-ready policy, Ravi appreciates the essential link that CMS provides to the House. Since joining the council, he has contributed to reports across the full CMS portfolio, including payment reform, insurers, consolidation, rural health, Medicare and Medicaid, drug costs, prior authorization, medical debt, network adequacy, and private practice sustainability.

For his service and experience, the American Academy of Ophthalmology sponsors his candidacy for re-election to the Council on Medical Service. They are joined by the AMA Mobility Caucus, AMA Specialty and Service Society, AMA Young Physicians Section, and the Southeastern Delegation to the AMA.

During their downtime, Ravi and his wife Christina spend time with extended family. He is also a founding member and former trustee of the Indian Cultural Center, where he continues to support community events, including an annual comedy night.

Ravi respectfully asks for your vote for re-election to the Council on Medical Service.

Personal statement

“In my practice, my mission is to protect sight, one patient at a time. At the AMA, I have the privilege to advance the health of millions. Through continued service on the Council on Medical Service, I support the House of Delegates with actionable policy to strengthen medical practice. I respectfully ask for your support for re-election so I may continue this work for our patients and our profession.”

Council on Medical Service

Michael Hanak, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) proudly nominates Michael Hanak, MD, FAAFP, DipABPM, HALM, for election to the Council on Medical Service. As a former chair of the Young Physician Section, he is proud to carry their endorsement along with that of the Specialty and Service Society.

Dr. Hanak brings over 20 years of continuous service in the AMA, holding numerous leadership roles at the local and national level. He is a member of the CPT Advisory Committee and the CPT Immunization Coding Caucus, and has served for several years on reference committees, most recently the Resolution Modernization Task Force.

He has chaired the AAFP delegation for the past five years and previously served as chair of the AAFP Commission on Quality and Practice. He is a past president of the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians, and serves on the Illinois State Medical Society's Council on Medical Service and Council on Economics. He is also a member of the American Medical Informatics Association and has served previously as an associate chief medical informatics officer.

Dr. Hanak is a frontline physician, professor and vice chairperson in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at Rush University Medical Center, where he is also associate chief medical officer. As population health officer for the Rush Medical Group, he leads value-based care strategy and serves on the board of an accountable care organization.

His perspective on health is informed by his upbringing in a small farming community and shaped by clinical rotations in Flint, Mich., residency training in Chicago, and early practice at a community hospital on the city's Southwest Side. At Rush, he has championed digital transformation efforts to expand access and improve the physician experience. He has chaired the quality committee for more than a decade, bringing extensive operational expertise and steady, values-driven leadership.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hanak has spearheaded efforts to address health care disparities and worked tirelessly to ensure access and opportunity for colleagues and community members. He led the \$1.8M CMS-funded Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative at Rush and was a site leader for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Pursuing Equity Learning Network and Action Community. He has frequently presented and spoken on health care delivery and physician leadership, and teaches third-year medical students and informatics fellows.

Personal statement

"The Council on Medical Service is charged with addressing some of the most challenging topics faced by physicians and our AMA. It is critical for physicians to lead care teams, oversee advancement of artificial intelligence, and advocate for models of care that value evidence, equity and patient outcomes in furthering the strength of our profession. My practice demands daily collaboration and a deep understanding of complex systems, not dissimilar to this Council. It would be a privilege to serve."

Council on Medical Service

Niva M. Lubin-Johnson, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) is enthusiastic to sponsor Niva Lubin-Johnson, MD, FACP, for election to the American Medical Association Council on Medical Service (CMS). She is endorsed by the Great Lakes States Coalition, the American College Physicians, and the National Medical Association.

Dr. Lubin-Johnson is an internal medicine specialist proudly serving Illinois patients for over 30 years. For much of her career, she has owned her own independent practice, so she has a strong understanding of the realities of how payor challenges, government oversight and community can shape the care we provide to patients. Currently, Dr. Lubin-Johnson serves as the medical director for a methadone treatment clinic, so she will also bring a deep understanding of the complexities of addiction issues and the opioid crisis to the deliberations of the Council on Medical Services.

