

Delegate

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Specialty: Ophthalmology

Organized medicine has significantly shaped my career since my first semester of medical school when I attended my first American Medical Association (AMA) meeting.

As physicians, we find ourselves in a unique position as patient advocates in and out of the clinical setting. Early exposure to policy creation and advocacy initiatives inspired me to take an active role in this aspect of medicine. I have learned that we can harness and refine opinions and passions to make a tangible impact on healthcare emergencies our nation faces, including scope of practice creep, Medicare reimbursement, healthcare accessibility, and so much more. Through my various roles, I have learned how different delegations advocate for their unique priorities, though ultimately synthesize meaningful national policy and advocacy initiatives.

Through my local involvement with the Physicians Society of Central Florida, I further expanded the role medical students play in their society by creating the first ever physician-student mentorship program. Through personal mentorship, I gained a deeper understanding of the pressing issues our physicians face, namely, prior authorization and Medicare reimbursement.

My first experience with the Florida Medical Association was their Day on the Hill, an advocacy event conducted at the Florida capitol, where I met with legislators and their aides to move the needle on meaningful policy. I realized these discussions and open channels of communication are the heart of advocacy. I enjoyed being able to speak and listen regarding important scope of practice issues the physicians in Florida were facing.

More recently, I created the first medical student delegate position within the American Academy of Ophthalmology, where I was able to delve deeper to issues pertinent to the field I was entering. Understanding the issues I had been discussing with a specialty specific lens was such a different experience and I cannot wait to continue to do so in the RFS.

These local and state-level experiences fanned my ambitions to further explore in the world of advocacy. I became involved at the national AMA level to represent Florida, southeastern medical students, and eventually the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Each group expounded upon my passion for advocacy, and I hope to continue shaping the landscape of medicine through advocating of pressing issues such as scope creep, improving access to medications, and ensuring adequate payments for my fellow physicians.