She views organized medicine as critical to the medical profession. In addition to serving in numerous roles with the National Medical Association, reaching the office of President from 2018–2019, she is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and an active ISMS member. With ISMS, she currently serves on the Governmental Affairs Council but has held other roles including membership on its Council on Medical Service and its Women Physicians Committee.

Her history with the AMA is extensive. She currently serves as an ISMS delegate and recently completed service co-chairing the AMA Truth, Reconciliation, Healing and Transformation Task Force. She has previously chaired both the AMA Minority Affairs Section and the Women Physicians Section.

Dr. Lubin-Johnson's experience in medical practice, leadership and the AMA positions her to be a strong CMS contributor from Day One. She would be honored to receive your vote.

Personal statement

"I seek to serve on the AMA Council on Medical Service because my career has been dedicated to advancing equitable, physician-led, patient-centered care. My clinical experience, combined with decades of leadership within the AMA and organized medicine, has given me a deep understanding of the policy, payment, and access challenges facing physicians and the communities we serve. I am committed to bringing a practical, impartial and balanced perspective to CMS's work and to helping shape policies that strengthen the practice environment, improve care delivery, and support physicians across all settings."

Council on Medical Service

Steven Wang, MD, MBA

[AMA candidate web page](#)



With a proven track record of leadership, clinical excellence, and advocacy, Steven Wang, MD, MBA, is exceptionally qualified to serve on the AMA Council on Medical Service and is proudly endorsed by the PacWest Conference, the California Medical Association (CMA) and the AMA Radiology Section Council.

After completing his radiology residency and breast imaging fellowship at Yale New Haven Hospital, Dr. Wang joined Kaiser Permanente Kern County, where he played a pivotal role establishing the radiology department. His foundation in medicine is complemented by a degree in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, underscoring an ability to integrate technology and medicine to drive innovation. He is now the radiology informatics/IT lead for the Southern California Permanente Medical Group.

Dr. Wang strongly believes it is important in our profession to contribute to organized medicine. He has held key leadership positions within Kern County Medical Society, receiving Physician of the Year award in 2019 and later serving as president. Dr. Wang is currently a trustee of the CMA representing District VI, composed mostly of rural and underserved communities. Past roles include chair of the CMA Young Physician Section and board member of CMA's political action committee.

Furthermore, Dr. Wang is founder and chair of California Radiological Society's Government Affairs Committee. His work in government relations has led him to be heavily involved in legislation and regulation, taking up topics ranging from patient privacy to artificial intelligence. In his work, he has authored and passed legislation on radiology telehealth flexibility and scope of practice. His expertise in policy has also led to an appointment to the California Department of Public Health's Radiologic Technology Certification Committee.

As delegate for AMA's Integrated Physician Practice Section, Dr. Wang works hard to advance AMA policy, authoring resolutions that address pain points for physicians and patients, such as his recent resolution "Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through Closed Loop Referral Systems." As delegate, he has always held that his most important role is to facilitate collaboration and understanding, and to interface with the states and specialty societies that comprise the AMA House.

Please join Dr. Wang's endorsing organizations in supporting his election to the AMA Council on Medical Service.

Personal statement

"Right now, we face an unprecedented crisis in health care. We are faced with a maelstrom of issues, ranging from unsustainable payment rates, ruinous physician burnout, serious threats to public health, to the simple fact that our patients are not able to afford or access care.

"Medicine is a noble profession and a calling. I see the crisis, and I can only respond, "what can I do?" As a member of the Council of Medical Service, I promise to dedicate myself towards a health care system we can be proud of, one that restores the joy in medicine, preserves the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship, and achieves quality, affordable, and accessible care for all."

Council on Science and Public Health

Joanna Turner Bisgrove, MD, MPH

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) proudly presents Joanna Turner Bisgrove, MD, MPH, for re-election to the Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH). Dr. Bisgrove is endorsed by the American Association of Public Health Physicians, Great Lakes States Coalition, Medical Student Section, Specialty and Service Society and Young Physicians Section.

Dr. Bisgrove has been deeply involved with community health since early in her career, serving for eight years as the school district medical advisor in the small Wisconsin town where she worked as a young physician. Serving on numerous community school and health committees, she led district policy enhancements on tobacco use and bullying, taught sexual health to high school sophomores, adolescent wellness to community families, and helped guide the district through the early days of the pandemic. She worked closely with her state specialty and medical societies to pursue sound public health policy, testifying frequently in front of the Wisconsin Legislature and working with legislative staff to craft and enact meaningful legislation.

In 2021, Dr. Bisgrove returned to her hometown of Chicago to join the faculty at her alma mater, Rush University Medical Center. She now practices in a community-based clinic on the city's North Side, caring for patients from surrounding neighborhoods, including the North Halsted neighborhood, home to Chicago's largest LGBTQ+ community. Dr. Bisgrove has also been involved in multiple initiatives connected to West Side United, a grassroots collaborative co-founded by Rush and supported by our AMA. She has volunteered in Rush's VeggieRx pantry, participated in multiple community events, and serves on the policy and advocacy committee for the Rush-BMO Institute of Health Equity.

In July 2025, she earned her master's in public health degree in maternal child health from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health online program. Focusing on obesity prevention in children, she developed a healthy eating booklet for children and their families utilizing Rush's VeggieRx pantry.

Dr. Bisgrove's deep commitment to improving public health is also evident in the work she does within our AMA. She served on the Women Physicians Section Governing Council for four years. She currently serves on the Executive Committee for CSAPH, and chairs the AMA Disability Advisory Group, calling on her lifelong work not just as a physician with a disability, but as an advocate for greater inclusion for the 28% of adults and 15% of children in the U.S. with a disability. She has additionally utilized her expertise to help make AMA public health policy more inclusive for people with disabilities.

Given her deep qualifications and commitment to the health of her patients and the broader public, the AAFP asks you to join us in supporting Dr. Bisgrove's re-election to CSAPH.

Personal statement

"Science and public health are under attack from numerous aspects of society. Now more than ever, our AMA needs to continue to fight for evidence-based science and the collective health of our nation. It would be my honor to remain deep in that fight on behalf of our AMA, our patients and our profession."

Council on Science and Public Health

Joshua Cohen, MD, MPH

[AMA candidate web page](#)



I am seeking re-election to the AMA Council on Science and Public Health at a moment when our work—and our responsibility to the House of Delegates—has never been more important.

Over the past four years, I have served on the council during a period of profound disruption in public health. We have confronted the aftermath of the pandemic, ongoing erosion of public health infrastructure, declining trust in science driven by misinformation, and growing threats to the biomedical research enterprise. These challenges are not abstract. They shape what our patients believe, the care they accept, and the resilience of the health system we rely on as physicians.

During my service on the council, including my current role on the Executive Committee, I have focused on bringing timely subject matter expertise, sustained engagement, and strategic perspective to our deliberations. I have provided ongoing monitoring and analysis of federal and state actions related to drug shortages, along with regular review of industry publications to assess emerging trends and real world impacts on manufacturing, supply chains, and patient access. This work helped inform the council's annual report on drug shortages and ensured our discussions reflected both policy developments and conditions facing clinicians and patients.

I have also drawn on my training as a neurologist and my work in substance use disorders to contribute to the Council's examination of gabapentin scheduling, helping frame the issue through a clinical and public health lens. That work ultimately led to publication in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and reinforced the importance of careful, evidence based analysis when policy decisions have the potential to affect patient safety, access, and clinical practice.

My role on the Executive Committee has also allowed me to help shape how the council approaches its work. I have been intentional about supporting reports that are rigorous, balanced, and responsive to emerging public health challenges, while also being framed in ways that are actionable and meaningful for the House of Delegates. I place particular emphasis on anticipating how evidence based recommendations will be interpreted and applied, so that council policy can effectively guide the Board and the organization during periods of uncertainty.

The council plays a unique and essential role in helping the House of Delegates establish policy that is grounded in science and capable of guiding organizational decisions. At a time when evidence itself is often questioned, our ability to provide steady, credible direction has never been more critical.

I am asking for your support to continue this work. I bring to the council not only public health training and subject matter expertise, but also a deep appreciation for how much this responsibility matters—to our patients, to our colleagues, and to the credibility of our profession. Having worked alongside many of you, I take seriously the obligation to listen, to build consensus, and to help the council translate science into guidance the House can trust.

Together, we can help ensure the AMA leads with clarity of purpose, restores trust in science, and meets this critical moment with resolve.

Council on Science and Public Health

Dave Cundiff, MD, MPH

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The American Association of Public Health Physicians (AAPHP) proudly nominates Dave Cundiff, MD, MPH, for re-election to our AMA Council on Science and Public Health.

Dr. Cundiff is board certified in public health and general preventive medicine. He has been an AMA member since 1990 and attended his first House of Delegates meeting in 1997.

Dr. Cundiff has had leadership roles as a state public health official in New Jersey and Indiana, and as a local public health officer in Arizona, Kentucky, and Washington State. In Indiana, he implemented a 1987 measure that provided general fund support to local health departments. This now-proven program has been expanded many times.

Dr. Cundiff has worked in Indian health, Veterans Affairs, community health centers, private practice, and other settings. He has attended every Washington State Medical Association House of Delegates meeting since he moved to Washington in 2020. He and his wife now live in Ilwaco, Wash. (population 1,100).

After co-chairing AAPHP's Tobacco Control Task Force, Dr. Cundiff was elected to AAPHP's Executive Committee in 1998 as president-elect, and served as AAPHP's 2000–2002 president. Since his presidential term, Dr. Cundiff has served AAPHP continuously in teaching, leadership, and support roles. He has represented AAPHP in the AMA House, with 100% attendance, since 2015.

In 2022, Dr. Cundiff earned a second board certification in addiction medicine. He serves at addiction recovery facilities in the Northwest. He and his spouse co-founded an integrated care clinic that will combine behavioral health, primary care, and other services in Ilwaco. He serves on the Ilwaco City Council, does lots of CME, volunteers in his church and community, and speaks adequate Spanish. He is helping to organize Washington counties lacking an active county medical society into a multi-county rural group that will serve local medical society functions of education, fellowship, and advocacy.

Dr. Cundiff is endorsed by the PacWest Conference, by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, and by the Specialty and Service Society.

Personal statement

"You know me as an advocate for Public Health. In testimony, in service, and in leadership, I am passionate about public service and about the values of our wonderful profession.

"Our AMA constantly advocates for physicians, and for all Americans. Our AMA's work for Public Health gives perspective and credibility to everything else we do.

"The pandemic, and the current Administration, have illuminated our nation's needs for preparation, for equity, for Public Health infrastructure, and for sacrifice in service of the common good.

"Our AMA's analytic and advocacy strengths will be needed to counter current threats to Public Health, and to build a stronger Public Health system for the future.

"I will bring my diverse experiences to the Council: urban, rural and Tribal; public and private; patient care and administration; and service to communities of diverse racial, ethnic, and economic makeup.

"I show up! I always think in terms of systems, process, equity, and results. I will listen, and I will lead, to the best of my ability.

"I ask for your vote to continue serving on our Council on Science and Public Health. Thank you!"

Council on Science and Public Health

Laura Halpin, MD, MPH, PhD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



Our AMA must retain the trust of the American public through rigorous science. In these times, we need strong policy and advocacy grounded in well-vetted data and clinical experience. The American Psychiatric Association is proud to sponsor Laura Halpin, MD, MPH, PhD, for the AMA Council on Science and Public Health. Dr. Halpin is endorsed by the Section Council on Psychiatry, Specialty and Service Society, PacWest Conference, California Medical Association, Young Physicians Section, Academic Physicians Section, and Medical Student Section.

Dr. Halpin bridges policy, science, and clinical practice daily as a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist and clinical assistant professor at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine. In this work, she promotes research in medicine and translates scientific insights into patient care and advocacy efforts. Viewing health policy as the final frontier of translational research, Dr. Halpin has employed data-driven approaches to address complex challenges for our health care system. She has research and policy development experience in drug misuse, chronic unpredictable stress, physician wellness and social drivers of health. She is actively developing approaches to improve quality of care, telehealth and drug shortages. Her skills align closely with the mission of the CSAPH, developing evidence-based policy to guide our AMA's initiatives. Her clinical experience as a psychiatrist brings expertise to the extensive AMA policy work addressing mental health and substance use disorders.

Advocacy and service to organized medicine are the cornerstones of Dr. Halpin's career. She brings four years of experience on AMA CSAPH as both the MSS and RFS representative, including an appointment to the executive committee of the council. Collaborative leadership has been a constant since medical school, with service in many roles including an MSS regional and committee chair and member of the AMA-RFS Governing Council. Within her medical group, she is the behavioral health government relations physician lead, providing strategic review of legislation and representing her colleagues on regulatory committees.

Dr. Halpin currently leads and partners with her colleagues through the following roles:

- President of the Southern California Psychiatric Society
- Chair-elect of the CMA Early Career Physician Section
- Member of the CMA Council on Science and Public Health and Council on Legislation
- Member of the APA Council on Healthcare Systems and Financing
- Delegate to our House of Delegates from the APA

Laura and her husband, Dr. Brian Gulko, a community pediatrician, share two wonderful children, Martin and Iris.

Personal statement

"I respectfully ask for your vote. Together, we have the opportunity to ensure that our CSAPH approaches complex policy questions with rigor, clarity, and collaboration. The skills and experience I bring are grounded in a commitment to thoughtful engagement and service to our HOD. We can shape clear, data-driven reports and policies that reflect both sound science and the realities of clinical practice. Through evidence-based approaches, we strengthen not only the care we provide to our patients, but also the future of our profession."

Council on Science and Public Health

Cynthia Romero, MD

[AMA candidate web page](#)



The Medical Society of Virginia is proud to sponsor Cynthia Romero, MD, FAAFP, for election to the Council on Science and Public Health. Dr. Romero is endorsed by the Southeastern Delegation, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Association of Public Health Physicians. She is a board-certified family physician and health policy leader dedicated to advancing science-driven health care. As the former state health commissioner and agency head for the Virginia Department of Health, and chief medical officer for Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, she brings extensive executive experience in public health and clinical excellence.

Currently, Dr. Romero serves as the director of the M. Foscue Brock Institute for Community and Global Health and as a professor at the Macon and Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University. In this role, she leads efforts to integrate clinical, educational, and research programs, establishing the institution as a profoundly community-oriented school of medicine and health professions. Her background uniquely positions her to guide the AMA's public health strategies and scientific policy recommendations.

Through her leadership, Dr. Romero tackles major health disparities by driving collaborative, evidence-based initiatives. Her strategic focus areas include advancing maternal and infant health services, cultivating mental health and addiction resources, and addressing systemic health inequities. She serves as the principal investigator on a \$1.5 million collaborative grant establishing a person-centered pathway for substance use disorder in pregnant and parenting women. She actively translates scientific research into tangible public health improvements and community-engaged education.

Dr. Romero has been a dedicated advocate within organized medicine for over two decades of service in the House of Delegates, consistently defending the physician-led care model and the integrity of science in medicine. She has chaired Reference Committee D and K, and serves on the AMA Task Force to Preserve the Patient-Physician Relationship. At the state level, she is a past president of both the Medical Society of Virginia and the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians.

Personal statement

"Our science and public health policy should be evidence-based, equitable, and firmly guided by physicians. Throughout my career, from serving as Virginia's State Health Commissioner to leading the Brock Institute's health equity initiatives, I have been dedicated to protecting patient safety, advancing science-driven health care policy, and ensuring that physicians remain central in shaping public health decisions.

"We are navigating an era of misinformation and complex public health challenges, and it is vital that the AMA provides clear, evidence-based guidance. I have the expertise, executive leadership experience, and energy needed to serve the AMA Council on Science and Public Health. I am eager to bring my passion for community health and scientific integrity to the Council, and I respectfully ask for your vote."